

November 10, 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, Debra Sheffield, and Mark Peacock. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, Attorney Rita Llop, Police Chief Billy Cooper, City Clerk April Sheffield, Assistant City Manager Dayna Winslette, Fire Chief Derl Maxwell, Water Distribution Director Evan Harrell, Wastewater Operator Matt McDaniel, Street Supervisor Brandon Brisco, Code Enforcement Officer Gerald Fordham, and Public Works Director Wynnnon Pittman. Others present were Matthew Moroz, Scotty Whitten, Thanh Nguyen, and Sharon Cobb Flanagan.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

The invocation was given by Councilor Peacock.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, it was unanimously voted to amend the agenda to add another building permit for a property located on Gracie Lane. The amended agenda was then unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams.

APPROVE MINUTES:

The minutes of the October 27, 2025, regular meeting and the minutes of the October 31, 2025, called meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

DR MARTIN LUTHER KING PARADE:

Scotty Whitten came forward to request permission to have the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade on January 19, 2026. The parade will begin at 1 PM and go along the same route as the previous couple of years. It will begin at the old courthouse and end behind the DA's office at the Old Peabody School. The guest speaker will be Pastor George Fluellen and the Grand Marshall's will be the Battle Family in memory of Mr. John Battle. Chief Cooper does not see any issues with the route. **On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by councilor Williams, the parade was unanimously approved.**

MONTHLY FIRE AND POLICE REPORTS:

Chief Cooper came forward to give the monthly report for the police department. For the month of October, they used 978 gallons of gas, answered 681 calls, worked 26 traffic accidents, and patrolled 11,203 miles. They collected \$21,859.04 in fines and they wrote a total of 100 tickets and 96 warnings. They had several events last month, including downtown and trick or treat, but they all went well.

Chief Maxwell presented the October fire report. The department answered 177 calls last month. They had 1 nonworking structure fire and 1 working structure fire in the city. There were 13 other fire calls with 5 in the city and 8 in the county. There were 125 medical related calls with 100 in the city and 25 in the county and 20 motor vehicle accidents with 9 in the city and 11 in the county. The department had 12 public service calls (alarms, smoke, trees) with 9 in the city and 3 in the county. There were 4 calls cancelled in route and 1 Air Evac call. The entire department spent 114 hours on training for the month of October. Derl added that on November 22, they are having a Boston Butt sale. They have already raised \$5200. 100% of those funds are going towards fire education for the kids and the upcoming toy drive. There are 8 locations

set up throughout Eastman to drop off toys. Visit the department's Facebook page in order to get that information. Those interested in receiving help with toys need to fill out an application at the Christian Life Center. Also, on November 22, they will be hosting their first fire extinguisher class that is open to the public. It is free of charge. Home Depot has given them 50 free buckets that contain a fire extinguisher, and tons of safety materials. The limit is 25 per class. They will hold another class at a later date. The City of Eastman Fire Dept hosted a pressurized fire class. There were over 30 people involved from multiple jurisdictions. It was a successful class. A propane company out of Cochran donated 150 gallons of propane to use in the class. They also hosted an extrication class back on November 1. The Fall Festival was a huge success downtown, at the hospital and at the schools. They were able to use a smoke trailer, and all of the kids seemed to enjoy it.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Matt McDaniel came to give the October report for the WWTP and the wells. The water pumped from wells was 31,457,000 gallons which averaged 1.015 MGD. Water usage at the plant was 850,000. Treated water released from the treatment plant was 10,950,000 which is 0.353 MGD. The total hours used were as follows: 43 cleaning clarifiers and filters, 118 on lab and sampling, 64 on the belt press and sludge, 77 on lift station and well repair, 13 on lawn maintenance, 78 on some plant maintenance, 38 on routine rounds, 17 on management duties, 163 hours on plant operations, 4 on grease traps, and 5 other things. That was a total of 572 hours. The Industrial Park well is back going today, and the James Avenue pump was fixed and back up and running last week.

Evan Harrell came forward for the water department report for the month of October, they had 69 water cut-ons, 109 water cut-offs, 15 checks for water leaks, fixed 16 water leaks, performed 60 locates, did 2 valve inspections, repaired 12 meters, performed maintenance on 8 meters, inspected 6 meters, performed maintenance on 4 vehicles, and applied cold patch in 2 areas. As far as sewer is concerned, they investigated 2 lines and cleaned out 19 lines. For stormwater, one catch basin was inspected, and 3 ditches were cleaned. It totaled 328 work orders, and they used 454 gallons of gas.

Brandon Brisco came forward to report for the street department. His department spent a total of 1,186 hours working on different things this past month. The breakdown is as follows: 17 hours on animal calls, 46 on curbs and gutters, 215 on mowing grass, 20 on special events, 1 on trash pickup, and 120 on limb truck pick-ups. 767 hours were spent on other projects which mostly included on improving things at the Park, decorating for Christmas, and working the Festival and Music on Main. The department used 586 gallons of gas. Councilor Snyder commends Brandon and his guys on the stellar job they have done getting the park ready for pickleball and Christmas.

Gerald Fordham came forward to give the report on Code Enforcement and Inspections. His 78 work orders broke down to be 68 grease trap inspections, 1 planning & zoning issue, 2 code violations, 3 building inspections, 2 building permits, and 2 electrical permits. He has 7 blighted and nuisance projects that are in progress.

As far as what Wynnon has been working on, he has been riding POPCO pretty hard to get them finished and out of town. They are currently working on getting all of the houses connected to the main line and assured him that they would be done and gone by the end of the year. The sidewalk on 3rd Avenue has been repaired so the new owner can get his house insured. The sidewalk connected to his front steps, and it was caved in. There are a few more feet of sidewalk left to do at the schools to finish spending the grant money that Danya had gotten the city. He has been steadily researching the splash pad to see what direction that want to go in.

APPROVE MOU WITH DODGE COUNTY AND THE DRUG TASK FORCE:

Chief Cooper comes forward to explain the MOU. The GBI has taken over the Drug Task Force and part of the MOU with them is that Dodge County and Eastman Police will supply one officer. If y'all agree, it was decided to split the cost of the one officer. There is a reimbursement from the Task Force for 90% of the salary, so the city and the county will basically be splitting 10% of the total salary of the officer and of course benefits. Attorney Llop doesn't see any issues with the agreement, and it can be terminated with 60 days' notice or it can be amended by a written agreement. **The MOU between the Eastman Police Department and the Dodge County Sheriff's Office is unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.**

ALCOHOL LICENSE:**EASTMAN QUICK EXPRESS 1 LLC @ 839 SOPERTON HWY:**

Fizaan Ahmed Cheema has applied for an alcohol license to sell beer at his convenience store located at 839 Soperton Highway. His background check was clear, and everything appears to be in order. **With no other objections, the license was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Peacock.**

BUILDING PERMIT:**THANH VAN NGUYEN @ 205 FOSTER STREET:**

Mr. Nguyen has applied for a building permit to begin converting the old Three Rivers building at 205 Foster Street into co-living residences. He intends to renovate the property 1/3 at a time. This permit will cover the first phase which is located at the southeast section of the property. As far as the asbestos is concerned, it will not be disturbed as he intends to just cover it up. Gerald has a copy of the report given after an EPA certified company inspected the property. **On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the building permit was approved.**

HUNDRED ACRE FARM LLC @ GRACIE LANE LOT 12:

Adam Foster, the managing member of Hundred Acre Farm, LLC. has applied for a building permit to begin construction on Lot 12 of Gracie Lane. The subdivision was approved years ago but only 3 houses were built at the time. Mr. Foster plans to continue building 1600 square-foot single-family residences there on Gracie Lane. This permit will be the first of many. Gerald does not see any issues. **This permit is approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.**

CITY MANAGERS REPORT:

Manager Barron wanted to remind everyone that the outdoor pickleball courts are now open from daylight until dark. The indoor courts are almost ready. The downtown Christmas open house will be this Thursday. He encourages everyone to come downtown and participate. The Lions Christmas parade has also been scheduled for Saturday night, December 13, 2025.

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

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