



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
January 8, 2019
Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM

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

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming Gilman

Councilmembers: Carla D Coley, Regina Gooch, Keith Anderson, Andrew Lemmon, Jon Thrower

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Keith Anderson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Jon Thrower.

Mayor Yeomans asked if any corrections or additions needed to be made to the January 8, 2019 agenda. Mayor Yeomans requested a motion to approve the January 8, 2019 Agenda. Councilmember Regina Gooch made the motion to approve agenda with Councilmember Jon Thrower seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

Mayor Billy Yeomans asked if any corrections or additions needed to be made to December 11, 2018 minutes. Councilmember Carla Coley stated she sent City Clerk, Tracy Jones, a correction. City Clerk, Tracy Jones stated she would make corrections on the minutes as requested. Councilmember Andrew Lemmon made the motion to accept the minutes and Councilmember Keith Anderson seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

- 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 Interim Fire Chief, Brock Wilcher

Introduction of McKayla Conner, new City of Cochran firefighter. Interim Chief Brock Wilcher introduced Firefighter Conner as the newest member of the Cochran Fire Department. He stated she is from Perry GA, and she started with the Fire Department the end of November. Makayla finished two State of GA Fire Fighter One courses and is a volunteer with Houston County as well.

ITEM #2 – Presented by Mayor, Billy Yeomans

Consider selecting Mayor Pro Tem for year 2019. Mayor stated this is the first Council meeting in January, so the Council must elect a new Mayor Pro Tem per Charter. Fleming Gilman served as Mayor Pro Tem in 2018. The mayor called for motion for nomination for 2019 Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Keith Anderson made the motion for Councilmember Thrower to be the 2019 Mayor Pro Tem. Current Mayor Pro Tem Fleming Gilman seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0.

ITEM # 3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider setting February 2019 Council Meeting date. The reason for moving this date, Council has been invited to go to the Capital in Atlanta with the Chamber and IDA to visit a couple of places in hopes to improve contacts along with learning how to attract businesses to come to Cochran GA. A few dates were discussed between Councilmembers. Mayor Yeomans asked for a motion to move February Council meeting from Tuesday, February 12 to Thursday February 7. Mayor Pro Tem Jon Thrower made the motion to move Council meeting to Thursday, February 7, 2019. Councilmember Regina Gooch seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

ITEM # 4 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Discuss and consider Retreat Agenda for the Retreat scheduled for Thursday, January 24 and Friday, January 25, 2019 at Lake Blackshear. Draft Agenda for the 2019 Council Retreat was presented to the Council. Mr. Newbern stated this was an opportunity to discuss the items on the agenda. Mr. Newbern reached out to the facilitator and confirmed his attendance at the retreat. Mr. Newbern gave two dates the facilitator would like to come and meet with Council to talk about retreat and agenda items. Mr. Newbern encouraged Council if they had items to add to the agenda to do so at any time during the week. Mayor Yeomans asked if anyone had anything to add or discuss about the draft agenda. Mayor Yeomans stated that the Retreat is an Open Meeting, and everyone is welcome to attend.

ITEM # 5 - Presented by Councilmember, Carla D Coley

Consider approving a cost/programming analysis for potential property acquisitions. Councilmember Coley started the conversation about the potential cost analysis for the property for Police Department and City Hall. Police Chief Chris Coley lead most of the discussion for this item. Chief Coley stated the Council was asked to approve the cost analysis for the potential purchase of the property previously discussed. The cost of the architectural work is \$5,000.00 and the information generated from the analysis will be brought back to Council for consideration as we further discuss the acquisition of the property. There are steps that need to be followed to ensure the property is adequate and suitable for its intended use. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower asked if the funds for this project were in the budget. Chief Coley stated they were budgeted in the Admin budget. Mr. Newbern stated it was a line item in the amount of \$ 15,000.00 for preliminary studies for City Hall development and Police Department development. Mayor Yeomans asked if he was correct when it was stated before that the Walgreen's building would not be big enough for City Hall and the Police Department together. Chief Coley stated that was correct. Councilmember Coley explained the options of payment opportunities for this project if it is approved. Mayor Yeomans asked if the Council needs to decide if they want to make a motion to spend the \$5,000.00 to get a cost analysis and this will include what the amount will be to redo the building. Mayor called for a motion to spend \$5000 for this project. Councilmember Gilman made the motion to spend the money for the cost analysis. Mayor Pro tem Thrower seconded the motion. More discussion was made after the motion was seconded by the Council. Councilmember Thrower stated he would like to obtain a facilities plan in writing and to understand we are trying to make things happen with multiple facilities. Councilmember Lemmon stated he would also like to look at other buildings before we spend this amount of money and put more buildings into play. Councilmember Thrower expressed he would like to hold off on his motion until the facilities plan was in writing and everyone will then understand exactly where the Council is coming from. Councilmember Thrower rescinded the motion. Mayor announced the motion was rescinded.

ITEM # 6 - Presented by Councilmember, Carla D Coley

Consider finalizing questions regarding Charter changes Section 3.10(e). During the October meeting a motion was made regarding recension of changes that were made to the 2012 Charter. After discussion with the City Attorney he stated the way the motion was made, was a motion that the council could not fulfill; therefore, motion is null and void. The Section is question is Section 3.10 (e). In order for the Council to make those changes, the Council must ask the City Attorney to prepare the necessary documentation to amend the particular Section of the July 8, 2014 Charter. She explained if it was the Council's will, a motion will be made to direct the City Attorney to prepare the necessary documentation to amend Section 3.10 € of the July 8, 2014 Charter and change it to read as the 2012 Charter version. Councilmember Gilman stated more than one item needed to be changed. Councilmember expressed his beliefs about the Charter. He also stated he would resign after January 31, 2019.

Councilmember Thrower made the motion that a committee be appointed to investigate revision of the Charter and see if we can get it properly done and report back at the next Council meeting. Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion. Councilmember Thrower added to the motion for the Mayor to appoint a committee.

Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0. Mayor Yeomans appointed Councilmember Coley, Anderson and Lemmon for recommendations for the changing of the existing Charter.

ITEM # 7 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider appropriating \$3,851.00 as payment of 1/3 the expenses for HVAC upgrades at Chamber of Commerce. Cochran – Bleckley IDA/Chamber of Commerce will pay the remaining 2/3 (together) of the expenses. Mr. Newbern explained the City's part of the 1/3 agreement for the HVAC. The amount due will be paid out of the administrative repair and maintenance line item. Nicole addressed the Council with the update of the project. She stated by the end of the week the project will be complete. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to allocate 1/3 of the money for the HVAC in the Chamber of Commerce and the IDA office with Councilmember Coley seconding the motion.

Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

ITEM #8 - Presented by Public Works Director, Willie Farrow

Consider purchase of a water-vacuum trailer and F-250 pick-up truck for the Public Works Department. Public Works Director, Willie Farrow, addressed Council regarding the water- vacuum trailer. He stated the Water Department is in great need of this machine. This machine will decrease pressure and water leaks and water main breaks could be fixed faster. The F-250 will pull the new sewer trailer. Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to purchase the water vacuum trailer and F250 for Public Works Department in the amount of \$87,752.00. This will be funded through SPOLST Water/Sewer and Road funds. Councilmember Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 6-0.

ITEM # 9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adoption of Budget Calendar for 2019. Richard Newbern stated that this is budget time. All department heads are getting together and setting goals for the 2019/2020 year and will look at the revenue streams of different funds. Richard passed out a calendar of the targeted dates for the Council to adopt. June 11, 2019 will be the date for the Council to adopt the budget. Several Public Hearings will be conducted to have public input. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to start the budget calendar for 2019 with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

ITEM # 10- Presented by Councilmember, Carla D Coley

Consider approving eligible parcels for annexation based on the Planning and Zoning recommendation. Councilmember Coley stated that the Zoning Committee made a presentation to Council and one of the things addressed in the presentation was Planning and zoning recommendation that all eligible islands be annexed into the City. The islands prior to 1991 can be annexed into the City without the consent of the owner. The list of islands needs to be verified and owners notified and then Council would have a hearing, Mr. Newbern stated. Councilmember Coley stated that Council should act on the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Committee. She also stated, when a Committee come to council with a recommendation, it is important to discuss the recommendation and give it value because they put a lot of work into it. Councilmember Coley explained the need to go ahead and begin the process to annex eligible islands into the City limits. Several of the islands are already receiving City services, but they are not in the City Limits. Councilmember Coley made the motion to start the process at annex the islands prior to 1991 in to the City Limits with Councilmember Lemmon seconding. Motion was passed with all voting in favor 6-0. Mayor Pro Tem thrower stated this motion was to give Richard the authority to proceed with the process of annexation.

City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates

- Retreat Agenda
- January 10- Thursday @ 4PM – Community House – GICH Meeting
- January 11- Friday-150th Birthday Meeting @ 10AM – Chamber Conference Room
- January 17- Downtown Merchants Meeting @ 5PM – Community House
- January 21 – City Hall Closed to Honor MLK, Jr. Birthday Nation Holiday

Council Discussion Items-

Councilmember Carla Coley

- Mrs. Coley stated she was very excited about the good things that were happening in Cochran. She encouraged the citizens to get out and attend meetings.

Mayor Pro Tem Jon Thrower

- Expressed his interest in trying to replace the Christmas decoration and to make a place in budget for new decoration.

Councilmember Regina Gooch

- Councilmember Gooch stated she was approached by Josette Scott and Bohannon's Builder Supply inquiring about items placed on their poles since they were in the City Limits. (Christmas Decorations)

Councilmember Keith Anderson

- Nothing

Councilmember Fleming Gilman

- Stated his concern about sewage not being run to the bypass and the City missing out on business opportunities

Councilmember Andrew Lemmon

- Felt the same as Councilmember Gilman. Expressed his feelings about eh young people who reside at the College with nothing to do or anywhere to go.
- He also stated he was out riding and looking at some options with roads to be paved and where trash cans to be places in high traffic areas, He thanked Willie Farrow for all the hard work he has done.

Mayor Billy Yeomans

- Ethics Committee will kick of January 15, 2019. Ethel King, Curtis Bryant and Sam Barrs.
- Resignation of Councilmember Gilman and the protocol on appointment of new Councilmember.

Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Work Session Prior to Council Meeting –February 07, 2019 @ 5:30 pm
 - Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting – February 07, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

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

- William M Stoy – Expressed his concerns about the about the new facilities that were discussed earlier. He gave a little background for his feeling on the fire fee and the millage rates.

Adjourn to go into executive session @ 8:50pm

Adjourned executive session @ 9:38PM

Back into regular session @ 9:39PM

Motion was made by Councilmember Gilman to promote City Clerk, Tracy Jones, up to her next step in the tier for a pay raise. Councilmember Andrew Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor 6-0.

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk