

August 25, 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, Mark Peacock, and Debra Sheffield. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, Attorney Rita Llop, Police Chief Billy Cooper, City Clerk April Sheffield, Assistant City Manager Dayna Winslette, Water Supply Operator Rodney Harrell, City Inspector Jack White, and Code Enforcer Gerald Fordham. DDA members present were Wynnon Pittman, Loraine Aguayo, and Paula McCain. Those present from the community were EM Harrington III, Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Janice Winslette, Sue Peacock, Clay Kirkley, and Library Director Kim Spencer.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

The invocation was given by Councilor Burney.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the agenda was unanimously amended to add an executive session for personnel and legal matters. The newly amended agenda was then unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2025, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVE BILLS:

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the bills for August 12 - 25, 2025, were unanimously approved.

KEITH SPIVEY, FEES:

Mr. Spivey had requested to be put on the agenda to discuss the fees on his water bill. He was not in attendance at this meeting.

PAULA MCCAIN, MUSIC ON MAIN:

Paula came forth to remind the council that it was that time of year again. Music on Main will be Saturday, October 25, 2025, downtown again. She is requesting that both sides of Main Street be blocked off from 5th Avenue to 3rd Avenue from around 11 AM until 10 PM that Saturday. She has also had some vendors approach her about serving wine slushies and things like that. What is that protocol? Councilor Snyder believes that it will just require a special event permit and follow the specified guidelines. Manager Barron states that the procedure is in our ordinances and he will be happy to help Paula with that. Councilor Peacock states that it can only be done inside what is known as the 'restaurant district'. Paula states that the furniture store is allowing them to use their parking lot again this year for the trunk or treat. There will also be an escape room in that lot for Friday and Saturday of that weekend. The escape room is actually sponsored by United Way. Chief Cooper doesn't see any issues with this plan. Councilor Snyder does request that Ms. McCain will get with all of the downtown

business owners that may be negatively impacted by this event. **The road closures were unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Peacock.**

PUMP QUOTES FOR LIFT STATIONS:

Rodney came forward to discuss the problems that he is having with several of the lift stations. The pumps are quite a few years old. The lift station by Walmart and the bypass has been causing them a lot of problems. He had one of the pumps rebuilt and the other is actually a loaner pump because there is no bypass hookup. He has acquired some quotes from Pro Pump Solutions on rebuilding the one that is out and also quotes for completely new ones. The quotes are rebuilding with the same impeller is \$7,702, upgrade and rebuilding with a new impeller is \$10,295, and a whole new pump is \$14,943.60.

Rodney also has a quote from Hydra Service, Inc. (HSI) for a whole new pump with more horsepower for \$7,160. Councilor Snyder asks why such a big difference in cost and what about the warranties offered. Rodney is unsure of why the big difference, but states that they have used HSI in the past with no complaints. Warranties are not clearly stated in the bids. Councilor Peacock states that most manufacturers give the normal 12-month time frame. Councilor Burney asks what the standard lifespan of a pump is. Rodney stated that it depends, but the pumps pulled out of James Avenue earlier today were from 2008 which is 17 years. That is another lift station that he is currently getting quotes for. The airport lift station had a spill last week due to pump failure. They currently have a loaner pump running the airport lift station. Councilor Peacock suggests going HSI for the **Walmart Lift Station**. Manager Barron says he will pay for the pumps out of the Short-Lived Fund. Rodney also presented a quote for the **Airport Lift Station** because that motor is completely gone and is a significant size motor. **HSI also submitted a quote for this one for \$13,342.80. The council unanimously agreed to approve both pump quotes from Hydra Service, Inc. on a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.**

LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT:

Manager Barron stated that Lee Lancaster's term was up on the Library Board and the library has requested that the council reappoint Mr. Lancaster for another 4-year term. Kim Spencer, the library director, came forward to introduce herself. She thanks the city for their friendship and support, whether it be sharing social media posts, kicking off the summer reading program with the fire and police departments, etc. **Mr. Lancaster is reappointed for another term on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.**

DDA POSITION:

Due to the fact that there are more positions coming open at the end of October, the council sees the need to wait and appoint new board members all at one time. Attorney Llop asks to check with the city clerk on the number of appointments that are actually open. Board member Loraine Aguayo asks if the applications that have already been received will still be considered or will they need to reapply. Councilor Snyder states that those applications will be considered in October when the new members are appointed. Manager Barron states that even the members that are up for reappointment must apply again if they would like to remain appointed.

DNR LWCF GRANT RESOLUTION:

Ms. Winslette came forward to bring good news. The Georgia Dept of Natural Resources has awarded the city a \$250,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant to be used on the Park Project to install a new splash pad, required infrastructure, and moving and improving the playground. The city is required to have a \$250,000 match which can come from cash, in-kind labor, equipment, vehicles, etc. The city is allowed to offset their costs with other grants that are not state or federally funded. This is a 2-year

grant for a half million-dollar project that will require match over the 2-year span and not all at once. Dayna comes tonight to request the passing of a resolution accepting the terms of the grant. She will be required to go through a workshop to understand the requirements that the city must fulfill. Work will not begin until she has completed the workshop. The council and city manager thank Dayna for her hard work and Dayna thanks the council, attorney, and city manager for their willingness and support. Councilor Snyder confirms that the cash match will come from ARPA funds allotted for the park. **The resolution was approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Burney.**

ALCOHOL LICENSE:

EL RANCHO RESTAURANT, VICTOR HUGO CRUZ:

Victor Cruz has applied to transfer his alcohol license from his current establishment to his upgraded establishment at **5408 5th Avenue**. He has gone through the proper procedures and done his due diligence. Inspector White states that he is in compliance with the footage requirements both for the church, residences, schools, and liquor stores. **The transfer is approved on a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS:

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, it was unanimously voted for the council to enter into executive session.

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the council unanimously voted to come out of executive session and enter back into regular session.

No other votes were taken.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT:

Manager Barron reminds everyone that City Hall will be closed next Monday for Labor Day. Don't forget about Music on Main, October 25. He also comments about Chief Cooper's notices on Facebook. At this time, golf carts and ATVs etc. are not legal within the city limits.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

Councilor Snyder urges everyone to go to the football games and support the Dodge County Indians.

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK