

**May 12, 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, Mark Peacock, 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. Firefighters Quantavious Rozier and John Walker were present. Those present from the community were Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Karen McCranie, and John Battle.

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 personnel matters to the Executive Session on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Burney. The newly amended agenda was then approved on a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams, the minutes from the April 28, 2025, regular meeting were unanimously approved.**

**NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MONTHLY FIRE DEPT REPORT:**

Chief Maxwell came forth to deliver the fire report for the month of April 2025. There was a total of 169 calls for the month. Two non-working structure fires in the city and no working structure fires in the city or the county. Five other fire-related calls, with 1 in the city and 4 in the county. There were 139 medical-related calls with 107 in the city and 32 in the county. There were 6 motor vehicle accidents with 3 in the city and 3 in the county. Fourteen public service calls (alarms, smoke, trees) with 11 in the city and 3 in the county. They were cancelled in route to one call in the city and one in the county. They assisted with one Air Evac and participated in four fire drills with one at each school.

Chief shares that he has two guys graduating from GPSTC in Forsyth this Friday. Delivery of the new firetruck is possibly Wednesday or Thursday if all of the paperwork is completed.

The department will start flowing hydrants next week for normal testing and maintenance.

**MONTHLY POLICE DEPT REPORT:**

Chief Cooper presented the monthly report for the police department. They used 945 gallons of fuel in the month of April 2025 to patrol 11,517 miles. They answered 688 calls, worked 19 traffic accidents, and made 211 arrests/citations. A total of \$28,570.70 was collected in cash bonds and fines. There was a total of 34 days in jail.

Councilor Snyder asks about the camera system around town. Chief informed him that he is currently waiting on Georgia Power to hook power up to some of the conduits. He is on hold for an undisclosed reason to why we can't put anymore on the poles. Once he gets word from them, he feels we can start moving

forward. Chris Holder is planning on climbing the water tower at Legion this week to hook up the cameras there as well as the point-to-point system we need for the housing authority cameras.

**MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

Jack White came forward to present his report on Permitting for the month of April 2025. Four building permits were issued for a total of \$5,715.90. There were 3 electrical inspections issued for a total of \$150 last month. One moving permit was issued for \$50 and two sign permits for a total of \$125. Lastly, two solicitation permits were issued for a total of \$10.00.

As far as the blight project is concerned, he has scheduled a meeting with Attorney Chris Gordon and his team. Once more clarification is given, Jack is hoping to be able to start holding people accountable. Councilor Peacock asks if everything has been good to go with the hotel project and Jack assures him that it is.

Matt McDaniel came forward for the April treatment plant report. The amount of treated water that was released into Sugar Creek was 27,444,000 gallons. That calculates to 0.915MGD. Water usage at the plant was a total of 779,000 gallons. The lab provided service to 6 towns this month and charged a total of \$5,538.62 for the testing. They spent 546 hours this past month with a breakdown as follows: cleaning clarifiers and filters 65, lab and sampling 107, belt press and sludge 47, lift station and well repair 53, lawn maintenance 30, plant maintenance 119, routine rounds 42, management duties 20, plant operation 124, and grease traps 4.

Councilor Snyder inquires about the work at the Chas Mar lift station. Matt says that the work is finished. All that is left is to move the old one out to James Avenue to use as salvage for parts.

Rodney Harrell gave an update about the wells for the month of April; the wells pumped 32,585,000 gallons of water. That averaged out to be 1.086 MGD.

Concerning Councilor Snyder's question about the Harvey's well, Rodney confirms that the work is complete, and the well is back up and running.

Wynnon Pittman came forward to give the water distribution information for the month of April. The water department had 401 work orders last month. The breakdown was as follows: 99 water cut-ons, 93 water cut-offs, 18 water leak checks, 20 water leaks, 1 water main breaks, 104 locates, set 5 new meters, 1 water valve installed, 6 manholes were GPS located with the help of KDUG contractors in Bacon Heights, 7 meters were pulled, maintenance was performed on 2 meters by repairing antennas, 2 meters were repaired, 6 meter inspections, 3 manholes were inspected, 5 sewer lines investigated, 20 sewer lines were cleaned out and it is grease & wipes every time. They installed 2 new sewer taps for the new motel and bank. They helped Brandon get 1 stormwater ditch cleaned out, repaired a culvert, and took care of 5 catch basin cleanings. They performed maintenance on 5 of their vehicles which they have started keeping track of in the Diamond map system. They used 590 gallons of fuel.

KDUG has started on the other I&I project on Mount Moriah Street and the Bacon Heights area. A total of 653 pipe has already been washed and cameraed. We now have footage of the inside of those pipes. Some of that pipe footage will be replaced or repaired as necessary. This will save us a lot of money at the end of the project to be able to move around to other sections or go towards the open cutting where we have found some leakage. This project is a whole lot cleaner than the POPCO project over in Jessup Heights.

POPCO is about 80% through with their project. With the rain off and on, it has become a mess. Wynnon has tried to knock on doors in the neighborhood to communicate with everyone of the progress.

He also announced that tomorrow is cut-off day.

Brandon Brisco came forward to deliver the street department report. His department spent 12 hours on animal calls, 211 mowing grass, 32 on potholes, 2 on trash pick-up, 96 on limb truck pick-up, and 152 hours on various other projects. His guys were unable to give him accurate data about the amount of time spent on curbs and gutters, ditches, and tree limb cutting.

Councilor Snyder does suggest to the citizens to remember that the street department has a lot of grass to cut in these summer months. He asks the homeowners to be patient and even feel free to keep their areas cut and trimmed in the ROW. This will help them out tremendously considering there are 52 miles of streets to keep cut.

**WATERSHED TESTING:**

This testing is required by our permit. We have used the same company for at least the last 11 years. He has not been able to find anyone else to do this large amount of testing. Matt is currently unable to do these tests in house. PSI's quote for this year is \$20,683. Manager Barron states that he feels that PSI has always done an excellent job and we have never had a problem with our permit. The watershed testing began when the new treatment plant was built. There are four sites, and they have to come down 12 different times to get samples. It is a very extensive process. Manager Barron confirms for Councilor Snyder that this has already been appropriated in the budget. **On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, PSI is unanimously approved to perform the watershed testing for the amount of \$20,683.**

**APPROVE BILLS:**

**On a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the bills for April 29 – May 12, 2025, were unanimously approved.**

**ACCEPTANCE OF ROAD DEDICATION BY WARRANTY DEED:**

The owners of the new apartment complex on Airport Road and the owners of Aremac have jointly agreed to give the road between them to the city and make it a city owned and maintained street. Documents have been prepared, and the other two parties have already signed. **On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the council unanimously accepts the new road by warranty deed from Living 7, LLC and La Familia Properties, LLC.**

**RESOLUTION TO NAME NEW ROAD:**

As part of the warranty deed, Living 7, LLC has requested that the city name the dedicated road as "Living Drive". **The newly accepted road will be called "Living Drive" with a unanimous vote on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Burney.**

**JUNETEENTH PROCLAMATION:**

It has been requested that the city proclaim June 20, 2025, as the Juneteenth Celebration for Eastman. **This proclamation was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Williams. (The signed proclamation will be included in the official minutes.)**

John Battle came forward to inform the council of the events that will take place for the celebration. The event is open to the public and is intended to bring the citizens of Eastman together. It is not just about one ethnic group. He invites all council members and commissioners to participate. He also requests that the city fire, police, and street departments provide them with the same excellent coverage as they have in the past. He also asks that Dr. MLK Jr Drive be closed off. He appreciates the council allowing it to happen again.

**HOME OCCUPATION LICENSE:****KAREN'S CUTS; KAREN MCCRANIE @ 5320 OGDEN STREET; BEAUTY SHOP:**

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Burney, Ms. McCranie was unanimously approved to move her beauty shop business to a residence she owns located at 5320 Ogden Street.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – PROPERTY & PERSONNEL MATTERS:**

On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams, it was unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session for Property & Personnel Matters.

On a motion Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the Council unanimously voted to enter back into regular session. No further action was taken.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

Manager Barron informed everyone that the LMIG paving projects have been settled upon. They will pave Congo Lane from MLK to the speed hump and the remainder of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

He apologizes for the yards in Jessup Heights. The contractor is trying to clean those up as they go. If there is something particularly bad, please call. Anything torn up will be repaired.

He and Dayna are working together with Georgia Southern and Kennesaw State to chase a \$100,000 grant.

The plan is to use that money to map the city's stormwater and try to figure out why it is backing up in certain areas. This project will include mapping the flow rates and patterns, etc. Then the city will be able to use that information and knowledge to start repairing certain areas.

He has received many inquiries about the car wash across from Walmart. As far as he and Jack know, it is still coming.

He reminds everyone that the street department is cutting grass as quickly as they can on the 54 miles of roads, which is what he refers to as cutting from here to Macon. Please be respectful, and don't dump your clippings in the storm drains.

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

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

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CHAIRMAN

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CITY CLERK