



**APPROVED MINUTES**

**November 12, 2024**

**Cochran City Council**

**Regular Session @ 7:00 PM**

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

**City Council**

**City Staff**

Billy Yeomans, Mayor	Richard Newbern, City Manager
Keith Anderson, Council Member <i>(District 1, Post 1)</i>	Candace Summerall, City Clerk
Gary Ates, Council Member <i>(District 1, Post 2)</i>	Jim Elliott, City Attorney
Carla Coley, Council Member <i>(District 2 Post 1)</i>	
Lonnie Tedders, Council Member <i>(District 2, Post 2)</i>	
Andrew Lemmon, Council Member <i>(District 3, Post 1)</i>	
Shane Savant, Council Member <i>(District 3, Post 2)</i>	

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Billy Yeomans called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and requested all to stand for the invocation.

**II. INVOCATION**

Council Member Gary Ates delivered the invocation.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Tedders led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. ATTENDANCE**

Mayor confirmed four council members present, establishing a quorum. Two members absent: Keith Anderson and Andrew Lemmon.

**V. ADOPT AGENDA/MINUTES**

**A. Minutes**

Motion by Council Member Coley to approve the October 10, 2024 regular session minutes with two corrections:

1. Addition of Council Member Savant's statement recommending time to think about millage rate before voting
2. Removal of "no formal vote taken" regarding Cochran Housing Authority reappointment

Second by Council Member Tedders. Motion carried unanimously.

#### B. Agenda

Council Member Coley requested three additions to the agenda with Council Member Ates adding the fourth:

1. Resignation of Council Member Keith Anderson (effective October 31st)
2. Resignation of Council Member Andrew Lemmon (effective November 12th)
3. Discussion of sign mural installation on North 2nd Street
4. MLK Parade discussion

Motion by Council Member Coley to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Council Member Savant. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Savant to move the two resignation items to the top of the agenda following the Hospital Proclamation. Second by Council Member Ates. Motion carried unanimously.

#### VI. AGENDA ITEMS (AS REORDERED)

1. Proclamation to Bleckley Memorial Hospital

Mayor Yeomans presented a proclamation recognizing Bleckley Memorial Hospital as the 2024 Hometown Health Hospital of the Year.

2. Council Member Keith Anderson Resignation

Motion by Council Member Ates to accept the resignation of Keith Anderson effective October 31st, 2024. Second by Council Member Tedders. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Council Member Andrew Lemmon Resignation

Motion by Council Member Ates to accept the resignation of Andrew Lemmon effective November 12th, 2024. Second by Council Member Coley. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Savant noted that a special election will be held in March for these positions.

4. Consider Award of Bid to ICB Construction, Inc.

Item was tabled for December consideration. Council Member Coley expressed need to review complete scope of work before approval. City Manager Newbern confirmed matter could be addressed at December 10th meeting pending completion of negotiations with contractor. No formal motion was required to table the item.

5. Public Hearing - Conditional Use Zoning Application

Public hearing opened at 7:15 PM regarding application from Hedda Kitchens of All My Kidz Academy 2 for a daycare facility at 181 East Cherry Street.

Planning Commission voted 5-0 to recommend approval with conditions regarding traffic flow. No public comments received. Public hearing closed at 7:19 PM.

Motion by Council Member Coley to approve the conditional use application. Second by Council Member Ates. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 6. 2025 City Council Retreat

Discussion held regarding retreat dates and location. Council agreed to:

- Dates: February 6-8, 2025
- Location: Middle Georgia State University (tentative)
- Facilitator: Carrie Hamilton (tentative)

#### 7. 2025 CDBG Application Authorization

Discussion included alternative uses for CDBG funds suggested by Council Member Coley, including public facility improvements for City Auditorium and Old Arts Alliance Building. Motion by Council Member Savant to authorize staff to proceed with preparing 2025 CDBG application for Phase III of housing rehabilitation. Second by Council Member Tedders. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 8. 2024 CDBG Grant Documents

Motion by Council Member Savant to approve General and Special Condition grant documents for the 2024 CDBG grant received from Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Second by Council Member Ates. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 9. PTSD Insurance for First Responders

Motion by Council Member Savant to approve budget amendment authorizing \$7,000 for PTSD insurance/services for full-time first responders as required by the Ashley Wilson Act effective January 1, 2025. Second Council Member Ates. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 10. 2025 Holiday Calendar

Motion by Council Member Coley to approve the 2025 holiday calendar for city employees, noting correction needed for Christmas Day date (December 25th instead of 26th). Second by Council Member Tedders. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 11. MLK Parade Request

Request presented by Gary Warner, NAACP President, for MLK parade approval and route approval. Motion by Council Member Savant to provide traffic control support, second by Council Member Ates. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 12. Sign Mural Installation Discussion

Extended discussion regarding mural and advertising installation at North 2nd Street. Council Member Coley raised concerns about proper permitting and compliance with sign ordinance. Specific concerns included:

- Incomplete application documentation
- Questions about property owner permission
- Advertisement portion of mural (approximately 10' x 17')
- Compliance with non-conforming sign regulations

City Attorney Jim Elliott requested to review the matter and provide guidance.

#### VII. CITY MANAGER DISCUSSION/ ITEMS/UPDATES

No items presented for discussion.

#### VIII. COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ITEMS

No items presented for discussion.

#### IX. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

1. Next Work Session -- Tuesday, December 10th, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
2. Next Regular Council Meeting - Tuesday, December 10th, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

#### X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

##### 1. Melissa Barker, Chamber of Commerce President

- Provided updates on upcoming community events including:
  - Oleana play at MGSU (November 12-14)
  - Havenwood Gardens 2 ribbon cutting (November 14)
  - First Baptist Church Thanksgiving hymnal (November 17)
  - Chamber Bingo (November 18)
  - Chandler the Chamber Elf event (November 29)
  - Caffeinated Connections (December 4)
  - Cochran Parade (December 6)

##### 2. Maude Brown

- Expressed concerns about incidents involving her grandson at local recreational facilities
- Discussed interactions with city officials regarding the incidents

##### 3. Chris Coley

- Requested accountability for city department heads

- Urged incoming council to hold city staff accountable
- Expressed concerns about city operations

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No matters requiring executive session.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Council Member Savant requested acknowledgment of a recent community tragedy, expressing condolences to the affected family of Mitchell Holiday and requesting continued community support during the upcoming holiday season. Council Member Coley noted the substantial community response through monetary donations and expressions of support for the memorial fund established.

Mayor Yeomans adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:22 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:



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Candace Summerall, City Clerk



