

**July 25, 2022**

The Eastman City Council met in a regular scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Buddy Pittman, Sebrina Williams, Jermayne Hamilton, and Ronnie Woodard. Councilman Raymond Mullis was present via telephone due to a Covid quarantine. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, City Clerk April Sheffield, Attorney Rita Llop, City Engineer Jesse Bearden, and City Inspector Jack White. Present from the community were Paul McCranie, Mitchell and Susan Coffee, County Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Justin Haley, and John Battle.

The meeting was streamed live via Facebook.

The meeting was called to order by Council Member Pittman.

Invocation was given by Council Member Hamilton.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVE AGENDA:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** The first item on the agenda is to approve the agenda and I think we have a couple of changes to make.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, we need to add signing the contract with the engineers on the AMI project. We've actually voted to move forward with it, but we still need to execute the engineer's contract. The Heart of GA Airport has asked to be taken off of the agenda for tonight and they will get back with us at a later date. And we are going to remove scheduling a work session also.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Raymond, you heard all that? Council, do you have any questions?

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** Yes, I heard.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, I will entertain a motion then to approve the amended agenda, to make the changes and add the one addition. And with that, the motion to approve the amended agenda.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Got a second from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor show of hands? Motion carried unanimous.

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next is to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2022, regular meeting. Council, y'all got those in your packets last week. Any questions or concerns about the minutes or anything? If not, I need a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11 meeting.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion to approve the minutes from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show of hands? Motion carried unanimous.

**NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:****WWTP PUMP REBUILD:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the Wastewater Treatment Plant pump rebuild.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We had a 7.4hp pump go down at the wastewater treatment plant. Matt has asked that Calibration Controls and Automation be approved to rebuild and repair it at a cost of \$5,597. It is not something that we really have much of a choice. We are going to have to either buy a new one or rebuild this one. He has asked that we rebuild this one.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do you have any more questions? If not, I need a motion to approve the rebuild of the pump at the wastewater treatment plant.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**EASTMAN STREET WATER MAIN:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to take bids for the Eastman Street water main repair.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Jack White is going to explain the specifics of it.

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** We have 650 ft from 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue down to 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Eastman Street, which is going to be directly in line with the exit from the new Popeye's restaurant that is under construction now. What I am suggesting is that we try to get something done about moving the water main out from the middle of the road because we have had a bunch of repairs on it. If we can get it on the right of way, there would be just conduit and move the lines through it. We can keep from tearing the roads up over and over again.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any questions for Mr. Jack? If not, then I need a motion to allow Spence to advertise for bids on the Eastman Street water main repair.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**ANNEXATION OF DCEDA PROPERTY:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the annexation of the Dodge County Eastman Development Property.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, we received a letter from Brian Watkins, chairman of the DCEDA. He has asked that the city taking in or annexing +/- 72 acres located on the northeast side of the Heart of GA Regional Airport. It is located on Q-Public with parcel 060 013A. Rita, do you want to address what that entails?

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** So, we are within the 10 days to notify the county with the application we received for annexation from the Authority. That will give the county the opportunity to object and notify the city of that. They can request a hearing. But if they don't oppose it within 30 days, we can go forward with the annexation. In possibly less time if the county notifies us of that. And then we can go forward with an ordinance to adopt or annex that property in. It will be like any other ordinance, presented to council and then finalized at a second meeting. I will go ahead and draft a letter to the county for Spence's signature.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council do y'all have any other questions? This is, if you have been out to the airport to basically the far end of the property where the school is at, where Kencoa and Valence was at. All of that is already in the city. But the Development Authority has been working on getting this turned into a grad site and hopefully get listed with folks in Atlanta and throughout the state and all. Here is this property available for business and industry and all. And in order to put sewage to it, we have got to have it annexed into the city. So, this is a letter from the Development Authority moving forward with us annexing into the city and basically tying it all into all of the property that is out there. Basically, what we need is a motion to approve the annexation and then it will be transmitted to the county that we have approved for annexation.

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** Well, you are approving proceeding with the process. But yes, that is what you are doing, you are approving.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** They have the option to vote as well, right? And then notify us.

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** Yes, the county has that option.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** So, with all of that being said, I need a motion to move forward with annexing the property from the Development Authority into the city of Eastman.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

#### **RESCHEDULE 8-22-22 MEETING:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next is to reschedule the August 22, 2022, council meeting. That will be the second meeting in August. The purpose of rescheduling this is because April and Spence and some others will be in Macon at an Advanced Downtown Development Authority training meeting that day. Which is an all-day long affair. I know typically when we reschedule meetings, we go to that Thursday, August 25. Are y'all good with that? Thursday, same time, 6:00? (nods) Alright, well I need a motion then to reschedule the August 22 council meeting to Thursday, August 25, at 6:00 pm, here at the council chambers.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

#### **APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the monthly bills. I think you all got those in your packet. Anybody got any questions about any of them? If not, I need a motion to approve the monthly bills from July 12 – July 25.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Got a motion to approve the monthly bills from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands? Motion carried unanimous.

**STILL WATERS CONTRACT:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to sign the contract with the engineers on the upcoming AMI project.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Again, this is already approved. The project is. We just need permission to execute the contract with the engineers.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, I need a motion to sign the contract with the engineers on the AMI project.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor show of hands? Motion carried unanimous.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I just want to remind everybody that this Saturday, July 30, at the outdoor amphitheater, a number of churches have come together along with some sponsors of the City of Eastman. Sean Peacock has produced 21 benches in memorial to the 21 victims of the shooting in Uvalde. They are going to be on display at the outdoor amphitheater. It would be an opportunity for people to come by, look at them, pray over them and listen to the preachers talk. And then they are going to be loaded up and carried out to Texas where they are going to be some more memorial services for the victims there. We just encourage everybody to come out to the city, to the outdoor amphitheater, Saturday afternoon. Mr. Raymond, do you know the exact time?

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** No, I don't know. I haven't been able to go to church, but I can find out.

**MITCHELL COFFEE:** 6:00

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Mr. Mitchell Coffee just told me 6:00. So, 6:00 at the outdoor amphitheater. Again, all of the benches are going to be displayed. A public viewing before they are loaded up and shipped.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Are we going to shut that street down?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** You want to go ahead and vote to do that? Well, that would mean amending the agenda. Can I just do it?

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** You could do it just to control the crowd.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Okay, we will plan to barrel it off and shut it down for public safety.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** There will probably be a huge gathering or crowd. Okay, so we will have the day of prayer, July 30 @ 6 pm, and we will have the street blocked off for crowd safety.

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** I think that the Magnolia Theater will be open that evening also.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** So, we will have air conditioning and restrooms and all of that. Thank you, Ms. Rita, we appreciate that.

**NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL****PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**JUSTIN HALEY:** Hey. As many of you know, I came the last council meeting. Justin Haley, from the Dodge County Food Bank. I didn't really prepare a speech. I am just going to talk some under public comments, so it will be just a short time. I just want to say, 2 weeks ago I came. But before that, 9 months ago I came. I am not here asking for a handout or begging. I have never been that type of person. I always try to take pride in that. But it was a very long time from the last one to the time I spoke before last time. It doesn't necessarily have to be ARPA funds and it doesn't necessarily have to

be some crazy amount of money. I am to the point that every day that I wake up and I want to do good in this community. I want to keep our food bank open. There are some days I don't know what is going to happen. There are some days that I want to walk away. I have kept this thing open for 6 or 7 years. It is a good cause. Like I said, we don't just hand out food to just anybody. There is a process. And as I said, I didn't come here to prepare a speech or beg or anything of that nature. I just want to say, don't forget about us. Any short term if there is something short term. I am literally at my rope for the lack of better words. I have been everywhere, and I feel that I have been placed here for a reason, to ask for it. So I am. I am just going to leave y'all with this, I am not perfect, and I am not saying that anybody is a perfect Christian. And I know that everybody separates church and state and I get that. But most everyone here does go to church. I just wanted to say this, James 2:14-17. It says, *What does it profit, my brethren, is someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, Depart in peace, be warmed and filled; do not give them things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus, also faith by itself, and not have works, is dead.* I am not a perfect person. I get tested daily, but I do get up and I try to put in the work as far as helping the community and helping those people. That is all I have got to say. It's just basically anything short term doesn't basically have to be under the ARPA situation. Thank you very much and that's it.

**On a motion from Councilman Woodard and a second from Councilman Hamilton, the meeting was adjourned.**

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CHAIRMAN

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CITY CLERK