



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, April 12, 2016
Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM

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

Present: Mayor Stoy, Councilmembers Gary Ates, Jon Thrower, Charles Cranford, Andrew Lemmon, Regina Gooch and Fleming Gilman.

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

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Thrower seconded the motion to adopt the agenda after eliminating item number one. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Thrower seconded the motion to accept the March 8, 2016 work session and regular session minutes after editing. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to accept the March 28, 2016 Special Called Meeting minutes. Motions passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Agenda Items

Item # 1 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Wayne James, Executive Director of Jointly-Owned Natural Gas.

Mr. James spoke on the history of Jointly Owned Natural Gas and Cochran. He also discussed usage and how the new Kuhmo Tire in Bibb County will benefit Cochran.

Item # 2 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Downtown parking update.

Police Chief Coley presented three options for council during the work session as a solution for the downtown parking. The first option was for off street parking; second option was to re-stripe spaces and gain five additional spaces; third option was to create time limited spaces. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion to accept the proposals of numbers two and three. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 3 – Presented by Mayor Stoy

Strategic Plan review.

Mayor Stoy will be posting the plan to the city's website for community input. The plan will be used by the city to guide its activities over the next two years. Comments can be sent to council members for discussion at the next held meeting.

Item # 4 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Recreation update and discussion.

Mr. Willie Farrow, Code Enforcement Officer, spoke to council on the need for resurfacing the basketball court at Peyton Williams. Rules will need to be established and posted. In the past, basketball goals were vandalized, therefore it is suggested that video surveillance be installed. Councilmember Gooch inquired about playground equipment for the younger children. Mr. Farrow stated that times will be established for use of the area. The times will be based on age. City Manager Newbern will advise if both playground equipment and resurfacing the basketball court is possible.

Item # 5 - Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Zoning recommendations.

The Zoning Committee passed a motion to recommend approval of Ms. Arnold's application to upgrade her zoning classification to allow for loft living at 125 North Second Street. Ms. Arnold will be required to submit architectural plans for the building changes and meet building code requirements prior to the issuance of an occupancy permit. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to accept the Zoning Committee's recommendation and approve Ms. Arnold's application. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 6 - Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Airport Authority Fencing Phase II.

Resolution 10-16; Approve the City to enter into a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation for Phase II at the Cochran Airport. Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Thrower seconded the motion to approve Resolution 10-16. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 7 - Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

GEFA Phase I bid on sewer repair project.

Resolution 11-16; Approve the bid of American Infrastructure Technologies Corp. for Phase I of sewer improvements. Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Thrower seconded the motion to approve Resolution 11-16. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 8 - Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Road names for Wood Oaks Subdivision.

Council is asked to name the roads that are presently unnamed in the Wood Oak Subdivision. The city is providing general maintenance of the roads. The police and fire departments need the roads named in order to respond to emergencies. Once named, the county's 911 office will incorporate them into their data base and the city's Public Works Department will erect road signs. The following road names are proposed for approval: Redwood Drive, Aspen Drive, Chestnut Drive and Cedar Drive. Also, Wood Oak Circle and Pine Hill Drive need road name signs. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion to accept the proposed road names. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates

Department updates – Handouts were provided to each councilmember.

According to PWD Jacob Daniels, the city is purchasing hot mix for repairing pot holes.

Police Chief Chris Coley stated that they have applied for a grant to help fund ballistic vests.

Public Comments

A concern was raised over the wording contained in one of the documents regarding the adjustment of funding inequities between the City of Cochran and Bleckley County that is posted on the city's web site.

City Manager Newbern will meet with residents concerning the need for speed bumps on Johnson Street.

Chan Jones reported that RESA has offered them two employees for assistance with the fields.

Concerned citizen stated that a fence would need to be erected around the basketball court/playground at Peyton Williams.

Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events

Special Called Meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at City Hall.

- Regularly Scheduled City Council Work Session Meeting—May 10, 2016 @ 6:00 pm
- Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting – May 10, 2016 @ 7:00 pm

Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to go into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Thrower seconded the motion to leave Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion for the city to extend sewer, to private property as specified by the city's engineer, subject to a MOU.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Thrower seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Adjourn at 9:00 pm

Lisa Chastain
City Clerk

(Seal)