

April 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 Mark Peacock. Council member Debra Sheffield was absent. 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 Gerald Fordham. Those present from the community were Susan and Mitchell Coffee, EM Harrington III, Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Brian Dennis, Allen Long, Ellery and Loraine Aguayo, Marlan Eller, Joyce Mitchell, Jennifer White, 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:

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Burney, the agenda was unanimously amended to add #7: Road closure @ College Street and Hwy 341 for a Memorial Day celebration. The amended agenda was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Peacock to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2025, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

SECOND READING OF THE ROW ORDINANCE:

Attorney Llop states that this will be the second reading to establish a new section for the use of public and private utilities at the city's ROW. It will go into effect today if approved. **Council unanimously approved the ordinance addition on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Burney.**

ISSUANCE OF FINAL DECISION CONCERNING 5404 MAIN STREET, LLC PLANNING & ZONING

APPLICATION:

As stated at the last meeting, Attorney Llop agreed to draw up the final decision on 5404 Main Street, LLC's zoning application. As discussed, the city voted to rezone this particular property as a B-1 with a special use for residential renting space. It will be considered a spot zone due to the rest of the block remaining an I-zone. This is still in accordance with the city's comprehensive plan and the current uses of the properties of that block. **The Council approves the issuance of this decision on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams. The vote was three in favor of and Councilor Burney recused himself from the vote.**

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVE BILLS:

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

RESCHEDULE MEMORIAL DAY COUNCIL MEETING:

Because of the second meeting in May falling on a holiday, the meeting was rescheduled for Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 6:00 PM. This change was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Peacock.

REQUEST FOR A 4-WAY STOP AT COLLEGE STREET & FIRST AVENUE:

Dahl McDermitt requested that the city turn the intersection of College Street and First Avenue into a 4-way stop. He has just recently opened a thrift store near the intersection and is concerned about any future traffic and deliveries that may be received. Inspector White pointed out that the intersection was once a 4-way stop years ago. Manager Barron also points out that the exit to CVS is also a dangerous drive near that intersection and would benefit from the slower traffic. There may be an issue at the corner where Gibbs Produce is located due to the wide area and no curbing or sidewalk, but he would try to install something there as well. **The Council unanimously agreed on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams.** Clerk Sheffield asks to make sure if a 30-day notice is required.

RFQ FOR PEST CONTROL OF CITY PROPERTIES:

Manager Barron feels that it is time to send a notice out to see what kind of comparative bids the city will receive from different providers. This has not been done in some time. It should include the city hall, police and fire departments and also the treatment plant. Susan Coffee asks if this will include the Club and Barron says yes. She also has concerns about mosquito control at the Club. **On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Burney, the council voted unanimously to proceed.**

APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR A LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR NEW FIRE TRUCK:

The new firetruck is ready for pickup, and it is now time to finalize the lease agreement. The interest rate is listed as 5.70%. Councilor Snyder asks to make sure that there is a clause in the agreement that will allow the city to pay it off earlier if able. Councilor Burney asks if it is fully equipped like the department wants it. Chief Maxwell says that he has been ordering equipment all along in order to prepare and outfit the truck. He hopes to utilize some equipment off of an older truck. He has most of the equipment that he will need, but there is just a little more that will need to be added. Chief Maxwell hopes to have the truck in service within 2 – 3 weeks of delivery. **Clerk Sheffield officially asks the Eastman City Council to authorize Chairman Graham Snyder to enter into a 10-year Lease Purchase Agreement with Leasing 2 Inc. to finance the purchase of a new firetruck in the amount of \$455,491 purchased from FireLine, Inc./E-ONE. Councilor Peacock makes a motion of agreement and Councilor Williams gives the second to lead to a unanimous vote in favor of the lease agreement.**

LEE'S CHICKEN PROCLAMATION:

Terry Coleman has opened up the first Lee's Chicken Franchise in the state of Georgia. The Council was asked to pass a proclamation for the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, May 1, 2025. **This Thursday shall be proclaimed as Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken Day by a unanimous vote on a motion made by Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

ROAD CLOSURE REQUEST ON COLLEGE STREET & HWY 341:

The request was submitted by the American Legion in order to hold another ceremony down at Veterans Memorial Park on Memorial Day. Chief Cooper came forward to comment on last year's event. Last year they had asked to close the ramp coming off of Hwy 341 up to where it meets College Street. They used the whole roadway for parking. It was reopened as soon as the ceremony was completed. Manager Barron doesn't remember any problems from last year. He asks the fire

department to also come out and help the police department with traffic and blocking the road. **A unanimous vote was taken on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Burney.**

BUILDING PERMIT:

BECKY COLSON MULLIS @ 232 MAIN STREET:

Ms. Mullis has applied for a permit to remodel and enclose the small open space on Main Street next to the newspaper office. She has submitted all of the appropriate paperwork and fees. Ms. Aguayo asks if this one permit is sufficient to cover everything done to completion. Mr. White states that this permit covers the structural construction, electrical, and plumbing in reference to city ordinance regulations. This permit will satisfy all city laws and regulations. Manager Barron reiterates that it does not necessarily cover all of the state and federal requirements. **This permit is unanimously passed on a motion by Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

OCMULGEE ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION @ 5710 EASTMAN STREET; GRAHAM & STUDSTILL IS CONTRACTOR; ADDING A WAREHOUSE:

Graham & Studstill has applied for a permit to build an addition to a metal building that is already on site. Mr. White says he is satisfied, and it is ready to go. **The permit was unanimously approved on a motion by councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Peacock.**

Inspector White also reported that he has the final expenditure on the work that has been done to date at the Club. He has spent \$105,390 out of the \$150,000 that was set aside. This means that there is still plenty left to get the gym floor painted and striped for courts.

PLANNING & ZONING:

ANITA WILLIAMSON @ 217 FOSTER STREET; SPECIAL USE PERMIT; COMMERCIAL PROPERTY TO RESIDENTIAL FOR RENTALS:

Ms. Williamson presented an application for a Special Use Permit to the Planning & Zoning board. She is requesting to use her property at 217 Foster Street as rental property for residents. It is currently zoned for business, but she is no longer running her business there. P&Z has approved the Special Use, and it now needs the approval of the Council. **Councilor Peacock makes the motion with a second from Councilor Williams and it is unanimously approved.**

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

The CDBG project in Bacon Heights is now underway. They did find an open sewer line draining into the creek but believe they can get it fixed and remain under budget. The best guess is that the heavy rains washed that section of pipe out. EPD and all those required were informed and all proper testing has been done.

The I & I repairs in Jessup Heights are still going on. Barron apologizes for the mess that they are making. He promises that part of the contractor's duties is to come back and fully clean up and repair any mess that is made.

He mentions that there have been reports of people driving down the sidewalk in front of the Frozen Bean just to go around the fence. Barron reiterates that particular area is private property. Signs will be put up and if anyone is caught doing it, citations will be issued.

Barron gives a shout out to the street department and Nick from the police department for completing some animal control training. They are now certified and able to tranquilize the animal if needed.

The potholes on 9th Avenue are a problem. They are waiting for enough cuts to be made so that it makes financial sense to bring in the paving contractor.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

Councilor Snyder speaks to say that he received a complaint about kids playing in the fountain at the Leave it Better pocket park. He asks for the kids to stop and the parents to monitor their children. It isn't a splash pad. Manager Barron points out that the park is not city property and please be respectful of it.

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK