



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**Tuesday, April 12, 2022**  
**Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7PM**

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

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

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

The invocation was given by Mayor Yeomans followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Jones.

Mayor asked for any corrections, additions, or deletions to the April 12 agenda provided.  
There were none.

Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the agenda with a second from Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

Mayor asked if there were any corrections or additions to the 3/8/22 minutes. City Clerk stated she was aware of two changes she needed to make, and corrected minutes would be distributed. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the minutes with correction and a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

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- 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. City Clerk, Tracy B Jones, presented the employee of the month to Kyle Newman for the outstanding efforts he puts forth for the City of Cochran.

**ITEM #2- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Recognition of championship team- Coach Derek Farrow. Mayor Yeomans recognized the Middle School Boys Basketball team for winning the region championship two years in a row presenting each team member with a certificate.

**ITEM #3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Recognition of Housing Authority Members, Joy Fisher and Charles Keen. Mayor Yeomans presented Mrs. Fisher with a plaque of appreciation for serving 29 years on the Housing Authority Board. Mr. Keen was not in attendance.

**ITEM #4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Proclamation of National Fair Housing Month. Mayor Yeomans read the proclamation for national fair housing month.

**ITEM #5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Presentation by GA DCA representative, Ebony Simpson on the City's Plan FIRST designation. Mrs. Simpson stated it was her honor to be in the City of Cochran to present the first Plan FIRST award to the City of Cochran. Mrs. Simpson explained what the PlanFIRST program involved and how it helped communities and what DCA expects from Cochran.

**ITEM #6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider adopting a resolution to close Forehand Lane segment from East Dykes Street to Bollinger Lane. This anticipated road closure was advertised Thursday, March 3 in the first edition of the Times Journal Post. The Council is asked to consider voting on the resolution to close a portion of Forehand Lane. Jack's Family Restaurant is requesting the city close the East segment of Forehand Lane between Bollinger Lane and East Dykes Street. This will allow the installation of a decel lane on East Dykes Street. Both parties (Jack's Family Restaurant & Trinity Episcopal Church) have agreed to this alley segment closure. Councilmember Ates made the motion to adopt the resolution to close Forehand Lane segment from East Dykes Street to Bollinger Lane with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6/0

**ITEM #7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider adopting a stormwater utility ordinance. The Council was asked to adopt a stormwater utility ordinance that authorizes the City to use and implement the Georgia stormwater management manual. The City has been requiring compliance of stormwater management practices under the authority of state law and best management practices. By officially adopting the ordinance, the city can implement and regulate stormwater standards in accordance with the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual. Skip Layton, City Engineer spoke on the matter. He expressed when adopting the ordinance, it will also be adopting the State's Bluebook which is a manual. Every project is supposed to comply with the stormwater manual. Councilmember Coley made he motion to adopt the storm water ordinance with a second by Councilmember Veal. Motion passed with all saying "I". 6/0

**ITEM# 8-Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider amending the FY 2021-/22 DDA budget to authorize line-item transfers. This item was discussed in the work session. Councilmember Jones made the motion leave the 21/22 DDA budget as is, not allowing line-item transfers with a second by Councilmembers Lemmon. Councilmember Coley asked for the motion. Mayor stated the motion (to leave the 21/22 DDA budget as it and not allow line-item transfers). Councilmember Veal asked were we going to look at what it was pertaining to now?

Councilmember Jones stated not to allow line-item transfers. Coley asked if that meant not to make any changes? Jones stated correct, not to make changes. Coley asked if it was inappropriate to ask why this decision was made? Jones stated he chose to vote against it. Ates asked if there was going to be any discussion. Mayor stated the discussion was to be made when he called for it. Coley asked if there was not going to be a discussion? No one discussed anything when the Mayor called for it, he stated. Mayor asked Councilmember Jones if he would withdraw his motion. Councilmember Jones withdrew his motion. Mayor asked Councilmember Lemmon if he would withdraw his second to the motion. Councilmember Lemmon withdrew his motion. Mayor read item number 8. Mayor called for any further discussion. Councilmember Ates stated he was puzzled about the tent. He expressed his concerns about telling the truth and doing things right. He understands it better now after he got clarity of the situation. Councilmember Veal stated the budget was already approved so it was money that was not spent to be utilized to another line item to support it. Councilmember Coley stated she agreed with Councilmember Ates, if they talk about making Cochran/Bleckley better, and DDA is doing what they can with little to no money and to ask to move the money is not asking to much. It was moved two times in the past for the exact same thing, is not too much to ask. Mayor asked for any more discussion and then called for a motion. Councilmember Jones made the motion to leave the 2021/2022 DDA budget as is, not allowing line-item transfers with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Jones/ Lemmon voted yes. Coley, Veal, Ates, Anderson voted No. Motion failed to leave budget as is without line-item transfers. City Attorney stated he suggested to have a second motion to approve the transfer. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve to the transfer the money with a second by Councilmember Veal. Veal, Coley, Ates, Anderson voted yes. Jones, Lemmon voted NO. Motion passed 4/2.

#### **ITEM#9 -Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider authorizing an increase in sewer dump fees for use of the treatment plant to \$400 per dump Councilmember Veal asked the amount of the dump ticket now. Mayor stated it was \$100 per dump now. Veal asked the reason of the amount going up from \$100 to \$400. Mayor stated it was a recommendation by the Class 1 wastewater operator which was discussed at the Council Retreat. City Manager stated the increase was suggested by the Class one due to the impact to the treatment plant. A discussion was held between the Council to decide on the increase. A suggestion of an increase of \$50 was made by Councilmember Ates. Councilmember Ates made the motion to raise the dumping fee \$50 from \$100 to \$150 with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6/0

#### **ITEM#10 -Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider approving Resolution to appoint voting delegates for MGAG Mayor stated last year delegates were Ates and Jones was alternate. Councilmember Anderson made the motion to leave Councilmember Ates and Jones as alternate with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6/0

#### **ITEM# 11-Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider appointment of a Park Planning Committee. Mayor Yeomans stated he received two names from all three districts.

District 1- Coretta Basby and Meta Mays

District 2- Carla Thrower and Sandy Jarrett

District 3- Scott Moe and Wayne Scott

Mary Pitts was nominated by the Mayor to be on the committee along with Mike Stoy being Chair of the committee. Councilmember Anderson to be the liaison between Governing Authority of the City and the committee. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the park committee as presented with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6/0 Councilmember Coley asked for the committee to allow the group of third graders who worked on the park project years prior to help with development of the park. They are now in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and are eager to help.

City Manager Comments/Updates

- **Budget Session, Tuesday, April 19, 2022 @ 6PM**
- **Clean Up Day, Saturday, April 23, 2022 @ 9AM**

**Council Discussion Items:**

**District 1**

Councilmember Anderson: So blessed to live in Cochran and thanked the City and County employees for the great job during and after the storms.

Councilmember Ates: Thanked the City and County employees for the good job after the storm. Need to recognize the supervisors.

**District 2**

Councilmember Coley: Congratulation to the Boys and Girls BCHS tennis team. Thanked the leadership class.

Councilmember Veal: He stated he requested information and never received it from City Manager and will come to see him in the coming week.

**District 3**

Councilmember Jones: Shout out to 911 workers. National 911 responder week. 15 consecutive region wins for the BCHS Girls tennis team and 23 consecutive wins for the BCHS boys Tennis team, congratulations.

Councilmember Lemmon: Thanked City crews who worked hard to help clean up Cochran after the tornado.

Mayor Yeomans thanked all the Council for all they do. Look out for your neighbor. Stealing catalytic converters now he heard so watch out. Watch out for people who come into the city and make sure they are who they say they are. Don't be scammed.

Mayor asked if they needed to go into executive session. Lemmon stated yes for council salary. Jim Elliot stated that would need to be discussed in open session.

Mayor Yeomans adjourned the meeting at 7:59PM

(SEAL)

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Tracy B Jones  
City Clerk