



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, May 9, 2023
Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7:00 PM

City Auditorium, 102 N Second Street, Cochran, GA 31014

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans

Councilmembers: Gary Ates, Keith Anderson, Jimmy Jones, Andrew Lemmon, Rufus Veal & Carla Coley

Absent: City Attorney- Jim Elliott

Call to order by Mayor Billy Yeomans @ 7:00PM

The invocation was given by Councilmember Anderson and the Pledge led by Councilmember Coley.

Mayor asked for any corrections, additions or deletions to the May 9, 2023, agenda. Mayor stated we needed to add Item 3 & 4 to the agenda. Item #3 – Mental Health Awareness Proclamation and Item #4 – National Police Week Proclamation. Councilmember Ates made the motion to add the two items to the agenda with a second by Councilmember Jones. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the May 9, 2023, agenda with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 6/0.

Mayor asked if there were any corrections or questions to the April 18, 2023, minutes. The City Clerk stated a correction will be made to the spelling of a last name. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the 4/18/23 minutes with corrections and a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 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

Proclamation- National Hospitals Week- Mayor Yeomans was joined by Mike Stoy from the Hospital Board as he read the proclamation.

ITEM #2- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Presentation of Gold Award. Kathy Nyguen from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals, Presented the City of Cochran with the Gold Award. This award is presented by The Georgia Association of Water Professionals. Mrs. Nguyen gave a brief speech about the GAWP, The City has been an active member of GAWP since 2021. GAWP recognizes City facilities around the State of Georgia that have been fully in compliance with all state and federal requirements. The City Barn Well was the well that was mentioned. Mrs. Nguyen presented the award to the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk, & Public Works Director.

ITEM #3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Proclamation – Mental Health Awareness Month-Mayor was joined by Councilmember Coley as he read the Mental Health Awareness proclamation.

ITEM #4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Proclamation – National Police Week – Mayor was joined by Chief Trawick, Officer Jacob Rios and Officer Brandi Crabb as he read the National Police Week proclamation.

ITEM #5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing on amendment to the Urban Redevelopment Plan Map.
Mayor Yeomans called the Public Hearing to order at 7:17pm

This public hearing was called to order to give any interested parties the opportunity to express their views or concerns according to the appropriate O.C.G. A.section. The Council is asked to consider amending the City's Urban Redevelopment Plan Map to assist with the City's CDBG application for housing improvements in the Roberson Crescent/Ash ST/Sixth St/Martin Luther King, Jr. target area. The Urban Redevelopment Plan Map must totally include the proposed Revitalization Area Strategy (RAS) region in order for the City's CDBG and RAS application to be competitive. The City's Urban Redevelopment Plan and Map were originally adopted by the City Council in May 2019. The City Planning Commission held a Public Hearing during their meeting on Thursday, May 4 at 6: 30pm. where they unanimously voted to recommend approval of the propose amendment to the Urban Redevelopment Plan Map.
Mayor called for any public input.

Andrea Glover – She asked what the mapping was and asked for the public hearing to be explained to her. She gave some suggestions on what should happen in her area. Richard explained the public hearing to Mrs. Glover.

Mayor closed Public Hearing at 7:25pm

Councilmember Ates made the motion to amend the Urban Redevelopment Plan Map with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion Passed. 6/0

ITEM #6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing on establishment and recognition of eligible Federal Opportunity Zone

Mayor called the Public Hearing to order at 7:26pm

This public hearing was called to order to give any interested parties the opportunity to express their views or concerns according to the appropriate O.C.G. A. section.

The City Council was asked to adopt a resolution establishing and recognizing a Federal Opportunity Zone that the federal IRS has created in Census Tract 7209. This tract has a poverty rate of over 20% and includes the proposed CDBG target area and revitalization area that support the City's CDBG housing application. The resolution will describe ways that the city can promote entrepreneurial training and revitalization in Census Tract 7902 within the city. The City Council's favorable action on the Opportunity Zone Resolution will help strengthen the city's CDBG housing application that is due at GA DCA on Friday June 2, 2023. The City Planning Commission held a public hearing during their meeting Thursday, May 4 at 6:30pm where they unanimously voted to recommend approval of the establishment, recognition, and marketing of the Federal Opportunity Zone.

Mayor called for any public input.

No Comments.

Public Hearing closed at 7:29pm.

Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission on establishment and recognition of Federal Opportunity Zone with a second by Councilmember Jones.

Motion passed. 6/0

ITEM #7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider recommendation of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for an appointment to the DDA Board. Mayor Yeomans stated the member who was suggested cannot be nominated. DDA by laws states only one member of the board can live outside of Bleckley County. The individual nominated has a Dodge County address. One of the members already resides in Dodge County. This item is postponed until another nomination is made.

ITEM #8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider requiring architecturally stamped plans for bldg. permit applications for single family residences. This proposed ordinance change is the recommendation of the City /County Building Inspector. This ordinance will change the rejection by City council at the December 13, 2022, meeting by a 3-2 vote. The Council's action was vetoed by Mayor Yeomans. The City Attorney advised the ordinance change is now in effect. He advised no vote necessary. It was suggested by Council to get the Attorney to put the change is in effect in writing without a vote necessary. City Manager stated he would suggest that to the City Attorney. The Attorney will provide the Ordinance amendment to Council momentarily.

ITEM #9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Discuss and consider an Ordinance to establish the City as a Local Issuing Authority (LIA) for developments and land disturbances in the City. If the City is recognized by the State of Ga as a Local Issuing Authority, the City can then issue its own land disturbance permits in town and monitor land development procedures such as silt fencing installation, drainage basin development and soil containment and other nest Management practices. If needed the city would have the authority to stop development that does not follow acceptable land or soil erosion practices. As a local Issuing Authority, the City will still depend on the expertise of the City Manager to review civil drawings.

Skip Layton suggested and recommended this for years. He also explained that LIA gives the city the ability to control the way the city looks and the way the city should be.

Councilmember Jones made the motion to adopt the Ordinance to establish the City as a Local Issuing Authority (LIA) for land disturbances in the City with a second by Councilmember Lemmon.
Motion passed 6/0

City Manager – Clean Up day was successful. Also received grant from Great American Cleanup – GA Chapter to assist with the cost of the materials and advertisements.

Update on CDBG grant application.

Update on the RELEAF Program and Tree give away.

Applying for a Grant through DNR for a walking trail.

City Attorney – None

Council Discussion Items:

District 1

Anderson – Happy Mother’s Day and Congratulations to graduates.

Ates – Thanked the citizens that came out to the District 1 meetings.

District 2

Coley – Spoke on mental health and gave some statics.

Veal – Expressed issues with fees, and expressed his concerns with mental health.

District 3

Jones – None

Lemmon – None

Mayor Comments

Council – Asked if they decided to allow outside agencies to have the opportunity to speak at the called budget meeting on May 16. Council agreed to allow 5 mins to address council with their needs.

Public Comments (Please note that every individual who signs up to speak prior to the meeting will be given a total of 3 minutes to address the Mayor and Council.)

Andrea Glover 207 N 6th Street – Asked when the district 1 meeting was.

Anderson answered -Thursday before the Council meeting held at the Peyton Williams Building at 7.

Jacqueline Washington – Street situation on 118 Jackson Street. The road needs repaired – potholes.

Kenah Lobzun – Expressed her concerns with the new construction and the builder in Colonial Village.

Richard Lobzun – Expressed his concerns with the new construction and the builder in Colonial Village.

Jill Fisher - Expressed her concerns with the new construction and the builder in Colonial Village.

Lisa Wright - Expressed her concerns with the new construction and the builder in Colonial Village.

Mayor adjourned the meeting @ 8:34pm.

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk