



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7PM

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

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

Mayor Yeomans asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of a long time City employee, Charlie Beck who recently passed away.

The invocation was given by Councilmember Coley followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Veal.

Mayor asked for any corrections additions or deletions to the February 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 1-11-22 minutes. There were none.
Councilmember Jones made the motion to accept the minutes as presented with a second by Mayor Pro Tem Anderson. 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. This item was deferred to March meeting.

ITEM #2- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Proclamation on Black History Month. Mayor Yeomans asked Councilmembers Veal, Ates, Anderson and Lemmon to stand with him while he read the Black History Month proclamation.

ITEM #3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing to consider rezoning of a parcel at 163 East Dykes Street from R-2 Residential to B-2 Business Commercial District.

Mayor called the Public Hearing to order at 7:09PM.

Mayor stated this public hearing is called to order to consider a rezoning application for a .14-acre parcel owned by Shawn Biron at 163 E Dykes Street from R1 to B2. This property is to be purchased for a deceleration lane on E Dykes St for the proposed Jacks location. Joe Meadows was present on behalf of Jack's and owner Mr. Biron. Adjacent property has already been rezoned to B2 for this project. Mayor Yeomans states this public hearing was called to order to give interested parties the opportunity to express their views or concerns. Notice of this public hearing was posted on the city website and in the Times Journal Post. The Planning commission held a public hearing Thursday, February 3, 2022 and voted 5/0 to recommend approval of the rezoning application. Mayor asked if there was any public input regarding the rezoning application to change the .14-acre parcel from R1 to B2. Joe Meadows stated this was a requirement by GDOT. No other comments were made.

Mayor closed public hearing at 7:12PM.

Mayor called for a motion to approve the rezoning. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the rezoning from R1 to B2 with a second by Councilmember Ates. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

ITEM #4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider setting Saturday, April 23 at 9:00 a.m. as the time for Clean-up Day in Cochran. Mr. Newbern stated the Clean-up Day in Cochran coincides with Earth Day. The city invites different organizations to pick up segments of roadways in town. Chamber of Commerce will co-sponsor this year and will help to enlist organizations to participate in the event.

Dumpsters will be out so residents can dump their bulk waste as well. In addition, the city will have the scrap tire amnesty week. During this week, citizens can dispose of their scrap tires for free.

Councilmember Ates made the motion to set Clean Up Day for Saturday, April 23, 2022, at 9AM with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6/0

ITEM #5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider authorizing the filing of a Scrap Tire Reimbursement Grant with Ga. EPD to help finance Scrap Tire Amnesty that will be held in conjunction with Clean-up Day. Mayor Yeomans stated the dumpsters will be placed behind the auditorium and at the City Barn. In past years the county was asked to join the city and they have agreed this year as well. EPD will reimburse the city for all the cost for collecting, disposal and pay of the employees who volunteer their time from the public works team. Mr. Newbern explained this event will be advertised in early March. Councilmember Ates made the motion to authorize the filing of Scrap Tire Reimbursement with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6/0

ITEM #6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consideration of renewal of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield health care benefits for employees for FY 2022-23. Jon Shaw with NFP presented the options available and explained the reason for the increase in coverage cost. Mayor Yeomans asked if the City could afford such an increase of \$39,000 in benefit cost. Mr. Newbern stated this could be done with a budget adjustment. Mayor Pro Tem Anderson asked if employees could keep the same coverage. Mr. Newbern stated yes, they could keep the same coverage with the buy up option which was an additional \$20.00 per month. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the renewal of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield with a second by Councilmember Coley. Motion passed with 5 voting Yes (Coley, Anderson, Ates, Jones and Lemmon) 1-No (Veal) 5-1

ITEM #7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of bid from Darrell Brown for office improvements to City Hall. Mr. Newbern explained the renovations for the City Hall building to include the reconfiguration for an ADA bathroom, Administrative Assistant office, a dedicated copy room and small conference room. Only 1 bid was received from Darrell Brown with Brown's Construction in the amount of \$32,500 which will be paid from SPLOST. Councilmember Ates asked if the work was advertised and if that was the only bid received. Mr. Newbern stated it was properly advertised and Mr. Brown was the only bid submitted. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the bid from Darrell Brown Construction for \$32,500 for City Hall renovation with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6/0

City Manager Comments/Updates

- CHIP lottery 2PM - Wednesday February 9, 2022
- Public Hearing for CDBG grant Wednesday February 23, 2022 @ 6:30PM
- Recreation Trails Grant Pending
- SFRF Grant pending
- Havenwood Gardens ribbon cutting Tuesday, March 1, 2022 @ 10:30AM
- First budget draft Tuesday, April 12, 2022
- City Clerk, Tracy Jones, will return to work Wednesday, February 9, 2022
- Retreat to begin Thursday, February 10, 2022

Council Discussion Items:**District 1**

Councilmember Anderson: Prayers for all the City employees that have been out sick and welcome their return and he thanked all employees for all the hard work during this time.

Councilmember Ates: None

District 2

Councilmember Coley: Reminder the concert has been rescheduled for March 12, 2022. Congratulations to the Highschool BETA team for going to State and Nationals.

Councilmember Veal: None

District 3

Councilmember Jones: None

Councilmember Lemmon: None

Mayor Yeomans thanked City Attorney, Jim Elliott for attending council meetings. Thanks, Julie Peche, for filling in for City Clerk, Tracy Jones and taking minutes. Announced Covid testing in Cochran on Wednesday and Friday at the old peanut museum behind auditorium. Citizens, please work with the employees at city hall. Thank you to all employees for all you do for the City of Cochran.

Mayor asked Council if any need to go into executive session. The answer was No.

Councilmember Ates made the motion to adjourn with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6/0

Meeting adjourned @ 8:00PM.

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk