



APPROVED MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7:00PM

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

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans, Mayor Pro-Tem Carla Coley
Councilmembers: Keith Anderson, Gary Ates, Andrew Lemmon, Shane Savant, Lonnie Tedders
City Attorney: Jim Elliott, City Manager, Richard Newbern

- I. Call to Order by the Mayor**
- II. Invocation**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Attendance**
- V. Adopt Agenda**
- VI. Approve Minutes**
- VII. Agenda Items**

- I.** Call to order by Mayor Billy Yeomans @ 7:00PM
- II.** The invocation was given by Councilmember Ates.
- III.** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Savant.
- IV.** The Mayor noted all council members were present.
- V.** Mayor asked for any corrections, additions, or deletions to the March 12, 2024, agenda. Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to accept the agenda with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 6/0.

- VI.** Mayor asked if additions or corrections were needed for January 9, 2024, meeting minutes. There were none and a motion was made to accept the minutes as presented for the January 9, 2024, meeting by councilmember Anderson with a second by councilmember Lemmon. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.

Mayor asked if additions or corrections were needed for February 6, 2024, meeting minutes. There were none and a motion was made to accept the minutes as presented for the February 6, 2024, meeting by councilmember Savant with a second by councilmember Tedders. The vote was unanimous, motion passed 6/0.

VII. Agenda Items

ITEM #1- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Mr. Newbern asked for Council's consideration of the approval of matching funds for the 2024 Phase II CDBG Grant due 4-5-2024 of up to \$100,000. This match would be budgeted over a 2-year period. \$50,000 for FY 2024/25 and \$50,000 for FY 2025/26. Approval is necessary to continue the grant process. Councilmember Anderson made a motion to approve matching grant funds for FY 2024/25 and FY 2025/26 of up to \$50,000 a total of \$100,000 for the 2024 CDBG grant proposal with a second from Councilmember Ates. Vote in favor: Anderson, Ates, Lemmon, Tedders and against: Coley, Savant. Motion passed with a vote of 4/2.

ITEM #2- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Mr. Newbern introduced Matt Fordham of Citizens Bank who explained that this proposal would better secure the City's deposits. Attorney Elliott stated that Ga. law requires the City's funds to be secured. Councilmember Savant requested, due to the resignation of Tracy Jones, she be removed from all accounts. Councilmember Savant made the motion to approve the agreement with Citizens Bank as presented with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 6/0.

ITEM #3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Discussion of the ARPA funded Roof, Windows, and Doors program criteria continued. Councilmember Coley noted document was improved except for the insurance requirements for contractors. The Mayor recommended that the Council postpone action on this item and discuss at the Council retreat. He also recommended that council members approve all applications for recipients from their districts. All Council members agreed and requested the City Attorney research options for insurance requirements. No further action was taken on the item.

ITEM #4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Council is asked to consider approving an amendment to the procurement ordinance to allow the department heads to have the authority to approve budgeted line-item purchases without City Manager approval for up to \$1,000. The current maximum is \$500. This would allow Department heads to make more emergency or immediate need purchases. All purchases would still be subject to the City's purchase order system. Councilmember Tedders made the motion to increase the purchase order limit for Department head purchases without requiring City Manager approval from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed. 6/0

ITEM #5 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving the removal of a worn/overgrown sidewalk section located at the corner of Cherry and 4th St. which has no functional use. Police Chief stated he saw no safety issues with the removal. Councilmember Coley made a motion to approve the removal of the section of sidewalk at the corner of Cherry and 4th St. with a second by Councilmember Tedders. Motion passed. 6/0

ITEM #6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider submitting a renewal application by May 15, 2024, for the Plan First designation awarded by GA.DCA. The renewal is for a 3-year period. Councilmember Tedders made a motion to apply

for the 3-year renewal of the City's Plan First designation with a second by Councilmember Savant. All were in favor, motion passed 6/0.

ITEM #7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider the approval of a replating of the Peyton Williams property at 142 Thompson St. to support the pending L&WCF Grant for the Willie Basby Park. The Grant requires the property submitted for funding to be dedicated 100% as a public park for outdoor use. Replating would separate the Peyton Williams building and front parking lot as 1 parcel and the Willie Basby Park and side parking lot as a parcel. Councilmember Savant made the motion to replat the parcel at 142 Thompson St. as Peyton Williams Learning Center as 1 parcel and Willie Basby Park as 1 parcel. A second was made by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 6/0.

ITEM #8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving bidding for 2 new Police Department vehicles. Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to approve bidding for 2 new vehicles for the Police Department with a second made by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 6/0.

ITEM #9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of the GDOT agreement for funding of the runway apron project at the Cochran Municipal Airport. Airport Manager Jim Washburn addressed Council. Questions were raised concerning the total liability of the City for this project. Council asked for Mr. Washburn to research the City's total liability and present to Council at the City Retreat. Action on the item was deferred to the City Council retreat. All Council members agreed. No action was taken on this item.

ITEM # 10- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving an updated adoption agreement for the City GMA-GMEBS pension program. The agreement allows the program to take advantage of recent favorable IRS requirements. The City Attorney stated that approving the amendment keeps the program within the IRS guidelines. Council member Tedders made a motion to accept the amendment to the pension program as recommended by GMA-GMEBS with a second by Council member Coley. Motion passed 6/0.

City Manager –

- Clean Up Day – 4-20-24.
- GICH Retreat 4-15-17, 2024.
- Chamber Banquet 3-23-24.
- City Retreat begins 3-14-2024 at 8am
- Update on Budget Calendar progression.

City Attorney – No Comment

City Clerk – No Comment

Mayor – Be safe, look out for each other.

Requested the Councilmember Coley be the “go-between” for the City Council and the airport and school of aviation. Councilmember Coley agreed.

Thank you to Tracy Jones for the job she did as City Clerk and wish her success in her future endeavors. God bless her and her family. Remember our next Council meeting on April 9, 2024, work session at 6pm and regular meeting 7pm.

Council Discussion Items:

District 1

Anderson – NA

Ates – NA

District 2

Coley - NA

Tedders – NA

District 3

Savant – NA

Lemmon – NA

Public Comments (Please note that every individual who signs up to speak prior to the meeting will be given a total of 3 minutes to address the Mayor and Council.)

Ethel King – 123 S Fifth St. Thanked Councilmember Tedders for his participation in the district 1 cleanup day.

Next, she introduced several ladies from District 1 that asked the Mayor to step forward to receive an appreciation plaque for his service to the community. Mayor thanked the ladies and stated it was his pleasure to serve his God, family, and community.

Trishia Gardner – 183 Ash St. Representing the Dre-Day Foundation. Reminder of the 3-23-24 Community Clean-up Day and the Dre-Day Festival scheduled for June 1, 2024. Location to be announced.

Daryl Smith – 133 Fairfield Dr. Complimented former City Clerk, Tracy Jones for her service to the community. Would like to request more streetlights for certain areas in the community. He was asked to speak with City Manager, Richard Newbern, to identify areas of concern.

Lisa Blackshear – 175 MLK Every time she goes to City Hall the Police show up? Constant issues with sewer. She pays her utility bills every month and is entitled to her issues being addressed and not to be disrespected.

This ended public comments.

Mayor asked if Council needed to go into Executive session. Mr. Newbern stated yes for a personnel issue.

Councilmember Anderson made a motion to go into executive session with a second by Councilmember Coley. Motion passed 6/0. @ 8:21pm.

Executive session for personnel issues.

Councilmember Coley made the motion to go back into back to regular session with a second by Councilmember Tedders @ 8:38pm.

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Coley, with a second by Councilmember Tedders.
Motion passed. 6/0.
Meeting adjourned at 8:46PM



(SEAL) Julie D. Peche
Julie D. Peche, Interim City Clerk