



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7PM

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

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans, Mayor Pro Tem Gary Ates
Councilmembers: Keith Anderson, Carla Coley, Jimmy Jones, Andrew Lemmon

Absent: Councilmember Rufus Veal

Call to order by Mayor Billy Yeomans @ 7:00PM

Mayor called for a moment of silent to remember the City Attorney, Leo Phillips, who passed away.

The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Ates followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Jones.

Mayor stated three items needed to be placed on the December 14 Agenda.

1-Item # 12 Accepting the gift deed of donated property from Earl Arnold to be used as a park. Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion with a second by Councilmember Jones.

Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

2- Item #13 Beverage referendum – Consider giving the City Clerk/Election Superintendent permission to work with the Attorney to create a resolution for the meeting in January 11 to discuss the beverage referendum to be placed on ballot in May. Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion to approve adding Item # 13 to the agenda with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

3- Item # 14 Consider adoption of a resolution to GDOT for Cochran Airport to receive \$32,000 grant money for airport. Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion to approve adding Item # 14 to the agenda with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor called for a motion to approve the December 14, 2021; agenda as presented. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the agenda with all additions with a second from Mayor Pro Tem Ates. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor called for a motion to approve the minutes from November 9, 2021.

Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion to accept 9/14/21 minutes with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor called for a motion to approve the minutes from SCM, August 26, 2021. Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion to accept 8/26/21 minutes with a second by Councilmember Anderson.

Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor called for a motion to approve the minutes from January 28-29, 2021, City Retreat.

Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion to accept January 28-29, 2021 City Retreat minutes with a second by Councilmember Anderson.

Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

I. Call to Order by the Mayor

II. Invocation

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Attendance

V. Adopt Agenda

VI. Agenda Items

ITEM #1- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Employee of the Month. Employee of the month was presented to Lora Kight from the City of Cochran Police Department by Police Chief, Jeff Trawick.

ITEM #2 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Recognize recipients/homeowners of 2019 CHIP houses. Mayor Yeomans recognized five of the CHIP recipients for their participation in the city's first GA. DCA Community Housing Investment Program (CHIP) grant that was awarded in 2019. They were each called to the front to receive a plaque of participation. The following were recognized: Dorothea Reid, Barbara Fleming, Minnie Hughes, Arthur Colson, Ernestine Tharpe.

ITEM #3 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider Annexation of 325 Frank Cook Rd. Council was asked to consider the Annexation Petition and Annexation Ordinance of Mr. Sergio Lopez to annex the 3.54 – acre parcel located at the northeast corner of the Cochran By-pass and 325 Frank Cook Road.

Mr. Lopez plans to develop up to 15 duplex dwellings and needs city water and sewer services for his development. Before water and sewer can be ran to the location, it must be annexed into the city.

Councilmember Jones made the motion to adopt the Annexation Petition and the Annexation Ordinance for 325 Frank Cook Road with a second by Mayor Pro Tem Ates.

Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing on proposed Zoning Designation of parcel located at 325 Frank Cook Rd.- Sergio Lopez, Owner - proposed zoning designation is RM Multi-family Residential

Public Hearing was called to order @ 7.20pm.

The Purpose of the public hearing for the proposed zoning request from Sergio Lopez. The hearing was called to provide any interested parties with an opportunity to express their views or concerns in accordance with the appropriate section of the OCGA annotated. The 3.54-acre parcel located at the northeast parcel at the Frank Cook Road and Cochran By-Pass intersection. The proposed zoning designation of RM family residential district is requested by Mr. Lopez. The annexation of this property must occur prior to the installation of water/sewer services. His plans are to develop up to 15 duplex dwellings on this site. The planning Commission voted 5 to 0 to approve this request at December 9, 2021 meeting.

Notice of this hearing was posted On the city's website and in the Time Journal Post. Mayor called for any public input for or against. No input was expressed. Public Hearing was closed at 7:23 PM.

Councilmember Jones made the motion to designate a zoning category of RM multiple family residential and amend the future land use map so that the parcel is depicted as RM multiple family residential with a second by Mayor Pro Tem Ates. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

ITEM #5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of Development Agreement with Sergio Lopez, owner of 325 Frank Cook Rd. Council was asked to approve the Development Agreement with Sergio Lopez that addresses his obligation regarding the installation and connection of utilities to his property. Mr. Newbern stated Mr. Lopez has agreed to the document regarding responsibilities for hooking up the utilities and the expectations with utility installation according to city standards. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the development agreement and a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of LMIG Road Resurfacing list for calendar year 2022. Each district is expected to receive funds for .25 miles of resurfacing. The City LMIG grant is earmarked at \$87,330.18 and the total package with the city's 10% match is \$96,063.20. Councilmember Coley made the motion to approve the LMIG resurfacing list and authorize the filing of the LMIG grant application and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Ates. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Approve Employee Holiday Calendar for 2022. Council was asked to approve the 11 holidays for 2022. Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion to approve the 11-holiday calendar for 2022 and a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider making Melvin Lane on N Second Street downtown one-way at Rob Dykes request. Rob Dykes, owner of Dykes Pharmacy is moving locations to the Old State Bank location. The one way would allow Mr. Dykes to utilize the drive thru window in the lane. Mr. Dykes spoke to Chief Trawick and Chief Wilcher concerning the closure. They both agreed the lane closure would not cause any issues regarding traffic. Mayor Pro Tem made the motion to make Mendel Lane a one-way street downtown with a second by Councilmember Coley. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of bid to EMICC, Inc. in the amount of \$24,600 for filter control upgrade at Vernon Rd. Well and Tank. Council was asked to authorize the expenditure of \$31,255 from the water SPLOST account for repair and upgrade of the water treatment and filter system at the Vernon Road well & tank. Willie Farrow, Public

Works Director, explained this has been on his 5-year plan and will help the well control the backwash filter system. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the bid through EMICC, Inc with a second by Mayor Pro Tem Ates. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #10- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of Annual Retreat --- Agenda and Speakers A draft retreat agenda with speakers was provided to council for review and or approval. Dates and location have not been approved. Council was asked to vote on the speakers so invitations and other plans can be made. Mayor Pro Tem Ates made a motion to approve the dates provided by City Manager (February 10,11,12) along with the agenda items with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #11- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of two resolutions on GEFA loan extensions for water and sewer improvements. This will extend the City's GEFA Water & Sewer loans until March 31, 2022, to provide time to finish contractual activity by the Renee Group and Pyles Plumbing. Skip Layton, Falcon Engineering gave an explanation for extending the loans. Two motions were made to be accurate.

Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion to approve the extension of the GEFA water loan with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor 5-0

Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion to approve the extension of the GEFA sewer loan with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor 5-0

ITEM #12 Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Accepting the gift deed of donated property from Earl Arnold to be used as a park. Earl Arnold Family LLC graciously donated 5.2 acres of land to the City of Cochran for a City Park. Council was asked to adopt the resolution to accept the donation of land. Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion to adopt the resolution submitted by Mr. Arnold with a second by Councilmember Coley. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Item #13- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider giving the City Clerk/Election Superintendent permission to work with the City Attorney to create a resolution for the meeting in January 11 to discuss the beverage referendum to be placed on ballot in May. Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion to give City Clerk/Elections Superintendent permission to work with the City Attorney to create a resolution for beverage referendum in May election with a second from Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Item # 14 Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adoption of a resolution to GDOT for Cochran Airport to receive \$32,000 grant money for airport. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the resolution to GDOT for Cochran Airport to receive grant money for Cochran Airport with a second by councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

City Manager Update:

Mr. Newbern started with the City Holidays (City Hall will be closed)– 12/24 and 12/27 for Christmas and 12/31 New Year's Day. 1/17 MLK Jr Birthday.

Council Discussion Items:

District 1

Councilmember Anderson: Thanked Tracy, City Clerk, for the Christmas Parade. Wishes all Merry Christmas., Ask everyone to be careful and don't shop alone. Also remembered the two members of the community the City of Cochran lost, Leo Phillips and Mike Sasser.

Councilmember Ates: Thanked Tracy, City Clerk for the efforts with the Christmas Parade. Also Thanked the City Hall staff for the work they do. Wished everyone Merry Christmas and stated COVID as still very active and dangerous.

District 2

Councilmember Coley: DDA and IDA partnered to bring in a concert January 15, 2022. Tickets are \$5.00. Chamber and DDA establish a fund for renovations for the auditorium. Keep in mind what the Christmas season is about.

Councilmember Veal: Absent

District 3

Councilmember Jones: Merry Christmas to everyone. Keep an eye on neighbor's house and packages being delivered.

Councilmember Lemmon: Wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Reminded everyone to get vaccinated.

Mayor Yeomans gave statistics for the COVID – 36% has had two or more shots 39% only one dose of vaccination. Also, the FLU vaccine needs to be taken as well. Look out for your neighbor and everyone. Thanked all the employees for the work they do. Talked about the Christmas Parade. Remember the reason for the season.

Public Comments:

Eric Bisher wanted to discuss the City water issues. Showed the Council what the water looked like when he filled his tub up with, dirty water. He went on to say the money was earmarked was to improve the water quality when he was on Council many years ago. Mr. Bisher wanted to know what the timeline on the corrections would be.

Mike Stoy – wanted to discuss Consolidation with the Police Department and the Sheriff. He addressed Council with the follow up on resolution that was passed two years ago. He asked what the status of the committee meetings. Mr. Stoy asked if the committee had any intent on pursuing the study and if not he would request the Mayor appoint a new committee since the past committee would not do anything. Mayor told Mr. Stoy the Council would discuss this at the Retreat in February.

Mayor Yeomans stated council would go into Executive Session for the possibility of hiring a City Attorney. Pause for a 5-minute break.

Councilmember Ates made a motion to go into executive session @ 8:19PM with a second by Councilmember Jones.

Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion to come out of executive session with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Councilmember Jones made the motion to go into regular session with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor Pro Tem Ates made a motion to accept the recommendation from City Manager, Richard Newbern, regarding Jim Elliott from Butler Snow to serve as City Attorney with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor Pro Tem made the motion to adjourn with a second by Councilmember Jones. Meeting adjourned @ 8:37PM.

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk