MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING
JUNE 4, 2026

The Work Session Meeting of the Cochran City Council was held on June 4th, 6:00 PM in the City Auditorium, 102 N Second Street, Cochran, Georgia with the following present:

Carla Coley, Mayor
Trecia Gardner, Councilmember
Dianne Lester, Councilmember
Jim Elliott, City Attorney
Gary Ates, Councilmember
Lonnie Tedders, Councilmember
Angele Redding, Interim City Manager
Bonnie Raffield, Interim City Clerk

Staff present: Willie Farrow, Public Works Director

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Carla Coley.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Prayer was led by Mayor Carla Coley followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Present	Absent
Carla Coley	Mayor	√	
Shane Savant	Mayor Pro Tempore, District Three, Post Two		√
Trecia Gardner	Councilwoman, District One, Post One	√	
Gary Ates	Councilman, District One, Post Two	√	
Rufus Veal	Councilman, District Two, Post One		√
Lonnie Tedders	Councilman, District Two, Post Two	√	
Dianne Lester	Councilwoman, District Three, Post One	√	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – June 4, 2026:
Mayor Coley requested three amendments to the agenda:

- Add discussion of Pulaski State Prison work detail contract.
- Remove item #5 due to withdrawal.
- Remove item #6 due to no survey available.

Councilwoman Lester made a motion to approve the agenda amendments. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tedders and carried unanimously. Councilman Ates made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tedders and carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion of Mayor's reappointment Adam Hollaway to IDA whose term expires July 18, 2026, with a 2-year appointment. No approval needed by council.

2. Discussion of Mayor's reappointment of Sonja Rivers to the Library Board, term expires June 30, 2026, with a 4-year appointment.

   Discussion of Mayor's appointment Amy Lee to the Library Board with a 4-year appointment. This is to fill the vacancy of Sandra Jarret. No approval needed by council.

3. Proclamation for Juneteenth- Discussion of this event, which will be held on June 20th, 2026. Mayor discussed inviting Ms. Doris Harris with the NAACP and other members to come and accept this proclamation. Council agreed.

4. Discussion of Event Permit- Chamber of Commerce has requested to close Second Street from Dykes to Ash for this event on July 20, 2026. The Interim City Manager spoke on this request. Chamber has sent this closure request and is waiting for approval from GA DOT.

5. Discussion of Congressional Directed Spending Award received from Senator Ossoff for the Municipal Building. The mayor stated the grant was applied for in 3 sections for renovations and should be received possibly by the end of the year if approved. The city would have a 45% match. $179,000 in match funds, with other entities providing funds. The mayor suggested revisiting the budget for these funds and clarification is needed on the award amount.

6. Discussion of proposed changes to Temporary Promotion Policy in personnel Handbook. The Interim City Manager proposed revising the Temporary Promotion Policy to allow employees who are assigned to an interim position to receive an immediate 5% pay increase, rather than waiting 60 days before becoming eligible for additional compensation. Under the proposed policy, employees would return to their regular rate of pay upon reassignment to their former position.

7. Discussion on Employee Travel Policy. The Interim City Manager proposed revising the City's travel policy to align with current General Services Administration (GSA) travel policies. She also recommended that all travel requests receive prior approval through the

use of a travel authorization form, accompanied by the conference agenda and schedule, before travel is authorized.

8. Discussion of Per Diem for Mayor and Council. The Interim City Manager suggested using the GSA policy or setting their own amount for the Council/ Mayor per diem policy.

9. Discussion with the mayor revisiting the request for improvements to the municipal building. She discussed the need to assess and prioritize building improvements and explained that she would like to speak with various staff members and departments housed in the municipal building to identify their needs and concerns. The mayor emphasized the importance of moving forward with the planned bathroom flooring project, noting that it should be a priority among the identified improvements. Repairs to the steps to the Municipal Building were not included in the grant from Senator Ossoff.

   Discussion on the **r**equest for improvements downtown, including sandblasting and repainting the iron railings, as well as sandblasting the steps at the municipal building. The discussion focused on the condition of these features, the need for maintenance to improve appearance and safety, and consideration of the scope of work and potential costs before proceeding.

10. Discussion on the new Pulaski State Prison work detail contract, including the additional annual cost of **$2,712.00**, effective **July 1, 2026**. The work schedule, hours, and scope of services were reviewed. The Public Works Director explained the scope of work and the operational need for the work detail program. Representatives from the Industrial Development Authority (IDA), the Chamber of Commerce, and the Interim City Manager discussed the benefits of the program and the value of the services provided. The mayor stated that council will be asked to approve the contract at the council meeting on Tuesday June 9, 2026.

Councilman Ates mentioned Chief Jeff Trawick's 30 years of service, that he needs to be recognized. The Interim City Manager stated that discussion of Interim City Clerk and the $500,000 Chip award need to be added to the agenda for the June 9, 2026, meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate):

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilman Ates to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 PM; seconded by Councilman Tedders. The motion passed unanimously.