



APPROVED MINUTES
February 19, 2026
Cochran City Council
Special Called Meeting @ 6:00 PM

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

City Council

City Staff

Carla Coley, Mayor	Richard Newbern, City Manager
Trecia Gardner <i>(District 1, Post 1)</i>	Candace Summerall, City Clerk
Gary Ates, Council Member <i>(District 1, Post 2)</i>	Jim Elliott, City Attorney
Rufus Veal, Council Member <i>(District 2 Post 1)</i>	
Lonnie Tedders, Council Member <i>(District 2, Post 2)</i>	
Dianne Lester <i>(District 3, Post 1)</i>	
Shane Savant, Council Member <i>(District 3, Post 2)</i>	

I. Call to Order by the Mayor

Mayor Carla Coley called the Special Called Meeting to order at 6:02

II. Invocation

Invocation was led by Mayor Carla Coley

III. Attendance

Mayor Coley noted all Council Members were present with the exception of Council Members Shane Savant and Trecia Gardner. The City Attorney Jim Elliott was absent. Quorum was established.

IV. Adopt Agenda

Agenda Modifications

Approve agenda as amended by correction of date to Feb 19th 2026

Motion: Made by Council Member Lonnie Tedders

Second: Council Member Gary Ates

Vote: Unanimous approval

V. Executive Session

MOTION MADE TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION at 6:05

Motion: Made by Council Member Gary Ates
Second: Council Member Lonnie Tedders
Vote: Unanimous approval

Personnel Matters

Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee

VI. Reconvene into Open Session

MOTION MADE TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:01

Motion: Made by Council Member Gary Ates
Second: Council Member Lonnie Tedders
Vote: Unanimous approval

VII. Action, if any, related to Executive Session

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION MADE TO ADJOURN at 7:02

Motion: Made by Council Member Gary Ates
Second: Council Member Lonnie Tedders
Vote: Unanimous approval

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

Candace Summerall

City Clerk



CLOSED MEETING AFFIDAVIT
(A copy of the affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meeting)

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY

AFFIDAVIT OF MAYOR OR PRESIDING OFFICER

Carla D. Coley, Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem/Presiding Officer of the City of Cochran, Georgia Council meetings, being duly sworn, states under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief:

1.

The Cochran City Council meeting met in a duly advertised meeting on February 19, 2026.

2.

During such meeting, the Council voted to go into closed session.

3.

The executive session was called to order at 6:05 a.m. (p.m.)

4.

The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law:

_____ Consultation with the city attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the city or any officer or employee or in which the city or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2(1);

_____ Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2(2) and _____;
(insert the citation to the legal authority making the tax matter confidential)

_____ Discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A Section 50-14-3(4);

_____ Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(6);

SIGNATORY PAGE



This 19 day of February, 2026.

Richard Newbern
EMPLOYEE, CITY MANAGER

SEAL:

ASSET:

[Signature]

CITY CLERK

[Signature]
Mayor, Carla D. Coley

ABSENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Shane Savant

[Signature]
Council Member Gary Ates

[Signature]
Council Member Trecia Gardner

[Signature]
Council Member Dianne Lester

[Signature]
Council Member Lonnie Tedders, Jr

[Signature]
Council Member Rufus Veal