

DRAFT



**MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, April 11, 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, Jon Thrower and Charles Cranford.

Absent: Councilmember Fleming Gilman.

Call to order by Mayor Ates. The invocation was given by Mayor Ates followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Thrower.

Mayor Pro Tem Lemmon made a motion and Councilmember Thrower seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Agenda Items

Item #1 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Consider Approving Proclamation of National City Clerk's Week. May 7 through May 13. Proclamation was read by Richard Newbern to Council and ask for The Proclamation to be approved. Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon made the motion to approve the proclamation for National City Clerk's week and Council member Jon Thrower seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Item # 2– Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider appointing a councilmember to vacate District 1 seat. City Manager Richard Newbern asked Council to consider appointing Councilmember for the district 1 seat that is currently vacant. Mayor Gary Ates asked if there was any nominations by Council. Regina Gooch nominated Keith Anderson. Regina Gooch made the motion and Councilmember Jon Thrower seconded the motion. Mayor Gary Ates swore in Keith Anderson by reading the Oath in the City of Cochran Charter. Mayor Gary Ates thanked Council for a job well done.

Item# 3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider appointing a City Representative to the City/ County Recreation Commission to serve a five-year term. Mr. Newbern explained that Mary Jo Hill submitted her resignation after serving a five-year term. Mayor Gary Ates stated Paige Stuart expressed her interest as being on the recreation board and to serve a five-year term. Councilmember Jon thrower made the motion and to place Paige Stuart on the City County Recreation Commission Councilmember Regina Gooch seconded the motion the motion was passed unanimously with all in favor.

Item # 4 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider scheduling a hearing date for businesses charged with selling to minors. Mr. Newbern then turned it over to police chief Chris Coley. Chief Chris Coley stated five out of 10 businesses violated the city ordinance by selling alcohol to minors. Mr. Coley expressed this matter should be handled by the city Council. Chief Coley asked the Council to please consider the hearing date of April 25, 2017. Chief Coley explained a letter must be sent to all violators at least five (5) days prior to hearing. The City Clerk and Police Chief would collaborate together to get letters sent. All Councilmembers agreed to have the hearing on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

Item # 5-Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Mr. Newbern asked the City Council to consider approving May 20, 2017 from 9AM until 12 Noon as the community cleanup day. He explained Public Works with pickup bags of trash and dumpsters would be set around for trash to be placed in. We had a great turnout last year and expect to have a great turnout this year. Councilmember Jon Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Regina Gooch seconded. The motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 6 - Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Mr. Newbern asked Council to consider choosing the civic group signs. He passed out two different options. He stated the sign was approved by DOT. The sign chosen by Council would replace the civic group sign coming into the City. Each Councilmember chose picture number one.

Item # 7- Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Consider amending section D one of the personnel policy manual travel policy to increase the daily rate for meals expenses from \$40 per day \$100 per day. Mr. Newbern read ordinances prepared by Leah Phillips. Council was not in agreements to the wordage of the ordinances Councilmember Jon Thrower stressed his concerns. Councilmember Thrower tabled the motion, stating ordinance was unclear. Motion was tabled. Councilmember Charles Cranford seconded. Mayor Ates stated he wanted to check other city policies for surrounding cities before approving ordinances.

Item # 8-Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Considered providing compensation to the Mayor and Council in the amount of \$100.00 for every special called meeting that they attend. The \$100.00 is separate from their regularly monthly stipend. Such changing compensation will take effect in January 2018. This motion was also tabled Councilmember Regina Gooch seconded the motion.

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. Catherine Guyton expressed her disappointment and concern of the travel policy to increase the daily rate for meals expense for \$40 a day to hundred dollars per day.

Mrs. Lisa Chastain expressed how disturbed she was that councilmembers was wanting to amend the personnel policy manual for travel policy to increase the daily rate for meals expense from \$40 per day to \$100 per day.

Mrs. Debra Turner spoke on her concerns about streets being unpaved. Her main concern was Martin Luther King Junior Dr. Jacob Daniels, Public Works Director, confirmed this road will be paved by July 2017.

Miss Josette Scott stated her main concern was about Mr. Keith Anderson, she then congratulated Mr. Anderson

for being appointed to the City Council. She also stated her concerned about the cleaning in the area of Happy Hill. She stated how much better it looked & thanked Willie Farrow for a job well done.

Ms. Mary Pitts expressed her concern about the lack of jobs in Cochran.

Mr. Tommy Guyton stated he was glad item number 7 and item number 8 on the agenda was tabled. He stated he was unhappy about the situation.

Miss Mary stated a youth in her area is threatening the elderly and other ladies she knows. She stated she talked with police officers and sheriffs deputies about this young man. She stated she was scared for her life and her friends life. She also scared this young man will do something to hurt others. Police Chief Chris Coley stated he would take care of the situation.

Mary Montford ó Congratulated Keith Anderson for being elected City Councilmember for District 1 seat.

Rev. Ladina Coleman ó Rev. Coleman expressed her concern of dilapidated housing across from her church. She stated that it is an eyesore to the church, rodents and reptiles come from across the street and she would like the property cleaned up.

Mrs. René Cannon expressed that she was not happy with any of the Council.

Mrs. Carol Denmark expressed how ashamed she was of the Council wanting travel policy to increase the daily rate for meal expenses from \$40 per day to \$100 per day.

Dr. Michael Stoy ó Dr. Stoy expressed his concerns about Council wanting to amend personnel policy manual for travel policy to increase the daily rate for meal expenses from \$40 per day to \$100 per day.

Mayor Updates

Mayor Gary Ates asked Willie Farrow about the basketball court project Peyton Williams. Mr. Farrow stated the dedication for Peyton Williams could be at any time; everything is ready. Mayor Gary Ates commended Willie Farrow for an outstanding job and set a ribbon cutting date to dedicate this project on April 22, 2017 @ 10AM. Councilmember John thrower made a motion and councilmember Charles Cranford seconded to approve a ribbon cutting to dedicate the courts at Peyton Williams.

City manager Discussion/Items/Updates

City manager Richard Newbern gave the following updates

- IDA Meeting April 18, 2017@ 8 AM. This will be their monthly meeting. Meeting held at chamber of commerce.
- GMA District 9 meeting Thursday, April 27 and Hazlehurst. Location and time will be announced.
- City manager Richard Newbern passed out budget handout. Explained payments for MGAG, gave updates on 3 GEFA loans, gave updates on SPLOST payments.
- Asked if called meeting for April 25 could also consist of the budget meeting session.
- Next city Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 7 PM at community house.

Mayor asked anyone had any questions regarding finances, no one commented.

Department updates

Police Chief Chris Coley gave an update on the Bible reading start April 28 on the courthouse steps. He also stated on April 28 60+ law enforcement (G0HSN) would be in town also. A meal will be provided for the officers who attend.

Fire Chief Kevin Knowles stated a large fire broke out at pecan point Apartments on April 8, 2017. He reported it took three minutes from the time the call was dispatched for firefighters to arrive on the scene. Chief Knowles also stated on May 20th 2017 a class would be offered for Railcar incident response class. This is a free class for anyone who would like to take it.

Code enforcement Willie Farrow passed out photos of the basketball court project at the Payton Williams building. Project is complete and ready to open.

City Clerk Tracy Jones updated Council on the new City Charter hand-delivered by Bubber Ellps. She stated she included a copy of the city charter in their pre-meeting packet.

Skip Layton city engineer gave an update on GEFA, CDBG, LMIG.

Council Discussion Items

Councilman Thrower asked Jacob and Skip about drainage behind Joe Fisher's house. Both Jacob and Skip stated the railroad needed to be contacted about this issue.

Councilman John Thrower stressed his concerns about water standing in the ditch at 118 Kay Dr. He stated there is a significant pipe problem to discuss fixing this with Skip Layton.

Council was asked if anyone else had items to discuss. No one had any items. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Gooch seconded the motion to go into executive session. The motion was passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Gooch seconded the motion to come out of executive session and enter into regular session. The motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Gooch made a motion and Mayor Pro Tem Lemmon seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10PM

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones