

**August 29, 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, Raymond Mullis, Sebrina Williams, Jermayne Hamilton, and Ronnie Woodard. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, City Clerk April Sheffield, Attorney Rita Llop, Tammy Roland, Police Chief Becky Sheffield, City Engineer Jesse Bearden, Auditor Frank Erwin, and City Inspector Jack White. Present from the community were Paul McCranie, Wynnon Pittman, Ken Rogers, Mitchell and Susan Coffee, Charlotte Hopkins, George Fruitrail, Rev. Rick Hamilton, Paula McCain, Tammy Wiggins, Jennifer Floyd, Chris Adams, Pastor George Fluellen, Bessie Swint, Clarence Wrease, 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 got to remove 2 of them.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, I believe Ms. Bessie Swint has asked to be taken off. She is not going to be here tonight. And we need to take off the LMIG streets. We are waiting on emails from the engineer with final prices. But we do need to add Tammy and Jennifer from the Heart of GA Community Action Council. They are going to explain what they need from us, and we will go from there. That is the only changes that I have unless there is more from the council.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright. Council, we need to remove #4, Bessie Swint with the bike ride, and #6, the LMIG streets. And add Heart of GA Community Action Council Tammy and Jennifer. With that being said, I need a motion to amend the agenda and remove the 2 items and add the last item. And with that motion, approve the amended agenda as it stands.

**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 August 8, 2022, regular meeting. Everyone should have received that in your packets over the weekend.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis to approve the minutes. Council, do y'all have any questions or anything about them? If not, 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.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**MINI-EXCAVATOR:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** First under unfinished business is a mini excavator.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We put out bids for a new piece of equipment, for an excavator. Jack made numerous calls and we consulted with experts. We have looked at different brands. I believe the one that we have finally settled on was the Sany SY80 for \$120,233 with the mulching head.

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** That piece of equipment carries a 5-year warranty on it. That is time, labor, and delivery to us. If any warranty recalls are made, they come to us free of charge. There is no expense to us as far as drive times.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any more questions about that from Mr. Jack? I know that we have been talking about this for several months. And this is a piece of equipment that we desperately need. If there is not any questions for Jack, I will entertain a motion to purchase the Sany XY80 excavator with mulching head from Perry Brothers Equipment in Americus, GA.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** **So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I have a 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.

**HEART OF GA AIRPORT AUTHORITY:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the Heart of GA Airport Authority.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** The Council asked me to meet with representatives from the Airport Authority, the Development Authority, and the County in a work session to see if we could come up with a mutual agreement to see if we could match the grant out at the airport. The offer we came up with is that the Airport Authority has offered up to \$5,000 towards the \$130,000. The Development Authority has offered \$10,000 and the County has offered \$130,000. And their request is for the city to offer up the remaining \$115,000 grant match.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** And I think all of these have done voted and approved to give their amount. We are the last group. Council, do y'all have any more questions? I know that we have talked about the importance of the airport, the school out there, and SPLOST dollars, and monies and all that the city collects. I will entertain a motion to give the Heart of GA Airport \$115,000.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** **So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second. Council, do y'all have any other questions or anything? I need a second. **If I don't have one, I will second that motion. All in favor of giving the Heart of GA Airport Authority the \$115,000, a show of hands. Okay, that is Buddy, Raymond, and Ronnie. All opposed, show of hands. That would be Jermaine and Ms. Sebrina. Okay, with 3 yeses, that motion passes.** I think that the county and others have said that we don't have to have it right now anyway.

**JUSTIN HALEY, DODGE COUNTY FOOD BANK:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is Justin Haley with the Dodge County Food Bank.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, we were instructed, Rita and I, to get together and come up with an MOU that would allow the city if the council so chose to fund the Dodge County Food Bank on a month-to-month basis for the upcoming year. We have put that MOU together and the final number would be up to \$4,059 of ARPA/COVID money per month for the Dodge County Food Bank and the backpack program.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** And y'all have gotten with Justin? Justin, do you have any questions?

**JUSTIN HALEY:** No Sir, I have no problem with what was given to me.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** So all we have to do is sign off on it?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** If you vote for it.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Well, he has done signed off on all of the paperwork, the MOU and all.

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** I don't believe that it has been signed yet.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** No one has signed it yet. We have been waiting to see what the council's decision would be first.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** He understands everything that he has got to do and each month and all?

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** I believe so.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes mam. Justin, do you have any questions about it? No?

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I will entertain a motion then to approve to fund the Dodge County Good Bank from the City of Eastman.

**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:** All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**FRANK ERWIN, 2021 AUDIT:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is Frank Erwin with our 2021 audit.

**AUDITOR ERWIN:** I want to start off by just thanking the city for allowing me to be of service to them this year. I would like to thank Spence and his staff and their assistance in completing this audit. Since I see that y'all have got so much on the agenda, if it is all right with you, I will do something concise and to the point. If y'all have any questions I will be glad to answer them. If y'all have got a copy, you can go ahead and turn to page 86. That is the schedule of findings and questions. This is what everybody is interested in. To start off with, there is 2 different letters or reports that I have to issue. The rest of this just supports all of y'all's information, the financial statements and the stuff that goes along with it. The first letter is where I state my opinion of the city as a whole which I state is an unmodified or a good clean opinion for the 2021 year. The second letter that I issue is over the city's internal control procedures. Also, the compliance of grants, contracts, and stuff like that, rules and regulations that may impact the financial statements of the city is what I am required to look at. And on that report this year, there was no deficiencies disclosed during my audit. There were no material weaknesses reported. And in regard to compliance, there was no findings there. There was no noncompliance material that I noted. Also, we have to report about prior year audit findings and there were none reported last year to follow up with on this audit. With that being said, that was all that I was going to say. Do y'all have any questions?

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** A good clean audit. That's what counts. Council, do y'all have any questions about the audit?

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** We appreciate the report.

**AUDITOR ERWIN:** I appreciate y'all and allowing me to do this for y'all.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Now, I need a motion to approve the 2021 audit for the city.

**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 BUDGET AMENDMENTS:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to approve budget amendments.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** It is that time of year where we rectify our anticipated revenues versus total revenues. You can see from the packets we sent out last week and the ones in front of you now of what the differences in numbers are. So we just need a budget amendment resolution.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any questions about the amendments and all that you got the other day? If not, then I will entertain a motion to approve the budget amendment ordinance resolution.

**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.

**OLD DANIELS CHURCH STREET CLOSURE:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the Old Daniels Church street closure.

**CHRIS ADAMS:** How are y'all doing? Thank you for y'all's time. I am coming here today because we are having an event at the pavilion area. We are going to have JJ Weeks there from 7pm to 9pm that night. It is a church concert that is being put on by several different churches coming together. And we are asking for the street closure. We believe that we are going to have a pretty good crowd there. That is just something that we need to bring before the board.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** What evening is this?

**CHRIS ADAMS:** It is on September 16. I am sorry. It is on a Friday.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** And you have gotten with Rita on renting the actual? Okay, just wanted to make sure that we haven't skipped a step.

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

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** You're talking about closing it from where to where?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** You are talking about that stretch just right there in front of it, like we usually do?

**CHRIS ADAMS:** Yes Sir.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any questions? With no questions then, I need a motion to approve the street closure for Old Daniels Church.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a 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.

**DODGE ARTS GUILD STREET CLOSURE:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the Dodge Arts Guild Street Closure.

**KEN ROGERS:** It's the night to close streets. On behalf of the Arts Guild of Dodge County, I am requesting the street closure for Main Street, same area right in front of the theater. For Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 12pm to 4pm for an archaeology day. We've never had an archaeology day. This is our very first time. There will be a food truck and some outdoor seating. Also some presentations from the Ocmulgee Archaeological Society. One of the things that they advertise is for people to bring their arrowheads or any artifacts that you may find in this area, and they will identify where and who made it and how old it is. So, they'll also do some Indian education and some pottery that you can do. So, archaeology day is November 5<sup>th</sup> from 12 – 4pm.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do you have any more questions? If not, then I need a motion to approve the Dodge Arts Guild street closure for Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

**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. Thank you, Sir.

**PLANNING & ZONING RESIGNATION:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the planning and zoning resignation.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes. Ms. Debra Pezold has moved out of her district and has submitted her resignation. I believe that she is in Councilman Jermayne Hamilton's district. And his request is that we advertise the opening publicly and then get back to him with those that are interested. Is that correct?

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Yes sir.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Okay, I need a motion then to accept her resignation and then we will advertise it for 2 weeks. So I need a motion then to accept her resignation and then advertise it.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

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

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Second.

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

**SCHEDULE COUNCIL RETREAT:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** The next thing on the agenda is to schedule a council retreat.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** The main purpose of the agenda is to finalize the liquor ordinance rules. We take almost weekly phone calls asking the status of that. By now, most of us should be through reviewing those packets and have our suggestions. What else are we going to do in all that.

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** The DDA would like to have a work session.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** So, a few minutes to spend with the Development Authority. They want to ask questions to get what is my understanding, what your goals for them are. So, it will be a group meeting. We are at the end of August now. We are open to suggestions. We have been out to the airport before and had it. We have had it here in the city hall chambers.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Is that the only two things that is going to be on it?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Well, we usually have the department heads come in and give an update. But yes, those are the only 2 things that I am asking. Now, I can come up with plenty. But I don't want to overload y'all.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Cause it will have to be advertised. So, it would be the DDA, the alcohol ordinance and all of that.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** And you just tell me the date and I will start advertising it. The question is, where do you want to have it? And when do you want to have it.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** It would probably be better to have it out at the airport terminal. Because if you are here...

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Between the walk-ins, I will stand out there in the lobby more than I will be able to be in here.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** We need at least a 48-hour notice and today is the 29<sup>th</sup>. Our next meeting will be the 12<sup>th</sup>?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Meet on the 9<sup>th</sup>, that Friday?

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** I am going to say this for the record. Like I said before, I understand the benefits of the business side, and I understand the personal side of it. But I would like to abstain from that, the decision making. At the council retreat, in reference to the liquor license.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** But you would be willing to participate in the DDA part, correct? Okay, just making sure that I was understanding that.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** Well, pick a day. I don't have a problem with any day. But what time.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:** Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> is a good day for me.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Well, I work better in the mornings. But some of y'all are still working.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** You got department heads coming and DDA coming. Do you want to get started around 9 or 8:30?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** What is your schedule like Jermayne?

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** I get off at 2.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** So it would have to be afterwards. Would 2:30 work? Ms. Sebrina?

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** If he is going to refrain from the liquor part, you could go ahead and do that before.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** 1:30 or do you want to get it in the morning? The trouble is that he would have to take off work to make a morning session. Let's start at 1:30 and we can be working on liquor. And when you feel like, or we get to a resolution, or you feel like. We can just have the DDA plan to come in at 2:30? That gives us a deadline that we have to make a decision on this liquor stuff in less than an hour. I know what I want in it, but I am not a voting member, and y'all are.

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** What about the department heads?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** They can stick around; they are getting paid.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** I can come in at 3:30 to give you 2 hours.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Yeah, but you have never been to one of these before. Once the department heads come, we will be here all Friday night.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Let's start at 1:30 and we will text you when it's time. It's Eastman, you shouldn't be more that 10 minutes away, right?

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** If the council agrees with us. Rita, are you going to make it? You aren't in court that day? We may need some legal advice. And we will advertise at, well I say that I need to check with the airport and make sure that we can get that room. Considering that we are fixing to send them \$115,000, surely, they will let us have a spot to meet out there.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Okay, I need a motion to schedule the council retreat for September 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. And tentatively right now, it will be out at the tower.

**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.

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

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to approve the monthly bills for August 9 – August 29, 2022. I think you all got those in your packet. Anybody got any questions about any of them? I need a motion then to approve the monthly bills from August 9 – August 29.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** **So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Got 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.

#### **WATER DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is water department equipment. And I think what we need is to be basically asking to take bids on valve insertion kits. Any questions about that or anything? If not, I need a motion to approve to bid out valve insertion kits for the water department.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** **So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a 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.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT FINES:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Up next is Chief Sheffield with police department fines.

**CHIEF SHEFFIELD:** What we had to do is we are going to a new computer system. The computer system that we have now, they are upgrading. It actually pays for itself with the funds that they get off of a ticket. Every time a ticket is written, they get what was at one time, \$16. They have jumped up and now you have a minimum of \$1700 that you have got to come up with to have the system that we got. Now they have jumped up to \$20 a ticket. So, what we are asking is to increase the fines to offset that for us by 20%. It would be across the board 20%. And most of the people that I have talked to that has gone to this same system, that is what they did. Just increase the fines 20%. That will be of no cost to the city unless we are a little under the amount of tickets. All year and last year even with COVID, there was only one month that we were behind but that was it. It really wouldn't be of any cost to the city, but I have talked with Rita, and we just want to make sure that we are okay by just increasing the fines to offset what the increase in the tickets would be.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any questions?

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:** Who sets the fines?

**CHIEF SHEFFIELD:** The city council does. And really and truly, ours are a lot lower than most of the other counties around here. A lot lower. But everybody that we have talked to just went across the board, 20%. Which the company will automatically put it in there. Of course, most of what we do business with is credit card. And this company actually has a credit card company that they do every with too. You can pay online, and you don't even have to come to the police department.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Nowadays, everybody that uses credit cards are charging anywhere from 3 – 5% to use it no matter where you go.

**CHIEF SHEFFIELD:** Yes, ours is 5%.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Any more questions?

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** So we will have to draft an ordinance and I will have that ready for the next time or meeting.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, if you don't have any more questions, I need a motion to approve to draft an ordinance to increase all fines 20%.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I have a 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.

**EMPLOYEE RAISES:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is employee raises.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, we have gone through the budget with the reconciliations, and we believe that we can now support the cost-of-living adjustment like we typically give annually at the city. The recommendation from council during previous discussions was 3% for about 90% of the employees and 10% for the clerical staff in city hall and at the police department. So, 3% for the majority and 10% for the secretarial staff at the police department and in the city hall. They are the lowest paid of that group.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any other questions about that? If not, then I need a motion to approve the employee raises.

**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.

**HEART OF GA COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is Tammy and Jennifer from the Heart of GA Community Action Council.

**JENNIFER FLOYD:** Thank y'all for having us tonight. This year, through the state, they have offered us a water program. A lot of you have probably heard about the energy program where we offer to help with light bills. We partner with OEMC and Georgia Power. This year they created a water program. They are expecting water vendors like the City of Eastman. We have got the City of Rhine already signed on to sign the vendor agreement to actually work with us if we need a bill from someone, if we need to say hey, is this client behind? And we will automatically give any client that qualifies with low income a \$300 credit, even if they're not behind. But if they are behind or if they have a water leak or something like that, we can give them up to \$3,000 and help them pay all of that past due and help them move forward. This come along with a lot of the COVID funds and ARPA. But here is the bad part, it ends the end of September. Any money that is left over, which Eastman now has \$66,000. So that would serve about 200 clients, if need be. That would be at the \$300. But of course that is if they were people that come that had past due bills. Now if were cut off, or already disconnected, or they are wanting to establish a water account, that's different. It's gotta be somebody active. Our main focus is seniors that is on a fixed income. But that is not the guidelines. That is just one of our priority groups that we focus on because most of those people qualify because they are low income, and they are the ones that need it the most. There is really nothing once you sign the vendor agreement as far as the City of Eastman doing anything but partnering with us and pull bills for us. Or hey, did the check we sent you, did it post? Are they going to be okay? Y'all not going to cut them off until we get you the check because we've approved them. Because we do have a Warner Robins office. Once we approve it here in our Eastman office, then it takes like one to two weeks for that payment to actually get here. Currently across our nine counties, we have ten vendors who have actually signed on. A lot of them has maxed it out. They sent us everybody that they could find, whether they thought they needed it or not. The sent them. We had an opening day. We said Hey, on the 13<sup>th</sup> or the 14<sup>th</sup>, send anybody that you think would benefit. Put a sign up in your lobby and we have like an opening day, and everybody just showed up between 8 and 5 and we took care of them and that is how we completed most of our money out. And we actually want to do that for the City of Eastman as well.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:** What is the application process?

**JENNIFER LLOYD:** The application process is that we will advertise for one day. It will be in September and if the City of Eastman signs the agreement, we will let you guys know what day it will be. Then we can start advertising throughout the community. When they come in, we will have five or six case managers there ready. They have to give us their ID, their social, their income, and their City of Eastman bill. We don't pay garbage and we don't pay the mosquito things and stuff like that. We just pay the water and the sewer. That's the actual things that we look at. So, if you have a client that comes in and has had a bad water leak and say, oh my gosh, their bill is like \$2,000 and you are trying to work with them. We can go back and work with them. As long as that water leak, y'all can prove that it is fixed, we can move forward with it.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We have got several like that.

**TAMMY WIGGINS:** We just have to be able to separate the trash pickup from it and I think it is broken down on the bill.

**JENNIFER FLOYD:** And the clients that are actually getting a credit, the only difficult part is when you guys get the funding, it has to be separated to make sure that it is going just towards that water or



sewer part. So, they may still get a bill just for their other stuff. Now the taxes, we pay that as well. It is a very good program, and it is one of the best that we had because it's just income qualified. Most of our programs, you have to present this and that, and say this happened and that happens sometimes. But this is just strictly for low-income families.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** What is the cutoff? Like the 300 level of poverty or 225?

**JENNIFER FLOYD:** It's 125. So you are looking at average senior citizens, if each one of them draw \$1,400 a month, they still qualify. So that's our main focus. That is what we see the most of. Single mothers, we see a lot of that. Because some of those don't always get to live in HUD stuff. Most of the time, when they live in an apartment, their water is supplied.

**TAMMY WIGGINS:** We've got \$66,000. So although this program may end, we expect to do the same thing next year.

**JENNIFER FLOYD:** They are voting to see if this stays and whether it is going to be an ongoing program. If that's the case, then next November, we start back up with our regular programs and it will be just like our cooling and our heating.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** Will you have a flag or something that we could give to maybe carry to our church.

**JENNIFER FLOYD:** Yes, we can. We will establish that when or if we do the agreement. Then we'll come up with a date with everything on that flyer. All you have to do is just pretty much give it to them. It has the income guidelines on it. It has everything.

**TAMMY WIGGINS:** It will be a mass intake on that one or two specific days. We'll do it.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** And we are fine if you need to do it here. I was just wondering where you have done it in the past.

**JENNIFER FLOYD:** That is a genius idea. Because if we need a bill, we can go right there and get it.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We can just have somebody from the staff. If we need to move a terminal in here or something.

**JENNIFER FLOYD:** I like it done that way because I will tell you the after. I always like to tell everybody. When we do a big mass intake like that and spend a lot of money, then y'all will be the ones getting the call about what are y'all giving away down there. I like to tell you what to expect because that happens. We advertise. Whoever comes in and qualifies, that's how they get it. We don't choose who gets it.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** To make sure that I am clear. This is not tax money that we are paying here in the City of Eastman. It is like Justin Haley's food program. This is federal money that is sent down for us to do this with. Just want to make sure that I was on the record with that.

**JENNIFER FLOYD:** Well, we would love to have y'all signed on. I think Tammy sent you a vendor agreement to sign.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yeah, it might be quicker if you had one tonight. How did we let the City of Rhine get ahead of us?

**JENNIFER FLOYD:** Yeah, they sent everybody they had that was past due and then didn't send anybody else. It's kind of like that we went through everybody, and the city of Rhine is so little. I will leave this with you if you don't mind.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Actually, we have to vote on it and at the end of the meeting, if the chairman agrees to it, and the attorney reviews it really quick, you could probably leave with it if you want to stick around just a minute or two.

**JENNIFER FLOYD:** Well, it's a little more detailed. It may take a little longer. If y'all want to do that, it's fine. If you need some help or have questions about it, like if you want to see a copy of some to see how to do it. Like an example. It's not extremely hard, but some of it, well you have to fill it out.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Okay, then I will get it to you in the morning.

**JENNIFER FLOYD:** We will come get it, how about that?

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** We at the end of August and you said this ends the end of September?

**JENNIFER FLOYD:** It does. We will create y'all a flier and go ahead and get it out and y'all can pass it around as well.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Do y'all have any more questions? If not, let's entertain a motion to approve the Heart of GA Community Action's water assistance program.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Got a 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.

### **CITY MANAGER HAS NOTHING TO REPORT**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** I just want to thank Mr. Frank again. Is he still here or is he gone? I wanted to thank him again for the audit. Those were great numbers that we heard tonight so I just wanted to thank him for his time and dedication.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**PASTOR FLUELLEN:** I am just coming up with one question that I wanted to ask Mr. Spence. Did Mr. Roberson get in touch with you?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Mr. Sammy Roberson? He is supposed to send a quote. I haven't seen it yet. Jack, have you?

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** He has not returned it to us yet. We showed him the Peabody Complex and several different projects around town. He was supposed to give us a quote on all of it so we could break it down and present it to the council and go from there.

**PASTOR FLUELLEN:** Okay, I just kind of was wondering. Thank y'all so much.

**GEORGE FRUITRAIL:** On MLK, from four-points back to Stuckey Apartments, we have had the city to come out and pull some limbs down where families could walk on the sidewalk. Well, they've done that but left part of the limbs there. I guess to rot. I hope not because they need to be removed. Last night, I just happened to be going through there and a lady with four or three little children were walking in that black bottom. There needs to be two city lights there. No one should have to get hurt. I think y'all put the speed barriers up there to slow traffic down from hitting a child, but you let them walk in the black dark on the same street. There need to be some lights there. Clean up and make it safe.

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** Excuse me Sir. Can I ask? Is this on the MLK side by the old armory?

**GEORGE FRUITRAIL:** It is. From beyond the armory in the very bottom of it where the pipes use to be exposed out of the ground. That area is black dark from there down to the four-point area.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** We got one in front of him, right?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes Sir. We still got one to install. Just to point out, we don't install. We have to get in line with Georgia Power. But we will evaluate it and put them on the list. Okay? The city doesn't do the lights, we just pay for them.

**GEORGE FRUITRAIL:** I understand. I just don't want anybody to get hurt.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** There are probably 20 or 30 places around town that need them that we know about, but we will definitely add that to the list.

**CLARENCE WREASE:** Good afternoon, everyone. Clarence Wrease is my name. I am here to try to get some understanding about our city graveyard. I talked to the city manager. I talked to Ms. Llop. And the only somebody that was working on it was ollie and she's not here. We had Ms. Hamilton's granddaughter to come down here. They said they had the deeds. Well, we understood that there is no

deed. But what they are doing is charging a \$100 for each graveyard that is being dug there. And when Ms. Hamilton was over it, she might charge, and she might not. \$25 or \$50 or something like that, reasonable. But the girls that she left it to, they are just going overboard. I was hoping that Ms. Llop would get back to me and let me know something. The city manager sent me to her because I was going to hire a lawyer and he told me don't hire no lawyer, see her. Ivelyn is not here because she is the only one working with that. And she had them down here. And they said that they were going to bring the deeds back, twice. They didn't show up with it.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We have never seen the deeds here.

**CLARENCE WREASE:** But I don't think there is a deed. And then this is free money they are getting because the city is keeping it up. They ain't doing nothing but putting they hands out. And I don't really feel like that's right that they do that. Because I bet you, I got over 25, thirty something people buried out there finally. And we keep that up. We are not getting no help nowhere else. But we have to pay every time that we put someone down. So, I don't think or feel that that is right.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Mr. Clarence, for clarification, you said that they are charging \$100. Is that \$100 to dig the hole or is that \$100 a spot.

**CLARENCE WREASE:** No. They just charging \$100 for nothing.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** It ain't for the spot?

**CLARENCE WREASE:** I guess it's for the spot. That is the only thing that I can see that it is for. Because the funeral home takes care of all of the digging and all of that.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** There is allegations that there has been previous agreements between that family and this council but I have not seen that we have anything approved or written. Rita, correct me if I am wrong. I believe the family believes that they own that they own that cemetery.

**CLARENCE WREASE:** They don't own that.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** But they have never to my knowledge, and Ivelyn has worked on it and Jesse has worked on it, and I think that Rita has worked on it some. Jesse, what did you find out when you worked on it?

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** It's owned by the city.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We believe that we have it, and they believe that they own it.

**CLARENCE WREASE:** My concern is, I have been digging now for 2 years. And I come up with everywhere that I go with it, an accident. They says there is no deed.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I have never seen one.

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** I submitted one to the city. It is not a deed. It was a gift from Anson Dodge himself in 1873.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Right, he is saying that these ladies are claiming that they have deeds and I have never seen them.

**CLARENCE WREASE:** They claim they have deeds.

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** Well, I would like to see them. If it is not recorded at the courthouse, then it is not worth the paper that it is written on. But I can show you in the courthouse where not Anson Dodge, but William Pitt Eastman gave that cemetery to the city in 1873. And the city has done improvements to it the best that we can without disturbing any of the graves there. But yes, we have copies of that. It was a gift.

**CLARENCE WREASE:** Well then, how can someone come in and claim it, and charge you of it and they don't have no record.

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** I think there has been some past agreement that is not ownership but management. And I don't know all of the different people that has had that. But I do remember seeing that Ms. Ivelyn had found the paperwork for some of the funeral homes that were managing the cemetery and receiving payments of graves to offset their cost in management.

**CLARENCE WREASE:** But how can someone come in and say that they have the deed and then charge?

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** They had no legal right unless they could show.

**CLARENCE WREASE:** Well they have been right out here.

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** I don't remember seeing any one of them here and I have been here 6 years.

**CLARENCE WREASE:** They have been here, Mrs. Hamilton's granddaughters.

**CITY MANGER BARRON:** All I can tell you that I haven't seen anything. We can ask the police to look into it if it is a fraud matter and we can pursue it criminally.

**CLARENCE WREASE:** That's the reason that I was here. So I could get someone to look into it. Because I think that is wrong. If you don't, you just cooling out in Atlanta or waiting for a handout.

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** There might be some agreement with one of the funeral homes that they get a certain amount per grave for the maintenance and all. And if they aren't doing the maintenance, of course they shouldn't receive any financial support for that.

**CLARENCE WREASE:** Well evidently, they haven't gotten it from nobody.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We can just refer it to the police and let Becky and the investigators go through it.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Mr. Clarence. You say that it is the granddaughters that is charging \$100. Okay. Where is the transaction being made at? The funeral home?

**CLARENCE WREASE:** Yes, I guess it is being made at the funeral home. I don't really know. Because every time that I call and talk to them, they hang up on me and don't want to talk to me.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Okay, I will look into it. I will take that on and look into it. That is only right.

**CLARENCE WREASE:** I have done been told 5 times that somebody going to look into it.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Well, that is my family. So I can look into for you.

**CLARENCE WREASE:** Oh, that's your family? Alright then. Thank you, Sir. Sorry if I disturbed you but I got my concerns. But thank God, they didn't charge my wife or my mother.

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

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CHAIRMAN

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CITY CLERK