



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**Tuesday, June 11, 2024**  
**Work Session Meeting @ 6:00PM**

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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 the Mayor**

Mayor Pro Tem called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

**II. Adopt Agenda/Minutes**

- The agenda for the work session was reviewed. Mayor pro Tem Carla Coley noted the work session typically only includes the call to order and adoption of agenda/minutes.

- Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and other formalities are usually reserved for regular sessions.
- A motion was made to strike the extra items from the work session agenda.
  - **Motion:** Adjust the agenda to remove the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, attendance, and minutes by Keith Anderson
  - **Seconded** by Lonnie Tedders
  - **Discussion:** None.
  - **Vote:** 5/0

### III. Agenda Items

#### 1. Discussion of Residential Garbage Pick-up Schedule

- **Speaker:** Richard Newbern, City Manager
  - Recap of the May 14th meeting with Walt Ritter, Regional Manager for Waste Management.
  - Follow-up discussion led by Willie Farrow, Public Works Director.
  - Transition to Automatic Side Loaders (ASL) discussed, emphasizing changes from rear loader to ASL.
  - Issues noted with schedule adherence, especially with new drivers and missed pick-ups.
  - Residents were notified of changes from Wednesday to Thursday pick-ups, with some initial confusion.
- **Speaker:** Tiffany (Front-line staff at City Hall)
  - Emphasized communication issues with Waste Management.
  - Residents often unaware of pick-up changes, leading to complaints.
  - Mentioned hydraulic leak issues and other operational concerns with Waste Management.
- **Council Discussion:**
  - Concerns raised about holiday schedules and the need for better public communication (e.g., via Facebook, city website, utility bill inserts).
  - Consensus on improving communication and operational coordination with Waste Management.

#### 2. Discussion of Friday June 21-June 25 GMA Convention in Savannah

- **Speaker:** Richard Newbern, City Manager
  - Reminder about the upcoming Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) convention.
  - Encouraged council members to attend for networking and training opportunities.
- **Council Discussion:**
  - Plans for attendance and key sessions of interest.

#### 3. Mike Stoy - Discussion of Chamber of Commerce Request

- **Speaker:** Melissa Barker

- Request from the Chamber of Commerce to use the section of the Municipal Building previously occupied by the Arts Alliance.
- Discussed potential benefits for local businesses and community engagement.
- Requested council create committee to work with chamber on request
- **Council Discussion:**
  - Questions about logistics, costs, and expected community impact.
  - General support for the initiative, pending further details.
  - The council will take the request under consideration. No formal action taken.

#### 4. **Department Head Reports**

##### **Police Chief's Report**

- Two new officers, Officer Aldridge and Officer Davis, were introduced. They previously worked for the Laurens County Sheriff's Office.
- The department will participate in two upcoming Juneteenth events and provide materials if needed.
- A recent resignation has occurred and applications are being accepted for the open position.

##### **Fire Chief's Report**

- The department has made significant improvements over the last few years, including acquiring a ladder truck, faster response times, more personnel on scene, and new equipment.
- Met with the ISO (Insurance Services Office) in Atlanta to review the city's rating. Cochran will be improving from an ISO 5 to an ISO 4 rating, which should lower insurance premiums for residents. The official determination will be mailed in 30-60 days and those results will be communicated to the public.
- No update yet on the grant application submitted for a new pumper truck.

##### **Director of Public Works' Report**

- Paving and resurfacing of approximately 4,400 linear feet of Longwood Drive, GCCR, and Falk Road will go out for bids on June 20, with bids to be opened July 23. This is a T-SPLOST funded project.
- A water leak on a service line near Wendy's on South 2nd Street was repaired today.
- Complimented on the condition and upkeep of the cemetery grounds.

##### **City Manager's Report**

- Council Member Retreat will be held Saturday, June 29 from 8:30am-4:30pm to update the city's strategic plan for 2024-2026.
- A proposed revision to the utility cut-off policy was presented for discussion. Currently, accounts are held open for 3 months after a cut-off, with base charges continuing to accrue. The new policy would reduce that to 45 days - base charges accrue for 30 days and the account stays open for 15 more days before closing. This seeks to balance revenue protection with not overly burdening delinquent customers with fees. Deposits would still be applied to final bills. Reconnect fees may need to be increased to cover actual costs. Communication to the public will be critical. The policy will be finalized based on council feedback and implemented with at least 30 days' notice to customers.
- Business garbage service levels and dumpster availability need to be examined to ensure equitable service.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Pro Tem, Carla Coley at 6:56pm

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(SEAL)

Candace Summerall

City Clerk