



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, December 13, 2022
Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7:00 PM

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

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans

Councilmembers: Gary Ates, Jimmy Jones, Andrew Lemmon, Rufus Veal

City Attorney: Jim Elliott

Absent: Carla Coley

Call to order by Mayor Billy Yeomans @ 7:00PM

The invocation was given by Councilmember Anderson and the Pledge led by Councilmember Veal.

Mayor asked for any corrections, additions or deletions to the December 13, 2022 agenda. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the agenda with a second by Councilmember Lemmon.

Motion passed 5/0

Mayor asked if there were any corrections or questions to the November 8, 2022 minutes. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the 10/11/22 minutes with Councilmember Jones seconding. Motion passed 5/0

- I. Call to Order by the Mayor**
- II. Invocation**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Attendance**
- V. Adopt Agenda**
- VI. Agenda Items**

ITEM #1- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Employee of the Month – Chief Trawick presented Billy Hill with the employee of the month along with two Faithful Service Awards of 10 years and 5 years of service for the Cochran Police Department.

ITEM #2- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing and consideration of a Zoning Ordinance text amendment for changing the front and backyard setbacks for platted R-1 residential parcels.

Public Hearing called to order at 7:04.

This Public Hearing was called to order to provide any interested parties with an opportunity to express their views or concerns. This Public Hearing is on the proposed Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. This text amendment would amend Article 4, Section 4.2, page 40 of the City's current Zoning Ordinance. This change would allow large house to be built in pre platted (prior to 12/8/2020) R-1 zoning districts. This applies to front -and – back yard setbacks.

Mayor called for anyone who would like to speak. No one spoke.

Public Hearing closed at 7:07pm.

Councilmember Jones made the motion to amend the text amendment for changing front and backyard setbacks with a second from Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passes 5/0.

ITEM #3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adoption of Pay Range and Pay Scale update. Councilmember Anderson expressed he would like to hold off to the adoption although he would like to adopt this but more discussion at a later date. A brief discussion was held between council members. It was decided to move to the January 10 Work Session.

ITEM #4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving a Resolution supporting a Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund (DDRLLF) application to Ga. DCA from White Canopy LLC (Robert Fordham) to help finance the renovation of a historic building at 103 E. Cherry Street in downtown Cochran. The council was asked to approve the resolution supporting Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund application to DCA to help finance the renovation of a historical building. Mr. and Mrs. Fordham were in attendance to solicit the Council's support. DCA requires the city to support the loan and DDA will facilitate the loan for White Canopy LLC. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the resolution with a second by Councilmember Ates. Motion passed 5/0.

ITEM #5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving an Agenda for the City Council Retreat for 2023. The council is asked to adopt the agenda so the speakers can be invited, and plans can be made. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the agenda for the 2023 retreat with a second by councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed. 5/0

ITEM #6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving a Holiday Schedule for the City of Cochran for 2023. The council was provided with a 2023 holiday schedule for their approval. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the 2023 holiday schedule with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed. 5/0

ITEM #7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving Ethics Committee appointment. Mayor Yeomans stated he spoke with Kim Wright, and she agreed she would serve on the Ethics committee with Sam Barrs and Ethel King. Both Sam and Ethel agreed to continue to serve on the committee. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve Kim Wright to the Ethics committee with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed 5/0.

ITEM #8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider amending Sec. 10-105 of the Code of Ordinances to require that architecturally stamped plans be a requirement for a building permit application for single-family residence in the city. This ordinance change is the recommendation of the City/County Building Inspector in a letter. This will require anyone who applies for a building permit for a single-family residence to submit architectural stamped plans. A discussion between the Council and City Manager took place. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve amending the code of ordinance to require architecturally stamped plans with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion failed. 2 in favor – Lemmon and Jones - Against – Ates, Anderson, Veal 3/2

City Manager – Made his comments in Work Session

City Attorney – NONE

Council Discussion Items:

District 1

Anderson – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. Warned everyone to be cautious and aware when shopping.

City Clerk – Great job on the Parade. Outstanding job. Heard great things on the parade. Police and Fire keep up the good work. Doing a fantastic job.

Ates – Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. City Clerk – Great job on the parade as always, Police, Fire and Public Works did a great job as well. Be safe.

District 2

Coley – Absent

Veal – NONE

District 3

Jones –Merry Christmas to all. Check on neighbors. Watch out for Porch Pirates removing packages from porches.

Lemmon – Merry Christmas. Be safe this time of the year. Watch out for each other.

Mayor Comments

Mayor announced the next council meeting dates and times. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Check on your neighbors.

Mayor asked if Executive session was necessary. He said yes.

Councilmember Ates made the motion to go into executive session for personnel matters and legal advice with a second by Councilmember Jones. Voice vote – Motion passed. 5/0. 7:44PM.

Councilmember Ates made the motion to come out of executive session with a second by Councilmember Lemmon Motion passed 5/0 at 8:15PM.

Councilmember Ates made the motion to extend the City Managers contract with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passes 4/1. 4 In Favor - Lemmon, Jones, Ates, Anderson. 1-Opposed – Veal.

Resolution to approve the submittal of LOST to election superintendent for placement on ballot for referendum elections March 23, 2023 if needed.

Councilmember Ates made a motion to approve submittal of local option sales tax with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed. 5/0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18PM.

Motion made by Councilmember Jones and a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed. 5/0

Public Comments (Please note that every individual who signs up to speak prior to the meeting will be given a total of 3 minutes to address the Mayor and Council.)

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk