

December 22, 2025

The Eastman City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present: Sebrina Williams, Graham Snyder, Dwayne Burney, Debra Sheffield, and Mark Peacock. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, Attorney Chris Gordon, Police Chief Billy Cooper, City Clerk April Sheffield, Assistant City Manager Dayna Winslette, HR Clerk Diana Wheeler, Fire Chief Derl Maxwell, Code Enforcer Gerald Fordham, Special Project Director Wynnnon Pittman, Officer Chris Screws, and Firefighters Tyler Smith and Jacoree Wilcox. Attorney Rita Llop participated by phone. Also in attendance were John Battle II, Mike and Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Doug Bovee, Cynthia Shields, Katheryn Parker, EM Harrington, Rich Bennett, Laurie Simpson, Chad Sharp, Frank Erwin, and Charles Patrick Sapp.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

The invocation was given by Councilor Burney.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The Heart of GA Altamaha Regional Commission 2023 CDBG Grant Closeout was added to the agenda on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Burney. The newly amended agenda was then unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Sheffield to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL, PROPERTY, & LEGAL MATTERS:

Council unanimously voted to enter into executive session for personnel, legal, and property matters. This was done on a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Peacock. Councilor unanimously voted to enter back into regular session on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Burney. No other action was taken.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

APPROVE 2026 BUDGET:

Manager Barron and Asst Manager Winslette expressed their opinion that the proposed 2026 Budget is a good, solid budget and they are ready to move forward with it. All required advertising and public hearing requirements have been met. On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the 2026 Budget is unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVE FINANCIAL AUDITOR FOR 2026:

Manager Barron stated that the city had received quotes from both H. Frank Erwin, our local auditor, and Maudlin & Jenkins out of Macon. Erwin's quote was \$20,250 and Maudlin and Jenkins quoted \$30-35,000 for the first year. Council had the opportunity to look over the quotes before this meeting. Councilor Peacock makes a motion to proceed with Mr. Erwin with the 2025 Audit. A second was given by both Councilors Burney and Williams. Mr. Erwin was unanimously appointed the auditor for the 2025 fiscal year audit.

HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHHA REGIONAL COMMISSION:

Rich Bennett, representing HOGARC, came forward to report that the 2023 CDBG Sewer Improvement Project in the area of Mount Moriah Street, Smith Avenue, and Dodge Avenue is finally complete. He conducts the federally required closeout public hearing for the Department of Community Affairs. There was not any participation from the audience as he read out the requirements of the grant. He also stated that the city complied with all necessary actions and documentation that the federal government requires.

ALCOHOL LICENSE:**JAYKHODIYAR26 INC @ 6314 OAK STREET, RUSHIRAJ PATEL:**

Mr. Patel has applied for a beer/wine permit at the location still known as the Hop-In. It is under new ownership and requires a new license. Clerk Sheffield states that Mr. Patel has met all of his requirements. **A unanimous approval was given for the beer/wine license for 6314 Oak Street, on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.**

PLANNING & ZONING:**HIVE CONSTRUCTION:**

This request is for the final subdivision plat approval for Kenwood Estates involving parcels 047B03SUB, 047B002, and 047013A. Manager Barron states that the application has gone through the necessary steps in Planning and Zoning with approval and the next step is the council's approval. Councilor Snyder states that this subdivision is slated for 117 single-family homes. No one from the public came forward to express any comments or concerns. **On a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Sheffield, the final subdivision plat was approved.**

PRESENTATION FROM COUNCIL:

Councilor Snyder took the time to recognize Councilor Sebrina Williams for her time and dedication to the city for the last 8.5 years. Snyder also read statements from previous members Milton Johnson and Buddy Pittman, thanking her for a job well done and wishing her well in the future. Councilor Peacock commends Sebrina for her character and love for the city. Councilor Sheffield says that she has been honored to serve alongside her, and Sebrina will truly be missed. Councilor Burney enjoyed serving with Sebrina and was disappointed that she chose not to run again. Sebrina was presented with a plaque and gavel. Sebrina thanked everyone. She is proud, honored, and grateful to everyone for allowing her to serve her community and working alongside them.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

Manager Barron states that Eastman is a better place because of Sebrina and that he appreciates all of the late-night phone calls and mentoring that she has given him. He wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and takes time to thank the staff for all of their hard work this past year.

THERE WAS NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL

On a motion from Councilor Snyder, a second from Councilor Peacock, and a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.