

**June 9, 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, and Brandon Brisco were also in attendance. Those present from the community were Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan, EM Harrington III, 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 scheduling a work session on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams. The newly amended agenda was then approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**SECOND READING OF THE AMENDED FIRE ORDINANCE:**

Attorney Llop states that the ordinance was not changed as to the fact that it still prohibits open burning within the city. There were some exceptions added to the ordinance by request of Fire Chief Maxwell and Police Chief Cooper. **The second reading of the amended fire ordinance was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Burney.**

**SECOND READING OF THE AMENDED YARD WASTE ORDINANCE:**

Attorney Llop explains the changes include defining what yard waste is and putting in specifics such as location and pickup. These changes came from suggestions made by the road department in order to make their job more efficient. **The second reading of the amended yard waste ordinance was approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Peacock.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MONTHLY FIRE DEPT REPORT:**

Councilor Snyder thanked the public for their support of the new firetruck and their attendance at the ceremony that took place last weekend.

Chief Maxwell came forth to deliver the fire report for the month of May 2025. There were a total of 161 calls for the month. One non-working structure fire in the city and one in the county. Three other fire-related calls, with 2 in the city and 1 in the county. There were 124 medical-related calls with 100 in the city and 24 in the county. There were 8 motor vehicle accidents with 4 in the city and 4 in the county. Twenty public service calls (alarms, smoke, trees) with 12 in the city and 8 in the county. They were cancelled in route to four different calls with 2 in the city and 2 in the county. They used 491 gallons of fuel.

Chief thanked all who showed up for the “Push” event for the new firetruck last Saturday. It was a great event. The department also spent two days last week participating in Camp Good Grief by helping the kids interact with the fire trucks.

**MONTHLY POLICE DEPT REPORT:**

Chief Cooper presented the monthly report for the police department. They used 954 gallons of fuel in the month of May 2025 to patrol 11,331 miles. They answered 682 calls, worked 15 traffic accidents, and made 212 arrests/citations. A total of \$28,354.07 was collected in cash bonds and fines. There was a total of 36 days in jail.

Chief adds that the new Durangos are finally being outfitted and should have them ready next week. The truck is scheduled to be here by the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

Jack White came forward to present his report on Permitting for the month of May 2025. One building permit was issued for \$559. There were 2 electrical inspections issued for a total of \$100 last month. One sign permit for a total of \$75.

Councilor Peacock asks how the sidewalks are coming along. White says they are getting ready to start the ones on Legion in front of Lee’s Fried Chicken. Next will be there at Griffin once GDOT gives permission. The crossing lights are in for the crosswalks on Pearl Bates and will be going up soon.

Matt McDaniel came forward for the May treatment plant report. The amount of treated water that was released into Sugar Creek was 16,840,000 gallons. That calculates to 0.543MGD. Water usage at the plant was a total of 722,000 gallons. The lab provided service to 7 towns this month and charged a total of \$6,955.82 for the testing. They spent 542 hours this past month with a breakdown as follows: cleaning clarifiers and filters 42, lab and sampling 118, belt press and sludge 44, lift station and well repair 51, lawn maintenance 37, plant maintenance 89, routine rounds 43, education and training 24, management duties 20, plant operation 110, and grease traps 6.

Councilor Snyder inquired about the status of the dump truck and being able to catch up with the sludge issue. Ryland is really helping them out right now until they are able to take possession of the truck. Wynnon states that Mr. Oxley called him today to let him know that the tires and brakes had been completed on the truck and it is at the welding shop awaiting a new bed.

Rodney Harrell gave an update about the wells for the month of May; the wells pumped 34,385,000 gallons of water. That averaged out to be 1.109 MGD.

Wynnon Pittman came forward to give the water distribution information for the month of May. The water department had 356 work orders last month. The breakdown was as follows: 102 water cut-ons, 85 water cut-offs, 10 water leak checks, 16 water leaks, 87 locates, set 3 new meters, 2 water valves installed, 4 new items were GPS located, maintenance was performed on 3 meters, 7 meter inspections, conducted maintenance on 4 vehicles, cold patched one area of road, 1 manhole was inspected, 1 sewer line investigated, 24 sewer lines were cleaned out and it is grease & wipes every time along with some roots. They helped Brandon get 2 stormwater ditches cleaned out, took care of 3 catch basin cleanings along with an inspection of another one. They used 454 gallons of fuel.

KDUG is 60% finished on Mount Moriah. They have come across a few small issues but nothing major. They have discovered several manholes that were paved over and no longer in use. They put in a 14-inch casing around some pipe that is in the creek so nothing will ever damage it again.

As far as the Jessup Heights area, POPCO has slowed down due to the amount of rain that has been coming in. The wet conditions hinder the open trench digging that is required. He is unsure of how much longer the project will last.

Councilor Burney asks if the sewer cleaning is happening at the same places, but Pittman says it is really just all over town. If they frequent a certain address often, they will no longer be able to help until the resident does their part in fixing the private side.

Brandon Brisco came forward to deliver the street department report. His department spent 2 hours on animal calls, 290 on curbs and gutters, 28 on cleaning ditches, 10 hours limb cutting, 199 mowing grass, 8 on potholes, 16 on trash pick-up, 139 on limb truck pick-up, and 92 hours on various other projects. They spent a total of 10 hours on special events which mainly included the Memorial Day program at the park. A total of 569 gallons of fuel were used.

They have started this week on getting the neighborhood cut and cleaned up where the Juneteenth celebration will take place.

Councilor Snyder asks for the areas coming into Walmart to be cleaned up and made to look better.

#### **JAMES AVENUE TREATMENT PLANT REPAIR:**

Rodney comes forth to explain that there are 3 pumps located within the James Avenue lift station. They have been in service for about 17 years. They are at 30% and no longer pumping efficiently. They are either worn down or not at the proper setting. One pump is only running and burning electricity because it is no longer capable of pumping. That pump has been turned off and they are currently only using 2 of the pumps. A gentleman from the company that made the pumps says that the impellers are bad and need to be replaced. They will be able to do the repairs at the plant and not take them somewhere else. The quote was given for all 3 pumps. It would be a total of \$49,407. Councilor Snyder asks if this is why there is such gas buildup between James Ave and the Rhine Hwy plant. Matt agrees that it could be part of the problem. Snyder asks Manager Barron how he plans to fund it. Barron states that the short-lived fund has enough to cover the repairs. Councilor Burney asks what the average lifespan for the pumps is. They don't have an exact answer. They said that the motors are fine, it is just the impellers that are worn. A whole new pump would cost around \$100,000. **The council unanimously voted to proceed with the repairs with Pro Pump Solutions of America for \$49,407 on a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Peacock.**

#### **APPROVE BILLS:**

**On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the bills for May 29 – June 9, 2025, were unanimously approved.**

#### **CITY HALL WINDOW QUOTES:**

Jack presents 3 quotes for a full replacement of the windows at City Hall. Quotes include the installation of new insulated and tinted windows and doors. The first was **Dennard's Glass in Eastman for \$34,500**. Next was Glass Service Center of Macon for \$58,581.51. Last was Rick's Auto Glass & Storefront out of Swainsboro for \$65,900. Manager Barron informs Councilor Snyder that the windows will be paid for with SPLOST money. After some discussion, **on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the council unanimously approved the quote from Dennard's Glass.**

#### **AARP GRANT AGREEMENT:**

Dayna came to ask the council to accept and approve an **AARP Community Challenge Grant**. The official amount will be announced on June 18. The project will have quick turn around time. It involves sidewalks near the schools. There is no match required. Inspector White guesses that about 450 ft of sidewalk can be done. Ms. Winslette is also looking at other grant opportunities to continue the project further. They will be

placed in the city's ROW and will not impede anything that the school has going on. **This agreement was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

**DOJ SCHOOL VIOLENCE GRANT:**

This is a grant that is related to school violence. It will be a joint collaborative application. The school will be listed as the applicant and the city will be listed as a subrecipient or partner. The city's intention or portion would be to get money to put cameras up outside of the schools and up to a half mile radius. The school is looking at \$150K – 200K. The maximum request can be \$250,000. Dayna doesn't think they will need to ask for that much but if they did, the maximum match would be \$62,500. They have a meeting scheduled for Wednesday with the security guys to build a quote to know exactly how much they would need to ask for. The match would have to be paid over a 3-year period. Manager Barron plans to use SPLOST funds to make the match. **A motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Peacock led to a unanimous vote to proceed with the school grant.**

**PICKLEBALL COURTS:**

Jack had reached out to get quotes for surfacing, coating, and striping **two indoor pickleball courts and basketball court in the gym** at the Club along with repairing, resurfacing, and the conversion of the tennis courts at the Club into **6 outdoor pickleball courts and a parking area**. Advanced Athletic Surfaces, LLC was the only company that would actually come and give a quote. **The cost for the outside area was \$79,980 and the cost for the inside area was \$21,980. The total cost came to \$94,490.** The inside area cost falls within what is left of the budget allotted last year for the Club improvements. The exterior will be paid by the \$50,000 T-Mobile grant and the city would need to match the difference. Councilor Snyder is concerned that there may need to be more courts inside the gymnasium. Jack states that if more courts are added, the lines may get too confusing to be able to play efficiently. Snyder also asks for a drawing and maybe the cost difference of adding more. Councilor Peacock feels like it doesn't need to be overcrowded. Councilor Burney feels that at least one tennis court should be left upon another director's recommendation. Manager Barron offers to reach out to AAS again for a different quote. Peacock understands but believes that there are enough tennis courts still in the area because of the school that the ones at the Club shouldn't be needed. Snyder agrees to defer to AAS's suggestion. Points are mentioned that this will be the only climate controlled pickleball and basketball courts in our area. If it is safe to add another in the gym, please go for it. John Battle suggests just going with 2 inside and leaving a tennis court on the outside. Pickleball is hot right now but may not be later. Add the 3<sup>rd</sup> later if needed. Jack agrees.

**Among more discussion, it was decided to move forward with the original suggestion from the quote. A unanimous vote was taken on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Burney.**

**SCHEDULE WORK SESSION:**

**By a unanimous vote, a work session to discuss Health Insurance was scheduled for Monday, June 16 at 6 PM. This was approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.**

**ALCOHOL LICENSE:**

**BRIJESH KUMAR L CHAUDHARI FOR SWAMINARAYAN 369 LLC @ 108 5<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE:**

**The council unanimously voted to approve the ownership change and new alcohol license for Brijesh Kumar L Chaudhari (Swaminarayan 369 LLC) at 108 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The motion was made by Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Peacock.**

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

Manager Barron thanks the fire department for all of the work in the community that they have been doing. He also reminds everyone of the Juneteenth celebration next Friday, June 20 at 10 AM at the Peabody

Complex. Cut offs for water will begin in the morning. The city is also accepting applications for a billing clerk.

**OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:**

Councilor Snyder reminds everyone that it is summertime and there is a lot of grass cutting taking place around time. Please keep the roads and curb and gutters clean and free from debris. The street crew is limited and would appreciate all of the help of the citizens living along the main roadways.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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CHAIRMAN

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CITY CLERK