



Draft Minutes

October 14, 2025

Cochran City Council

Regular Session 6:00 PM

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

City Council

City Staff

Billy Yeomans, Mayor	Richard Newbern, City Manager
Trecia Gardner Council Member (District 1, Post 1)	Tiffany Lampp, Interim City Clerk
Gary Ates, Council Member (District 1, Post 2)	Jim Elliott, City Attorney
Carla Coley, Council Member (District 2 Post 1)	
Lonnie Tedders, Council Member (District 2, Post 2)	
Dianne, Lester Council Member (District 3, Post 1)	
Shane Savant, Council Member (District 3, Post 2)	

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Cochran was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 6:00 PM. Mayor Billy Yeomans presiding.

Invocation and Pledge

The meeting was called to order. Andy Lucas the invocation, followed by Alfred Gilbert leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call and Quorum

All six Council Members were present. A quorum was established.

Public Comments

The mayor welcomed attendees and those viewing on social media.

Kent Land spoke regarding a \$50,000 community improvement grant from Norfolk Southern and invited Council to the November 13th stakeholder summit.

Melissa Parker spoke about upcoming Pumpkin Festival and Country Fest events.

Agenda Items

- Motion was passed to add 16th Item-Library appointment. Motion made by Councilman Ates. 2nd was made by Councilman Tedders. Unanimous vote.
- Motion to approve the amended agenda made by Councilwoman Lester. 2nd by Councilman Ates. Unanimous vote

Item 1 – Proclamation for October: Fire Prevention Month

The mayor read a proclamation declaring October 2025 as National Fire Prevention Month in the City of Cochran.

Item 2 – Adoption of Memorandum of Understanding for Plan I Program

Daniel Gaddis, Georgia DCA, presented the City's Plan First Community designation for 2026–2028.

Item 3 – Public Hearing for Variance at 110 & 112 Bindel Lane

A variance hearing was held @ 6:21 pm to allow non-conforming setbacks for properties at 110 and 112 Bindel Lane. No public comments were received. Motion to approve the variance carried. Motion made by Councilman Tedders. 2nd by Councilman Ates. Public hearing ended at 6:25pm

Item 4 – Presentation on Housing Programs

Rhonda Gilbert (Gilbert & Associates) and Kevin Burnley presented on the City's CDBG and CHIP housing rehabilitation programs.

Item 5 – Acceptance of CDBG Grant

Council voted to accept a \$996,080 CDBG grant for housing rehabilitation and neighborhood revitalization. Motion carried 5–1. Councilman Tedders, Councilman Ates, Councilwoman Gardner, Councilman Savant, and Councilwoman Lester for the motion. Councilwoman Coley against.

Item 6 – City Manager Contract Renewal

Council voted to table renewal of the City Manager's 2026 contract pending a personnel report. Motion to table carried 4–2. Councilman Tedders, Councilman Savant, Councilwoman Lester, and Councilwoman Coley for motion. Councilman Ates and Councilwoman Gardner against.

Item 7 – Council Meeting Schedule Change

Council approved rescheduling the November regular meeting to November 6, 2025, to avoid Veterans Day. Work session will be at 6:00 PM; regular meeting at 7:00 PM.

Motion made by Councilman Savant. 2nd by Councilwoman Gardner. Unanimous vote.

Item 8 – Purchase of Police Vehicles

Council approved a \$120,200 bid from Brannon Motors for two police vehicles to be financed through GMA. Motion carried unanimously. Motion made by Councilman Savant. 2nd by Councilman Ates.

Item 9 – Purchase of Golf Cart for Police Department

Council approved a \$5,000 bid from Cody Bear Hill and Empire to purchase a golf cart. Motion carried unanimously. Motion made by Councilwoman Lester. 2nd by Councilman Savant.

Item 10 – Contract Renewal with Pulaski State Women’s Prison

Council approved a one-year contract renewal for \$54,249.80 for right-of-way maintenance services. Motion carried 4–2. Motion to accept was made by Councilman Ates. 2nd by Councilman Tedders. Councilwoman Lester & Councilman Savant against. Councilman Ates, Councilman Tedders, Councilwoman Coley, and Councilwoman Gardner for the motion.

Item 11 – T-SPLOST Resolution

Council unanimously adopted a resolution to serve as the local issuing authority for the T-SPLOST Downtown Project. Councilman Tedders made motion. 2nd by Councilman Ates.

Item 12 – Millage Rate Hearing Schedule

Council voted 5–0 to advertise and hold a public hearing on November 6, 2025, to consider adopting the rollback millage rate of 10.727 mills. Motion made by Councilman Savant. 2nd by Councilwoman Coley. One member abstained via phone (Councilman Ates) Unanimous vote.

Item 13 – PFAS Litigation Resolution

Council voted 5–0 to adopt a resolution to join PFAS litigation. One member abstained via phone (Councilman Ates). Motion Made by Councilman Tedders. 2nd by Councilwoman Coley. Unanimous vote.

Item 14 – Pilot International Club Display

Council unanimously approved a request by the Pilot International Club to erect a holiday display in front of the auditorium during the 2025 Light the Light campaign. Motion made by Councilman Savant. 2nd by Councilwoman Lester.

Item 15 – Chamber of Commerce Holiday Display

Council unanimously approved a request by the Cochran-Bleckley Chamber of Commerce to erect a scenic holiday display in front of the Police Department lawn. Motion made by Councilman Ates. 2nd by Councilwoman Lester.

Item 16 – Library Board Appointment

Council unanimously approved the appointment of Tyler Sapp to the Library Board for the term July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2029. Motion made by Councilman Ates 2nd by Councilman Savant.

City Manager's Report

The City Manager presented the monthly report and provided the following:

- **Solid Waste Bids:** Proposals from Am Waste and Ryland were received. Council will make a final decision at the **November 6th council meeting**. The selected company will need to prepare resources for the new three-year contract beginning **March 1**. Additional final presentations can be requested if desired.
- **Country Fest:** City staff and departments have been actively involved in planning for the upcoming event. The City Manager expressed appreciation to all departments for their participation and support.
- **Housing Program Presentation:** The City of Cochran was represented at the **Macon CBG Summit**, where a presentation was given on the city's successful housing grant program. Cochran has been asked by DCA to mentor the City of Manchester in launching its housing initiative.
- **Council Retreat:** Council was asked to ideas and topics for the annual retreat. A draft schedule will be presented at the **November 6th** meeting.
- **Department Appreciation:** The City Manager thanked department heads and staff for their hard work as the city moves into the winter season.

Council Member Comments:

Council Member Councilwoman Coley

- Raised a question regarding scheduling a date for the City Manager's personnel report. It was agreed that this topic will be discussed in **executive session**.

- Suggested moving guest presentations to the beginning of future agendas to accommodate visitors.
- Recognized **October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month**, shared her personal survivor story, and encouraged regular mammograms for early detection.

Council Member Tedder

- Echoed the importance of breast cancer awareness and shared that his mother is also a survivor.

Council Member Lester

- Celebrated his sister, **Debra Turner**, a 20+ year breast cancer survivor.

Council Member Savant

- **Trick-or-Treating:** Announced that trick-or-treating will take place on **October 31**. The police department will host a community event and is accepting candy donations.
- **Senior Night Football Game:** Noted the game has been moved to **Thursday** due to Halloween events; encouraged community support for senior athletes and performers.
- **BCMS Middle School Championship:** Announced the game will be held **Thursday at 5 PM** at Shelly Hays Field. Highlighted the strong participation of the 8th-grade class and encouraged community attendance.
- **Amarius Mims Recognition:** Extended birthday wishes and suggested the city consider recognizing **Amarius Mims Day** in the future for his positive representation of the community.

Mayor

- **Seasonal Reminders:** Encouraged heater safety, flu vaccinations, and general health awareness heading into the winter months.

Councilman Ates & Gardner had no comments

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Executive Session was needed for personnel reasons.

Executive Session from 8:11- 8:36

Motion to end by Councilman Ates. 2nd by Councilwoman Gardner.

