

**June 26, 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 Mark Peacock. Council member Debra Sheffield was not in attendance. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, Attorneys Rita Llop and Chris Gordon, Police Chief Billy Cooper, City Clerk April Sheffield, Assistant City Manager Dayna Winslette, Fire Chief Derl Maxwell, and City Inspector Jack White. Other department heads and employees present were Rodney Harrell and Gerald Fordham. Downtown Development Authority members present were Andrea McCranie, Loraine Aguayo, Mark Studstill, Wynnon Pittman, and Paula McCain. Those present from the community were Dustin and Darshay Frazier 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.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

**A motion was made by Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Peacock to approve the minutes of the June 9, 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 Williams, the bills for June 10 - 25, 2025, were unanimously approved.**

**FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANT MATCH REQUEST:**

Ms. Winslette approached to explain that this particular grant was through FEMA and focused on fire prevention, safety, and education. Interim Chief Maxwell put the proposal together to include giveaways, materials, props, and a trailer to haul the safety education items. They are also looking at one of the maze trailers and also doing smoke detectors for the senior citizens and low-income families. The total of all of that is \$292,000. The federal funds requested would actually be \$277,000. **Our match would be 5%, which is \$14,600.** It will be next year that the match would be needed, if awarded. The grant would be awarded around September or October. Councilor Snyder asked if the city was willing to increase their match, would it increase the chances of being awarded. Dayna says no, it has no effect on the scoring. Manager Barron says there is money in SPLOST, Short-Lived, and ARPA. He is not sure from which he will pull the match. **Council approved the grant match on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

**SAFE STREETS 4 ALL GRANT MATCH REQUEST:**

Dayna states that this grant is through the USDOT. She is proposing to do a complete comprehensive safety action plan for the entire city. This means they will look at all of our roads and see where our major issue spots are. Also maybe putting together plans to use for the future in improving our streets.

In addition to that, we can put in for demonstration activities. She is proposing some crosswalks on Oak Street in conjunction with GDOT since it is a state route. Also, putting in some sidewalks that would be between the high school and middle school to complete the work already started on Pearl Bates. Also, she is looking at putting in a sidewalk going down 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue by the Dollar General since there is not one there. The project total on this one is \$399,000. The federal funds would be \$319,200. **The local match would be 20%, which is \$79,800. This match can be a combination of cash and in-kind including personnel hours spent working on the grant and the activity itself.** The match can also be spread over the 3 years of the project. Councilor Peacock asked if this has to be focused on Oak Street or could somewhere else be eligible. Dayna stated that she focused this particular grant on the school area but has another possibility earmarked to apply for to make improvements to Griffin Avenue. Manager Barron says that he intends to meet the match with as much in-kind labor as possible, but he has enough money in reserves to meet the monetary match if necessary whether it be SPLOST, ARPA, or Short-Lived. **The council approved the grant match on a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

**DOWNTOWN FOOD FESTIVAL PROPOSAL:**

Justin and Darshay Frazier approached with a proposition. They recently purchased the food truck park downtown. They are interested in having a food festival starting off the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, which is the first Friday. If the turnout is good, they hope to continue doing something on the first Friday of every month with different themes each month. Perhaps for the kids, outside bingo, karaoke, etc. She asks about the possibility of blocking Main Street from 12-8 that day. Manager Barron states his concern about having enough police and fire for this event along with the fireworks activities also. Darshay said that she understands and is very flexible with her times. Councilor Snyder has concerns about blocking the one-way section of Main Street and the possible impacts of the other businesses located there. Darshay doesn't anticipate filling their park with food trucks so tables and such can be set up there and not in the street. Barron suggests taking just a few parking spaces blocked off by the street department and barrels for this event until it grows and is in need of blocking off the entire road. Frazier says she can close her event down a little earlier to allow people time to get to the fireworks area. **The city council votes to approve the festival with the cooperation of the street department to help with blocking off a specific area. The vote was taken on a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Burney.**

**REPLACEMENT OF FAILED VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVE @ THE WWTP:**

Rodney came forward asking for approval to purchase a new VFD for the plant. The last one was changed out about 5 years ago. The purpose of the VFD is to operate the carousel system out there and keeps oxygen in the basin for the process to work. There are 2 basins and only one carousel working right now. There is currently no backup if something happens. **The quote is from DW Industrial LLC, whom they have worked with in the past. The cost of the VFD is \$15,100.** Matt had previously said the turn around time will be approximately 8 weeks. Manager Barron says that he will pay for it out of the Short-lived account. Councilor Burney confirms that there is a warranty included. When Snyder asks about the longevity of the VFD, Rodney was under the impression that it was the original one put in when the plant was built in 2008. It runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We have gotten our money's worth. **Purchase of the VFD was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Peacock.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – LEGAL AND PERSONNEL MATTERS:**

The Eastman DDA called their meeting to order and then voted to go into executive session. At that time, the Eastman City Council went into executive session with the DDA to discuss property and legal matters on a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Burney. The personnel

matters were discussed separately from the DDA. Upon exiting the executive session, Councilor Peacock made the motion with a second from Councilor Burney to enter back into regular session. No other action was taken.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

Manager Barron reminded everyone about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks and events in the Chas Mar parking lot. He also mentioned the July 25<sup>th</sup> event to take place at the Park.

**OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:**

Councilor Snyder also mentioned the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events starting at Chas Mar at 6:00 PM. There will be 2 bands, some food trucks, and a 50/50 Raffle with the fireworks starting at dusk.

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

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CHAIRMAN

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CITY CLERK