



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
February 9, 2021
Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7PM

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

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans, Mayor Pro Tem Gary Ates
Councilmembers: Rufus Veal, Carla Coley, Keith Anderson, Jimmy Jones, Andrew Lemmon

Call to order by Mayor Billy Yeomans @ 7:02PM

The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Ates followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Anderson.

Mayor called for a motion to approve the February 9, 2021 agenda as presented.
Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the agenda as changed with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor called for a motion to approve the minutes from January 12, 2021. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept 1/12/21 minutes with Councilmember Veal seconding the motion.
Motion passed with all voting in favor. 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 – Employee of the month was presented by Police Chief, Jeff Trawick. This was awarded to Patrol Officer, Joshua Jordan.

ITEM #2 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Proclamation on Black History Month. Mayor Yeomans read the Proclamation on Black History Month.

ITEM # 3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider extending or changing supplemental Covid-19 compensation for City employees. Mayor Yeomans explained the Council could choose of a onetime pay for COVID 19 supplemental pay in the amount of \$1200 for full time employees and allocate \$40,000 for each department to cover COVID-19 expense. Another option would be to extend the \$125 pay stipend every two weeks to hourly Police, Fire and Public Works. Councilmember Veal presented the Council with his proposal during the Work Session. Councilmember Veal stated he would like to see the Council pass the change to \$1200 onetime fee, then allocated \$40,000 to Department which would be \$10,000 to each department. Councilmember Veal also stated it will be \$400 for the part time employees as well. Councilmember Veal made the motion to pay \$1200 to full time employees and \$400 to the part time employees of COVID 19 money and do away with the \$125 every other week until further notice with Councilmember Ates seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5 yes (Veal, Coley, Anderson, Ates, Jones) 1 (Lemmon did not vote.)

ITEM # 4 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adjusting septic dumping fees charged for disposal in City sewer collection system. Mayor Yeomans stated the Council was asked to adjust per dump charge for the City of Cochran for septic tank contractors who dump sewage into the City's sewer system. At this time, the charge is \$50 per dump and the Council can choose to not accept septic dumping anymore or raise the fee to cover more of the cost at the Waste treatment plant. Councilmember Jones made the motion to raise the fee to \$100 and limit it to Bleckley County only. A brief discussion was held between Council and Department Heads. A second was not made so the first motion died. Councilmember Jones made the motion to raise the dump fee from \$50 to \$100 with Councilmember Ates seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

ITEM # 5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving the funding of Administrative Assistant position for City Manager. Council voted to create a full-time position of Administrative Assistant to the City Manager. General Funds will be the finding source of this position. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the funding for Administrative Assistant position with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with 5 in favor (Lemmon, Jones, Ates, Anderson, Coley) 1 against (Veal) 5-1.

ITEM # 6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider setting the date for Cochran Clean-up Day. Council was asked to set up a clean up day for Cochran. Councilmember Ates made the motion to set Clean Up day for Saturday, April 24 with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

ITEM # 7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of Variable Sign Agreement. Council was asked to consider approving the Agreement and lease agreement with the Chamber. Chamber and Council had a discussion on this item during the Work Session. Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to approve the Variable Sign Agreement with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

ITEM #8 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of financial obligation to fund Comprehensive Plan with Regional Commission. The Council was asked to consider approval of sharing the \$15,500 financial obligation with Bleckley County for funding the Comprehensive Plan preparation expense. Mayor Yeomans stated the County will pay \$9,500 and the City will pay \$6,000. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the plan for the City to pay \$6,000 and the County will pay \$9,500 with Councilmember Coley seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

ITEM # 9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of Anthem BCBS for providing health, dental and vision benefits for year 2021. Council was asked to approve the arrangement with NFP-Shaw Hankins to continue health, dental and vision and also city treasury will absorb the 6% increase. The estimated increase can be paid from the remaining Covid-19 account. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the renewal with Shaw Hankins with the additional funds for health insurance premiums to be paid with the remaining balance of the Covid-19 account with Councilmember Coley seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

ITEM # 10- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of agreement with Crews & Associates and Bond Refinance Inducement Resolution. At the City Retreat the Council approved authorizing a resolution to proceed with refinancing the City's water and sewer bonds and the management agreement for Tony King and Crews & Associates to handle the City's bond refinancing. By doing this the City could possibly save approximately \$300,000 in interest payments during remaining 20 years of bonds. Tony King presented the information to Council in the Work Session. City Manager, Richard Newbern stated the Council was asked to do two things, 1- Adopt the Municipal Advisory Agreement and adopt inducement resolution. Both resolutions are needed to move ahead with the refinancing. Councilmember Coley made the motion to approve the agreement with Crews and Associates and the bond refinance inducement resolution with Councilmember Ates seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 6-0

ITEM #11 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of bid for stationary generators at Dykes Street well, Ann Street well, Vernon Road well, and Ash Street well. Public Works Director Willie Farrow stated this project is funded with a federal/state grant from GEMA. The federal/state will finance 85% of the generator cost, with the city financing the remaining 15%. Bids were received and opened on February 4. The apparent low response was Mike Cook Electric. A discussion was held between Council and Public Works Director about the generator being a diesel or natural gas. He explained this will be a diesel generator. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the lowest bid from Cook Electric Co, LLC to install stationary electric diesel-operated generators at the four wells with Councilmember Veal seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

Council Discussion Items:

District 1 (Anderson/Ates) – Ates Made a statement he wanted the Police to be more visible in District 1

District 2 (Veal/Coley)- Veal-None/Coley-None

District 3 (Jones/Lemmon)- Jones – Suggestion of Trash receptacles on Third St. and Four St. off of Peacock Street Lemmon- None

Councilmember Jones stated Council needed to go into executive Session.

Went into Executive Session at 8:50PM

Councilmember Jones made the motion to go back into regular session with Councilmember Ates seconding the motion.

Councilmember Ates made the motion to adjourn with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk