



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**Tuesday, June 4, 2024**  
**Public Hearing @ 6:30PM**

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*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** by Mayor Billy Yeomans at 6:36 PM

**II. Invocation** led by Gary Ates

**III. Pledge of Allegiance** led by Andy Lucas

**IV. Attendance**

Mayor/Council Members Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans, Gary Ates, Carla Coley, Andrew Lemmon

Council Members Absent: Keith Anderson, Lonnie Tedders, Shane Savant

City Staff Present: Richard Newbern (City Manager), Candace Summerall (City Clerk)

City Staff Absent: Jim Elliott (City Attorney)

**V. Adopt Agenda/Minutes** Council cannot properly or legally adopt the agenda under Robert's Rules of Order. The agenda can only be discussed and then officially adopted later once a quorum has been secured.

**VI. Public Hearing** on FY 24/25 Budget

The mayor stated that the city attorney confirmed a quorum was not required for the public hearing on the FY 2024-2025 budget. The mayor reviewed the rules for public comments.

The city attorney clarified that while the council could discuss the budget, they could not vote due to lack of quorum.

A. Citizen Comments

1. Melissa Barker (President/CEO Cochran-Bleckley Chamber) commented on the proposed \$25,500 allocation for the Chamber of Commerce being much lower than other outside agency funding. She requested the council reconsider increasing this amount, stating it feels devaluing to the positive community impact of the Chamber.

B. No other citizens provided comments

Public Hearing closed at 6:40 PM

**VI. City Manager Discussion/Updates**

A. None

**VII. Council Discussion Items**

A. Council Member Carla Coley requested providing council packets more than 24 hours in advance to allow adequate review time.

B. Coley suggested having police presence with a tent or giveaways at community events like Dre Day, Juneteenth and the Fall Festival to promote positive relations.

**IX. Announcements of upcoming meetings and events**

A. Richard Newbern/Melissa Barker announced the Caffeinated Connection event on June 5 at 8 AM at the Chamber Conference Room to honor city employees.

B. Council Work Session: 6/11/2024 at 6:00pm

C. Council Meeting: 6/11/2024 at 7:00pm

Meeting ended with mayor stating council could stay and discuss further or leave

