



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Thursday, December 22, 2016
Special Called Meeting @ 10:00 AM

City Hall located at 112 West Dykes Street, Cochran, GA 31014

Present: Mayor Gary Ates, Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon, Councilmembers Regina Gooch, Jon Thrower, and Fleming Gilman.

Absent: Councilmember Charles Cranford

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

Agenda Items

Item #1 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adoption of ordinance governing the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises in restaurants. Council reviewed ordinance prepared by City Attorney, Leo Phillips. Councilmember Gilman wanted to know why the Council was not listed as the authority to approve license applications. Mayor Ates explained that he felt it best for Council not to get involved in those decisions and that it was the duty of the City Clerk. City Manager, Richard Newbern, stated that an application form would be prepared. Upon the advice of the City Attorney, applicants will be required to show proof of application to the State for a pouring license. City staff will be working with the Department of Revenue concerning the laws and requirements for a pouring license. Councilmember Thrower asked if this ordinance would cover beer and wine. Mr. Newbern said it would for those who wish to obtain licensing for beer, wine, and alcohol by the drink. However, it will not supersede existing beer and wine ordinance for those who serve/sell beer and wine only. The new ordinance would go into effect on January 1, 2017. Mr. Newbern stated that the beer, wine, and alcohol by the drink can be approved with amendments. Police Chief, Chris Coley, stated that the current beer and wine ordinance needed to be reviewed. Councilmember Gilman questioned the 100-yard limit for schools and churches. He felt the current beer and wine ordinance should be amended to exclude houses. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Gilman seconded the motion to approve the ordinance governing the sales of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises in restaurants. The motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor. City Manager, Richard Newbern, asked Council to discuss fees for the new Pouring License Ordinance. He had checked with other cities, finding that Hawkinsville charges \$988 for the beer and wine license and \$3000 for a combined beer, wine, and alcohol pouring license. Eastman charges \$1500 for the beer and wine license and \$3000 for a combined beer, wine, and alcohol pouring license. Perry charges \$3000 for the beer and wine license and \$5000 for a combined beer, wine, and alcohol pouring license. In the event the license is applied for after July 1, the fee would be reduced to half. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Gooch seconded the motion to set the fee for a combined beer, wine, and alcohol pouring license to \$2500. (\$1500 for beer

and wine only) Motion did not pass as there was not a quorum, with Councilmembers Thrower, Gooch, and Gilman voting in favor and Mayor Pro Tem Lemmon voting against. Councilmember Thrower made another motion and Mayor Pro Tem Lemmon seconded the motion to set the fee for a combined beer, wine, and alcohol pouring license to \$2500, \$1250 is applied for after July 1, and a \$250 charge to transfer license with the option to re-evaluate at any time. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 2 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider authorizing purchase of 3 ½ ton hydro-excavator for Public Works Department. Public Works Director, Jacob Daniels, presented the quote for hydro-excavator. City Manager, Richard Newbern, stated that normally such a purchase would require 2 other bids. Mr. Daniels explained that the Ditchwitch model which was quoted was for building this equipment to the City's specifications and that it was the only model that could meet those specifications. It would not be possible to get other bids for the same piece of equipment from any other company. Councilmember Thrower agreed that the Ditchwitch was the best type. Councilmember Gilman stated he did not see the need to purchase. Mr. Daniels explained how the drought conditions made digging by hand almost impossible. Councilmember Gilman stated he felt a decision needed to wait until all Councilmembers were present. Councilmember Gooch asked if this was a brand new piece of equipment and if there would be a warranty. Mr. Daniels confirmed that it was brand new. Council agreed to require bids before making a decision.

Item # 3 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Receive report on installation of protective barrier at the customer service counter at City Hall. City Clerk, Jill Cooper, advised that a quote for a piece of bullet-proof glass to cover the front counter and its installation would be approximately \$22,000. Mrs. Cooper stated she had discussed re-designing the front lobby area with City Engineer, Skip Layton. He suggested building a store front wall with protective glass payment stations would be more cost efficient. This would also allow for the installation of a solid door to further protect the customer service clerks. Councilmember Thrower suggested talking with Georgia Power to see if they had any materials from the payment office that closed in town.

Item # 4 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of retreat plans. Council decided set the times for the retreat to 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Friday and Saturday. (January 27th and 28th) A decision was made for all to check in Thursday evening, the 26th, and have dinner together. Mr. Newbern advised that Dr. Brooke Miller would be the facilitator. He and City Clerk, Jill Cooper met with Dr. Miller previously and she would like to meet the Councilmembers prior to the retreat. An agenda will need to be developed. There will be various guest presenters invited to the retreat. Councilmember Gilman asked who would be invited. Mr. Newbern listed all Councilmembers, City Manager, City Clerk, all Department Heads, Tony King, City Bond Council, GMA Representative. Councilmember Thrower stated that Bob Brockman should be invited. Mayor Ates said he had already invited County Commissioner Brockman. Mayor Pro Tem Lemmon asked what the cost of the retreat would be. City Clerk, Jill Cooper, stated the rooms would be \$90 per night, the conference room would be \$100 per day, food, and the facilitator. Dr. Miller had not yet stated what her fee would be. Mr. Newbern stated that a facilitator from Carl Vinson Institute would charge \$3300 and he was sure Dr. Brooke's fee would be considerably less. Councilmember Thrower questioned the need for a facilitator. Mr. Newbern stated that he felt it was important to have a facilitator for both days. Councilmember Gilman agreed that there was no need for a facilitator. Mr. Newbern explained the role of the facilitator and that she would insure that the discussion stayed on track and that all issues were addressed. Councilmember Gilman stated he felt a facilitator would be needed for only one day. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Mayor Pro Tem Lemmon seconded the motion to accept the dates and format presented by the City Manager, Richard Newbern, for the retreat. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Gooch seconded the motion to go into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Gilman made a motion and Mayor Pro Tem Lemmon seconded the motion to come out of Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor. Mayor Pro Tem Lemmon made a motion and Councilmember Gilman seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Adjourn @ 12:42 PM

Jill Cooper, City Clerk

(Seal)