



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**Tuesday, January 17, 2017**  
**Special Called Meeting @ 7:00 PM**

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

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

Absent: None

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

Mayor Pro Tem Lemmon made a motion and Councilmember Thrower seconded the motion to approve the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Gooch seconded the motion to amend the agenda to add Item #4-Consider approval of contract with Everett Dykes Grassing Company for road paving and Item #5-Administer Oath of Office to Mayor Gary Ates. The motion passed unanimously will all voting in favor.

**Agenda Items**

**Item # 1 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Approve 2015-2016 Budget Amendment and Budget Transfers for audit to meet State law requirement. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Mayor Pro Tem Lemmon seconded the motion to approve 2015-2016 Budget Amendment and Budget Transfers for audit to meet State law requirement. The motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

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

Discuss and consider appointment of District 1 Councilmember to fill seat vacancy of unexpired term through December 31, 2017. Mr. Newbern advised Council that the City Charter states that the Council “shall appoint” a representative to fill a vacant Council seat. Councilmember Gooch asked if it had to be done now. Councilmember Gilman stated that it does not have to be. Mayor Pro Tem Lemmon stated that Council needed to set a date; ie: the next Council meeting. Mayor Ates said he felt the new member should be appointed before the Council Retreat so they could be included. Councilmember Thrower stated that since Council cannot agree on a candidate, he does not believe one can be appointed before the retreat on January 26, 2017. Councilmember Gooch said appointing a representative for the vacant seat is a process. Mayor Pro Tem Lemmon said Councilmember Gooch should be able to make the nomination since the vacancy is in her district and then Council can vote to accept or reject the nomination. Councilmember Cranford said he agreed. Councilmember Gilman said he would not vote to fill the vacancy. Councilmember Thrower said he felt Councilmember Gooch and Mayor Ates should make

the nomination since it is Mayor Ates former Council seat and Councilmember Gooch's district. City Manager, Richard Newbern advised Council that they need to be seen making an attempt to fill the seat. Mayor Ates recommended that City Attorney, Leo Phillips, should attend a meeting to discuss with Council. Councilmember Gilman disagreed.

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

Discuss Council Retreat format with Dr. Brooke Miller, Facilitator. Dr. Miller explained her role as facilitator. She advised that Council had an obligation to set the processes in motion, not to refuse to do City business. Councilmember Gilman said he only wanted Dr. Miller to be facilitator at the retreat one day. Mayor Ates polled the Council and Councilmembers Thrower, Gilman, Cranford, and Mayor Pro Tem Lemmon said one day was enough. Councilmember Gooch said both days was needed. Dr. Miller stated she would go by the agenda. Mr. Newbern reminded Council that at this point the agenda is still fluid. Council discussed retreat flow.

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

Consider approval of contract with Everett Dykes Grassing Company for road paving. Councilmember Gooch made a motion and Councilmember Thrower seconded the motion to approve contract with Everett Dykes Grassing Company for road paving. The motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

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

Administer Oath of Office to Mayor Gary Ates. City Clerk, Jill Cooper, administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Gary Ates.

**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.) None

**Mayor Updates**

**City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates**

Advised everyone to meet at Little Ocmulgee State Park Lodge at 6:30 pm for dinner and he and Mayor Ates would join them after the Regional Commission meeting in Mount Vernon.

**Department updates**-None

**Council Discussion Items**-None

Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Cranford seconded the motion to adjourn.

Adjourn @ 8:40 pm

(Seal)

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Jill Cooper, Interim City Clerk