

**CITY OF COCHRAN**  
**City Council Meeting**  
**Cochran, Georgia**  
**Tuesday, June 10, 2014**

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The regular meeting of Council was held this date at 7:00 P.M. in the Cochran Community House. The invocation was given by Mrs. Jeri Tuck, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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PRESENT: Mayor Michael Stoy  
Councilmember Willie Basby  
Councilmember Tommy Guyton  
Councilmember Andrew Lemmon  
Councilmember Charles Cranford  
Councilmember Eric Bisher  
Councilmember Gary Ates  
City Manager Ray Gibson

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Stoy.

A motion was made by Councilmember Basby and seconded by Councilmember Lemmon to adopt the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

A motion was made by Councilmember Lemmon and seconded by Councilmember Ates to approve the May 13, 2014 Work Session Minutes the Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Presentation**

Hope Pendergrass, CPA with Mauldin & Jenkins presented each Councilmember, Mayor and City Manager with a draft of the City of Cochran's financial statement for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013. Ms. Pendergrass made note of several issues including accounting recommendations and quarterly training for staff.

**Item # 1 – Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager**

**Resolution 25-14:** Request to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arts Alliance.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion to accept Resolution 25-14. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 2 - Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager**

**Resolution 26-14:** Request to approve the selection of a City Engineer.

Councilmember Basby made a motion and Councilmember Bisher seconded the motion to accept Resolution 26-14. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 3 - Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager**

**Resolution 27-14:** Request to approve a contract agreement with the Cochran-Bleckley Chamber of Commerce for the time period July 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to accept Resolution 27-14. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 4 - Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager**

**Resolution 28-14:** Request to approve the services of Mauldin & Jenkins to complete the July 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013 financial audit.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to accept Resolution 28-14. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 5 – Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager**

**Resolution 29-14:** Request to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Transportation and City of Cochran.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion to accept Resolution 29-14. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 6 – Presented by Mayor Michael Stoy**

**Ordinance 5-15:** An ordinance to amend the City Charter.

The amendments to the City Charter are currently posted in the Cochran Journal and will be posted the following two weeks as required.

**City Manager Updates**

Wood Oak Subdivision – Estimates have been received for sewer lines. Cost will be approximately \$80,000 to \$100,000.

City Manager Ray Gibson expressed his thanks to the Council during his time as manager. Mr. Gibson has resigned effective June 20, 2014.

## **Council Discussion Items**

Councilmember Guyton asked to discuss the loss of the Recreational Director and why the director received severance pay. According to Mayor Stoy and City Manager Gibson, the decision of severance pay was made by the board members of the Recreational Department during its Executive Session. An invitation for County Commissioner Bob Brockman to attend next month's council meeting was requested.

## **Public Comments**

Bobby Pettis, Public Works Committee, thanked City Manager Gibson for his hard work during his time at City Hall. Mr. Pettis also wanted to thank Jacob Daniels, General Maintenance Supervisor, for clearing the alleys of trash. Other inquiries of Mr. Pettis included the need for the City to clean waste water pipes. Mr. Pettis also asked about the sewer water damages for the house on Sixth Street. According to City Manager Gibson, the City's insurance is handling this incident. Also, Mr. Pettis inquired if Middle Georgia State College is paying a fair share each month for sewer. City Clerk Lisa Chastain is checking on this.

Faye Allen inquired if the City had plans to tear down the City Auditorium. According to Mayor Stoy, the City is looking at renovation and costs to renovate. Ms. Allen also inquired about pay raises that was mentioned in the Mauldin & Jenkins audit. According to the audit, pay raises were given without approval. Councilmember Bisher explained that the pay raises were approved but not properly documented.

Catherine Guyton asked Council as to who oversees the Recreation Board and its director. According to the Charter, the City and County have three appointed members each plus one additional member that both appoint. Mrs. Guyton also asked for a correction to the January 2014 Council Minutes to remove her name from a comment that she did not make. Mrs. Guyton acknowledged Leisa Beach and the excellent work she performed while at the Recreation Department.

Leisa Beach addressed the Council and said that she was required to submit monthly reports while working at the Recreational Department. She wanted to know who would make sure that the policies in place would be followed. Mrs. Beach also wanted to know if there would be an audit. City Manager Gibson stated that the audit would be costly and since receipts are missing, it would be almost impossible to do an audit.

Eva Wilson on Johnson Street complained about the flooding on her street. According to Councilmember Basby, the ditch behind her street needs cleaning out. City Manager Gibson will discuss with Jacob Daniels, General Maintenance.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Bisher seconded the motion to go into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to exit Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Guyton made a motion and Councilmember Bisher seconded the motion to make a recommendation to City Manager Gibson to hire Interim Police Chief Chris Coley as the Police Chief. Councilmembers Ates, Basby and Cranford voted yes and Councilmember Lemmon left the meeting and did not vote.

Councilmembers commended City Manager Gibson on a job well done.

### **Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events**

Mayor Stoy announced the upcoming meetings:

A Townhall Meeting will be held on June 23, 2014 at 6:30 pm at the City Auditorium to discuss sewer rates.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ates and seconded by Councilmember Basby to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

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Lisa Chastain, City Clerk  
City of Cochran

(CITY SEAL)