



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**  
**Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM**

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

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

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. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Gilman seconded the motion to accept the February 9, 2016 work session and regular session minutes.

### **Agenda Items**

#### **Item # 1 – Presented by Mayor Stoy**

Alcohol referendum. **Resolution 08-16** calls for a referendum election to determine whether sales by the drink of distilled spirits, such sale for consumption only on the premises, may be allowed within the City of Cochran. This resolution would allow the referendum to be placed on the November ballot. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to approve Resolution 08-16. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

#### **Item # 2 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern**

**Resolution 04-16;** The City's FY 2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application, and committing funds for the grant match. This grant will allow paving and sewer upgrades along Railroad Avenue. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to approve Resolution 04-16. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

#### **Item # 3 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern**

Hire Bob Roberson Associates as the grant administration firm for the City's CDBG application and project. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to hire Bob Roberson. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

#### **Item # 4 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern**

Hire Falcon Design as the design engineering firm for the City's CDBG application and project. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to hire Falcon Design. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 5 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern**

Presentation by Barry Mott of Barge Waggoner Engineers regarding federal grant projects at the Cochran-Bleckley County Airport. Barry Mott gave a presentation on the airport and the impact to the area. The airport is a Level I general aviation airport with a 3.6 million annual economic impact to the community. Mr. Mott also discussed the future of the airport.

**Item # 6 - Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern**

**Resolution 05-16;** Adjust garbage sanitation fees under Section 48-36 of the ordinance governing the disposal of solid waste in the city of Cochran. The monthly sanitation fee for out of city residences will change from \$20 to \$25 per month. A \$30 fee will be imposed on all customers, inside and outside of the city limits, who are terminating garbage service without leaving their garbage cart at their place of residence. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to approve Resolution 05-16. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 7 - Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern**

**Resolution 06-16;** Contract with Appalachian Mountain Services, Inc. for the collection of delinquent property taxes. There is no cost to the city; fees are borne by the tax payer. Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Fleming seconded the motion to approve Resolution 06-16. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 8 - Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern**

**Resolution 07-16;** Approve the lease between Public Finance Solutions, LLC. and the City of Cochran for two automated license plate reader systems. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to approve Resolution 07-16. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 9 - Presented by Mayor Stoy**

Appointment of Rebecca Nees to the Friends of the Library board. Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Fleming seconded the motion to approve Rebecca Nees to the library board. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 10 – Presented by Mayor Stoy**

Mayor’s committees. Updates were provided to the councilmembers. Changes have been made to the city’s website.

**Mayor Updates**

Mayor Stoy provided each councilmember with a handout featuring Kumho Tire. The plant is expected to open sometime this spring.

**City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates**

- Budget update – Financial statements were provided to each councilmember.
- Most of the areas targeted for annexation are in the southern part of the city.
- Expect to have a draft of the budget at the April 12<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

Police Chief Chris Coley encouraged everyone to sign up for Nixel. Nixel is used for emergency and non-emergency notifications. An active shooter exercise was held at Orchard Rise earlier in the month. Chief Coley is working on grant projects with Fire Chief Kevin Noles.

Fire Chief Kevin Noles provided council with the ISO report. The city is rated as Class 7. Recommendations included training for telecommunicators, upgrading the 911 system and installing GIS. Appropriate equipment is needed in the county and a ladder truck is recommended. Twelve month of data is required for another ISO rating. Most of the county dropped from Class 9 to Class 7.

Councilmember Gilman made a motion to disband the park committee. Mayor Stoy informed Councilmember Gilman that he had an opportunity to amend the agenda at the beginning of the meeting, therefore the motion was out of order. Discussion continued as to whether or not Councilmember Gilman had the right to make a motion on a voting item that is not listed on the agenda. Councilmember Thrower also raised questions regarding the process. After much debate, Councilmember Gilman made a motion to do away with the park task force. There being no second, motion died.

Mr. Chan Jones gave an update on the recreation department. Cuts have been made but he feels that they are still under funded.

### **Public Comments**

Downtown residents raised concerns over the lack of parking spaces for customers. Parking has decreased due to the new gym that recently opened. The police department is checking with DOT to find a solution.

Public is still concerned about the lack of funding for the recreation department; volunteers are needed.

### **Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- Regularly Scheduled City Council Work Session Meeting–April 12, 2016 @ 6:00 pm
- Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting – April 12, 2016 @ 7:00 pm

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Thrower 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.

A Special Called Meeting will be held on Monday, March 28, 2016 at City Hall. A council retreat will also take place on this date.

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

### **Adjourn at 10:07 pm**

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Lisa Chastain  
City Clerk

(Seal)