



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**Tuesday, November 14, 2017**  
**Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM**

---

*Community House located at 192 South Third Street, Cochran, GA 31014*

---

Present: Mayor Gary Ates, Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon, Councilmembers Regina Gooch, Keith Anderson, Charles Cranford, & Jon Thrower.

Call to order by Mayor Gary Ates

The invocation was given by Mayor Gary Ates followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Jon Thrower. Councilmember Jon Thrower made a motion to approve the agenda and Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor. 6-0

Mayor Gary Ates asked for a motion to approve the minutes from October 10, 2017 meeting. Councilmember Jon Thrower made a motion to approve October 10, 2017 minutes and Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

- 
- I. Call to Order by the Mayor**
  - II. Invocation**
  - III. Pledge of Allegiance**
  - IV. Attendance**
  - V. Adopt Agenda**

## **VI. Agenda Items**

### **ITEM# 1 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider proposal by Mr. Sam Barrs to locate signs/crosses in rights-of-way honoring Cochran military veterans, and to set up a financial account to handle private donations for such purpose. Mr. Barrs presented his proposal for the flag poles in memory and honor of Veterans. He explained how this would honor the ones in Cochran only. The poles could be purchased by an individual to show their appreciation for each Veteran. An account will be set up with the City Hall. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to move forward with the process to get the account set up with City Hall. Councilmember Keith Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 with all voting in favor.

### **ITEM #2 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider renewal of insurance services offered through Cochran Insurance (Louis Abbot). Louis Abbot presented the Insurance Proposal to Council. He explained the benefits and the money that will be saved and the coverages will stay the same. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to approve the proposal with Cochran Insurance for another year with Councilmember Regina Gooch seconded. Motion was passed 6-0 with all voting in favor.

### **ITEM # 3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider approval of Recreation Commission's recommendation to award bid of \$89,950.00 to National Fence Company from Kathleen, Georgia to replace fencing on five athletic fields at the Recreation Complex, and authorize the expenditure of \$44,975.00 in City Recreation SPLOST funds to finance fifty (50%) percent of the project cost. Chan Jones presented his recommendation for fencing to be placed at the Recreation Department for 5 Fields. This will include new dug outs and fencing for 5 fields. Councilmember Gilman asked Mr. Jones what was wrong with the fencing there now. Mr. Jones replied it holes in it and nothing was right about the fence. Several Councilmembers were concerned about the building with the basketball court instead of the fence. Mr. Jones stated the building was built in a hole and it was constantly under water when it rained. Some modification need to be done to keep the water from pouring in then the gym floor and the front door. A number of Councilmembers went to the Recreation Department to observe the fence and didn't see why it needed to be replaced. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to approve the fence with Councilmember Keith Anderson seconding. Motion did not pass. 3 voted yes, (Thrower, Anderson, Lemmon) 3 voted No (Gooch, Gilman, Cranford). Council will table this recommendation. Mr. Jones stated he will have to withdraw the application and will not be able to start in January as once planned. Mayor Ates recommended some of the Councilmembers come and meet with the Recreation Department all together.

**ITEM # 4 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider approval of Airport Authority's recommendation to award bid of \$86,463.95 to Axtells, Inc. of Jermyn, Pennsylvania for the Crack Seal and Restriping project for the two runways at city Airport. Mr. Bill Coody explained the project to Council. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to approve the bid for the Crack Seal and Restriping project with Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon seconding. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

**ITEM # 5 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider approval Airport Authority's recommendation of a Five (5) Year Capital Plan as for the Cochran Airports. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to approve Airport Authority 5-year Capital Plan with Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

**ITEM # 6 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider awarding bid to Allied Corrosion Industries, Inc. (ACI) in the amount of \$4,840 to conduct the Annual Cathodic Protection Survey for the Cochran Gas System. Jointly Owned Natural GA, the City's gas consortium, received three written quotes on conducting the required Annual Cathodic Protection Survey for the gas system. The US D. O.T. Pipeline and Hazard Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the GA Public Service Commission require the City to a survey every year. Three quotes were from Allied Corrosion Industries, Maddox M & Testing, & Sapp Engineering & Services. The finding for the cathodic protection is budgeted in the Gas Fund. Councilmember Gilman made the motion to award the bid to Allied Corrosion with Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

**ITEM # 7 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider supporting the designation of Cochran as a route segment for U.S. Bicycle Route 15 (USBR 15), which is a segment of the U.S. Bicycle Route System. Mr. Newbern stated the Region Commission and DOT has asked the City to send a letter of support to GA DOT for the City of Cochran to be a segment of the Bicycle Route. This route will be no cost to the City. Councilmember Regina Gooch made the motion to grant permission for Mayor Ates to sign for the USBR with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

**ITEM # 8 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider adoption of Resolution to file a Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) housing grant application with Georgia DCA. The Resolution is to file a grant application for \$300,000.00 federal dollars to GA DCA for federal CDBG -CHIP housing funds, which help low- to -moderate income homeowners upgrade their homes to building standards. The General Fund match will be \$15,000.00 from the City if the grant application is approved, this can be budgeted for the FY 2018-19 budget year. Linda Carol

is preparing this and there is not fee to prepare this application. Mr. Newbern read the resolution aloud. Councilmember Regina Gooch made the motion to approve to adopt this resolution with Councilmember Gilman seconding. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

**ITEM # 9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider approving a Bonus Schedule for City Employees. The Council was asked to review/approve the following 2017 bonus schedule for employees. Schedule was attached. Councilmember Fleming Gilman stated everyone should be paid the same. Councilmember Jon Thrower stated a week (40 HRS) pay was the way it used to be. Some of the Councilmembers think it will not be fair. Councilmember Thrower made a motion to give City Employees a week's pay with Councilmember Cranford seconding the motion. Motion past with all voting in favor. 6-0

**ITEM# 10 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider setting a time and place for a 2018 Retreat for the City Council. Date and location needs to be set for the retreat. Mr. Newbern stated City Clerk, Tracy Jones, have looked and several places. He recommended Council to give City Clerk more ideas on where they would like to go. Mrs. Jones stated Little Ocmulgee State Park was available the weekend, January 26,27,28 of 2018.

**ITEM# 11- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider authorizing the following financial commitments by the Public Works Department. The 4 items have been approved as eligible for financing by GEFA from the \$2.5 million GEFA sewer loan find. The GEFA loan fund was used to finance the Lake Linda Lift Station improvement and will finance the 10<sup>th</sup> St/Crest Drive sewer project. The Council was asked to approve going out for bids for the following: Skip Layton, City Engineer explained the following as well.

- Authorize the bidding of Sanitary Sewer Vacuum and Jet Cleaning truck: GEFA funded -Cost is approximately \$325,000 ó to be used to maintain the existing sanitary sewer collection system
- Authorize the bidding of a new Transducer Digital Controls on the existing Lift Stations and installation of temporary bypass pump connections: GEFA funded- Cost is approximately \$20,000 / Lift Station (5-Total) ó used for replacement of antiquated float switches and additional capability to bypass lift stations during emergencies and power outages.
- Authorize the bidding of a 6ö Self-Priming Sanitary Sewer By-Pass Pump Trailer Mounted: GEFA funded- Cost is approximately \$25,000 ó to be used for emergency by-pass of lift stations and general sewer line bypass pumping during maintenance.
- Authorize the bidding of a new fiberglass lift station cover for replacement: GEFA funded- Cost is approximately \$7,000 - to replace aged and damaged cover on existing lift station.

- Authorize the bidding of replacement storm sewer pipes at Peter Street and Porter Road, and authorize the allocation of State LMIG funds and local Road SPLOST funds to finance the estimated project cost of \$110,000. Several Council members had question about GEFA funds and Skip Layton addressed all questions and concerns. Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon made the motion to proceed to bid these items with Councilmember Fleming Gilman seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

**Public Comments** (Please note that every individual who signs up to speak prior to the meeting will be given a total of five minutes to address the Mayor and Council.)

- Mrs. Fussell- Expressed her concerned about paying of MLK, taking down of the Martin Luther King Jr. road sign and the name of the road being changed and the installation of street lights with GA POWER. Several Councilmembers responded to Mrs. Fussell's concerns. Mr. Newbern stated he would follow up on this information.

#### **VIII. Mayor Updates**

Mayor Ates thanked the Mayor Elect, Billy Yeomans, and new Councilmember Robert Anderson, to take the initiative to attend the Council meetings.

He encouraged Council to always follow ordinance and follow polices so there will not be any surprises. Announced the Council Christmas Party will be Friday, December 22, 2017 at La Cabana @ 7PM.

#### **IX. City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates –**

- City /County EMA Director position is open but Sheriff Chris Coody is the Interim at this time.
- Giddens and Bennett wrapping up 2016-2017 Audit.
- Chamber Meeting @ Sugarberries 11/15/17 at Noon.
- Regional Commission Meeting ó Thursday, November 16, 2017
- Housing Assistance Team Tuesday, November 28,2017 #@ Community House
- GMA Annual Meeting District 9 Vidalia November 30, 2017 @ 6PM
- Tracey Hudson discussed financial report
- Holiday Schedule was approved for 11 days including Columbus Day Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to accept the holiday schedule for 2018 with Councilmember Charles Cranford seconding. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 6-1
- Councilmember Regina made the motion to close City Hall at 12 Noon with Councilmember Jon Thrower seconded the motion. Motion passed; 5 yes and 1 no. Councilmember Gilman voted no.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Chief Noles introduced the new Fire Lieutenant, Brock Wilcher and welcomed him aboard. Chief gave a verbal invitation to the Christmas dinner that will be held at the Fire Station on December 7, 2017 @ 6:30p. The City of Cochran Fire is working hard on the burn houses for training.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Willie Farrow gave an update on the activities of cleaning up over grown properties flowed by a handout showing all properties.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Caption Jeff Trawick gave out the monthly report and stated Country D\Fest was a success with not problems. He also reminded Council about the Christmas Parade and the route this year. He stated instead of the parade going down town it would travel through Middle Georgia College University

**City Clerk:** Asked Council to get information to her about the upcoming retreat if they were not satisfied with going to McRae to the Little Ocmulgee State Park. She stated her first election went better than she imagined. She thanked the ladies who helped her along with City PD Officer Allen and Turner. Caption Trawick as well.

**Skip Layton:**

Skip Layton, City Engineer, provided Council with a monthly report on projects going on at this time. GEFA CWSRF 15-002, GEFA DWSRF 15-019, DWSRF 15-009, CDBG 2015, CDBG 2016, lift station project, water tanks completion master meter is complete. He made Council aware Master Meter would be in tow for two weeks going to check meters and make sure they were corresponding with laptops that read the meters.

**There were no other department updates.**

**X. Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events**

**Council Discussion Items**

- Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting ó Tuesday, December 12, 2017 @ 7PM

Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon made the motion go into Executive Session with Councilmember Fleming Gilman seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

Councilmember Regina Gooch made the motion to come out of Executive Session with Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem made the motion to go back into regular session with Councilmember Fleming Gilman seconding the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon made the motion to adjourn with Councilmember Jon Thrower seconding the motion. Motion passed will all voting in favor. 6-0

(SEAL)

---

Tracy B Jones  
City Clerk