

July 28, 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, and Debra Sheffield. Council member Mark Peacock was not in attendance. 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, City Inspector Jack White, and Code Enforcer Gerald Fordham. Attorney Chris Gordon participated by telephone. Those present from the community were Eugene Brannon, Denise Blankenship, Helen Green, EM Harrington III, Daimeon Harris, and County Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

The invocation was given by Councilor Burney.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Snyder starts off by thanking Alex Barnhardt and Maya Clark for their hard work, contribution, and coordination on the outdoor movie event that took place last Friday night. He felt like it was a huge success and has had several good comments about it. He also thanks Chief Cooper and his guys, Chief Maxwell, Brandon Brisco and the street department for their help during the event. Also, a huge thank you to the volunteers that came and helped.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

On a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the agenda was unanimously approved.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2025, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVE BILLS:

On a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the bills for July 15 - 28, 2025, were unanimously approved.

SPEED HUMP REQUEST:

The request was made by Colby Roland for the **intersection of Wright Drive and 5th Avenue**. Jack confirmed that the petition was a fully signed request by several different residences along 5th Avenue up to Ogden Street. Councilor Burney confirmed that this was the main street going into the Jessup Heights subdivision. Councilor Snyder reminded everyone that there is not a stop sign in that area to slow traffic until the intersection of Jessup Street. There were no comments from the public concerning the request. Councilor Snyder does not prefer a speed hump but defers to the rest of the council. Councilor Sheffield confirmed that the signatures were not all from the same residence, but representing several different ones along the road. Inspector White offers an alternative of installing a 3-way stop. Chief Cooper prefers a speed hump due to residents already running the other 2 stop signs further down that road. Cooper does ask to try a different model speed hump this time that would allow a slightly higher speed such as 20 mph. When asked, Jack said it would be up to how much the council is

willing to spend. When Councilor Snyder asks about the option of taking one up and moving it to this area, it was decided that all of those that are currently in place, need to stay there. Manager Barron states that TSPLOST would be the payment source for whichever is decided. Gerald says that there are still some speed humps available at the shop that need to be used before purchasing new ones. Jack informs Councilor Snyder that the placement of the hump would be just past the Wright Drive intersection. **The request was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

OUTDOOR PICKLEBALL QUOTES:

Jack presented the quotes received for redoing the slab for the outdoor pickleball courts. The fencing bid should have been submitted separately. Roberson Concrete came in with a total of \$129,460 that included the fencing. Otis Grading had a bid of \$106,422 and Team McNair proposed a cost of \$57,896. Both of those bids were the concrete work only. Jack has no reservations with using Team McNair even though there is a vast difference between the bids. He has spoken with all 3 bidders to ensure the comparison is equal. Manager Barron reminds the council that a fencer will still be needed if the lowest bid is taken. Barron says that this project is funded by a \$50,000 grant and the remainder will come from ARPA. Councilor Sheffield asks about the cost of fencing in reference to the first bid. Barron says that after talking to several others, \$20,000 is a good rough estimate for fencing. The striping will also need to be done after those negotiations take place. Many are hoping to keep the total project under \$100,000. **On a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Williams, the council unanimously voted to proceed with Team McNair at \$57,896.**

CREDIT CARD LIMITS:

Manager Barron states that he has been trying to get all of the department heads a bank issued credit card in order to improve our accounting and purchasing ability. A schedule has been submitted that would include adding Rodney, the well operator, and Gerald, the mechanic. Barron does not like the idea of sharing credit cards. In order to add these two, he asks for approval to raise the credit limit from \$50,000 to **\$55,000**. The schedule suggests lowering April and Dayna's limits to \$5000 and this would allow both new cards with a limit of \$3000. All of this is contingent on the bank's approval. When asked, Attorney Llop reminds the council of there being a credit card policy and she asks that all of those issued a card sign off on the policy. **The revised credit card limits are unanimously approved as presented on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

GEORGIA PEACH COLOR RUN REQUEST:

Bree Harrell has made a request to have a **5K on September 13**. The current map shows is starting at the middle school track but she had emailed about the possibility of starting at the Club instead. Manager Barron is unsure right now which has been decided on. The map originally presented shows starting and ending at the middle school. The 5K is scheduled to start at 8 AM and that is when she is requesting the road closures. Chief Cooper comes forward for input. Discussion is held to make sure the run follows any sidewalks where available and not on the road. This makes Creighton Street the biggest area needing closure. Cooper agrees to sit down with Ms. Harrell and assess the best way to handle it upon approval of overtime by council. Chief Maxwell offers to provide some support as necessary also. **The request is unanimously approved by council on a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.**

FIRST READING OF AMENDED NUISANCE ABATEMENT ORDINANCE:

Attorney Gordon presented the proposed amended Nuisance Abatement Ordinance. There is a state statute that requires certain things to be in the Nuisance Abatement Ordinance. This revision modifies

the existing ordinance to comply with that statute. Our current ordinance only requires notice to be presented to the current property owner where state law requires notice to all interested parties. The current ordinance does not include a time frame for when the action should commence. A time frame has been added, and some corrections were made to errors in certain references. A duty of the officer has been added to transmit paperwork to the tax commissioner's office. A time frame of enforcement has been added as well as a redemption amount for the city to collect their costs involved. Another section has been added to update the current appellate process to comply with state laws. All of this was done in effort to tidy up the current ordinance and give Jack and Gerald the tools they needed to get started on these nuisance abatements at a higher level. Chris also called out Jack and Gerald for the exemplary job they have done in doing the footwork and initiative to work with the folks at Macon-Bibb and with JD Ricketson by sitting down and learning the process and also saved the city a lot of money in fees by not having to draft this amendment from scratch. **The first reading of the amended Nuisance Abatement Ordinance is unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Burney.**

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

Barron also thanks Maya and Alex for their work on the successful movie event. He states that it was remarkable to see the park alive again with people having fun. Hopefully plans will begin for an October or Halloween event and maybe even a Christmas movie event. There is even talk about the GA/FL game. The four indoor pickleball courts are complete, and they are trying to finalize the rules on use and get it organized. A lot of progress is being made. The two number one complaints that Barron deals with on a daily basis is that the people have nothing to do in town in terms of a park. The other is the roads. They are slowly working on repairing potholes as they are reported and hope to be able to eventually invest in some paving equipment. Barron also reminds the community of the blight initiative as Gerald and Jack move through town. The goal is not to punish anyone, just to clean up the town.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

Councilor Snyder reminds everyone to stay safe in this extreme heat and to drink plenty of fluids.

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK