

August 11, 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 Dwayne Burney. Others present were City Attorney Rita Llop, City Manager Spencer Barron, Police Chief Billy Cooper, Fire Chief Derl Maxwell, City Clerk April Sheffield, City Inspector Jack White, and Assistant City Manager Dayna Winslette. Department Heads Wynnon Pittman, Rodney Harrell, Matt McDaniel, Gerald Fordham, and Brandon Brisco were also in attendance. Those present from the community were Mitchell and Susan Coffee and EM Harrington III.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

The invocation was given by Councilor Burney.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was unanimously amended to add #7, DDA Applications, on a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Williams. The newly amended agenda was then approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the minutes from the July 28, 2025, regular meeting and the minutes of the special called meetings for August 1st & 6th, 2025 were unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

SECOND READING OF THE AMENDED NUISANCE ABATEMENT:

Attorney Llop explains that this is just updating the current ordinance to be in alignment with state law. **Councilor Williams made a motion and was seconded by Councilor Sheffield to officially approve and accept the newly amended nuisance ordinance.**

NEW BUSINESS:

MONTHLY FIRE DEPT REPORT:

Chief Maxwell came forth to deliver the fire report for the month of July 2025. There was a total of 155 calls for the month. One non-working structure fire in the county. Four other fire-related calls in the city. There were 122 medical-related calls, with 100 in the city and 22 in the county. There were 8 motor vehicle accidents, 4 in the city and 4 in the county. Thirteen public service calls (alarms, smoke, trees) with 9 in the city and 4 in the county. They were cancelled in route 6 times and assisted with one air evac. The department has also been checking hydrants, pre-planning, and helping with school traffic.

MONTHLY POLICE DEPT REPORT:

Chief Cooper presented the monthly report for the police department. They used 1,067 gallons of fuel in the month of July 2025 to patrol 11,093 miles. They answered 777 calls, worked 15 traffic accidents, and made 273 arrests/citations. A total of \$30,172.27 was collected in cash bonds and fines. Chief adds that the new truck has arrived and is complete and has been issued to Investigator Josh Roberson.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Wynnon Pittman came forward to give the water distribution information for the month of July. The water department had 367 work orders last month. The breakdown was as follows: 134 water cut-ons, 97 water cut-offs, 14 water leak checks, 18 water leaks, 39 locates, 3 valves were inspected, 3 new items were GPS located, 4 meters were repaired, preventative maintenance was performed on 25 valves, installed a new valve at Smith Street and Mount Moriah, 5 meter inspections, conducted maintenance on 4 vehicles, investigated 3 sewers and cleaned 13 sewer lines. They also cleaned out 4 stormwater ditches.

The TSPLOST project on 14th Avenue is complete. He has the total project calculated at \$46,000 to submit to the engineer for reimbursement. He actually only spent roughly \$19,000 on other contractors. They are working on clearing the storm drainage area behind the old middle school right now on Congo Lane and will move to Plaza Avenue next.

Matt McDaniel came forward for the month of July treatment plant report. The amount of treated water that was released into Sugar Creek was 15,670,000 gallons. That calculates to 0.505 MGD. Water usage at the plant was a total of 935,000 gallons. They spent 548 hours this past month with a breakdown as follows: cleaning clarifiers and filters 63, lab and sampling 114, belt press and sludge 88, lift station and well repair 49, lawn maintenance 43, plant maintenance 97, routine rounds 37, education and training 0, management duties 17, plant operation 99, and grease traps 4.

Councilor Snyder asks about the hydrogen sulfide at the plant. Matt says that he is meeting with different people for the best options at an affordable cost.

Jack White came forward to present his report on Permitting for the month of July 2025. There were 3 electrical inspections issued for a total of \$150 last month. A \$50 sign permit was also issued. As far as a project update is concerned, they are about to start on the third floor of the hotel. The credit union is on schedule, and they are starting on the drywall. Hopefully they will be done in the next couple of months as well as the Autozone remodel across the street. Councilor Snyder says that several people had asked him about the car wash. Jack does not have a definitive answer. The contractors have given several different reasons including weather delays. He confirms that they are in compliance with their permitting requirements, they are just at a standstill.

Rodney Harrell gave an update about the wells for the month of July; the wells pumped 34,020,000 gallons of water. That averaged out to be 1.097 MGD.

The Legion Drive well is back up and running after the soft start was struck by lightning. The Walmart lift station is using is having some pump issues. They have been finding a lot of rags and debris. The pumps have been pulled several times for cleaning and repair. Rodney is looking at the costs of different kinds of pumps. With the area out there growing with the hotel, etc. he anticipates a lot of more issues.

Brandon Brisco came forward to deliver the street department report. His department spent 6 hours on animal calls, 31 on curbs and gutters, 0 on cleaning ditches, 38 hours limb cutting which was mainly pecan limbs on Creighton Street, 338 mowing grass, 24 on potholes, 20 hours on trash pick-up, 324 on limb truck pick-up, and 24 hours on various other projects. They spent 31.5 hours on the movie night special event this past month. A total of 993 gallons of fuel were used.

Gerald Fordham came forward with his report as the city mechanic and code enforcer. He has checked on 28 grease traps and went and rechecked 9 to make sure that all are currently in compliance. He addressed 4 limb & leaf violations. He has started on 5 blighted properties, and one has already been resolved. There were 20 work orders for maintenance at the shop.

JOHN BATTLE PROCLAMATION:

Mr. Battle was an instrumental man in the community who passed away last weekend. He was an avid participant at the council meetings. **A proclamation was unanimously approved for Mr. John Battle on a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.** Councilor Snyder then reads the ordinance, and it will be considered part of the official minutes. The proclamation will be a joint proclamation with the county after they pass it at their next meeting.

APPROVE BILLS:

On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Burney, the bills for July 29 – August 11, 2025, were unanimously approved.

APPROVE TAX ABATEMENTS:

Manager Barron explains that it is not specifically tax abatements but is a list of tax bills that are outside of the statute of limitations to be able to collect. The list will be taken off of our current receivables, but a record will still be kept in the vault. This decision was made because the auditor stated that some outstanding items needed to be removed and Manager Barron felt it needed to be part of public record. Attorney Llop pointed out that some of these parcels may be involved in some Fi Fa's recorded at the Superior Court Clerk's office. **On a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Burney, a unanimous vote was taken to remove the items on the list from the current receivables.**

APPROVE TO VOID OUTSTANDING CHECKS:

There is a significant list of old checks that have never been cashed. This list is compiled of anything outstanding from 2015 – 2023. The statute of limitations are usually just 180 days. These items will be voided but can be reissued if someone comes forward. Susan Coffee asked what all of the checks were issued for. Clerk Sheffield stated that the bulk of the checks were water deposit refunds. The total amount of general, water, and sanitation checks to be voided were \$7,162.13. **This list was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Burney.**

DDA APPLICATIONS:

Sammy Young has tendered his resignation from the Downtown Development Authority. This means there is a need to fill the vacant spot on the board. Manager Barron asks the Council to open up to take applications through Friday, August 22, 2025, at 12:00 PM. That gives the Council time to look them over through the weekend and vote the following Monday at the council meeting. **Council agreed to accept DDA applications for Sammy Young's seat on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

Manager Barron reminds everyone of elections coming up this fall. Council Districts 1 and 5 will be open. Qualifying begins Monday, August 18, and ends Wednesday, August 20, 2025. Early voting will be October 14 – 31. Election day will be Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

Barron also thanks Dayna Winslette for her work on the AARP grant. There were several representatives in town today and they were impressed at the hard work that Gerald, Jack, Brandon, and some others had done on the sidewalks on Pearl Bates Avenue.

With the newly passed amended Nuisance Ordinance, Gerald is going to be out and about enforcing it.

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and a second from Councilor Burney, the meeting was adjourned.

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK