

**September 12, 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, Inspector Jack White, Engineer Jesse Bearden, Tammy Roland, Wynnon Pittman, Paul McCranie, Police Chief Becky Sheffield, and Fire Chief Scotty Whitten. Present from the community were Mitchell and Susan Coffee, Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan, and Charlotte Hopkins.

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:** First order of business is to approve the agenda. Council, do y'all have anything else that you want to add? If not, I need a motion to approve the agenda as it stands.

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

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next item is to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2022, regular meeting. Council, y'all have had time to look over them. Do you have any questions or concerns about anything in it? If not, I need a motion to approve the minutes.

**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.

**NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MONTHLY FIRE DEPT REPORT:**

**CHIEF SCOTTY WHITTEN:** For the month of August, we ran a total of 28 calls, 12 inside and 16 outside the city. We had electrical calls 1, brush fires 2, power lines down 1, gas leak 1. Medical calls 4, rescue vehicle 10, electrical alarms 3, lift assists 2, power lines and trees 4.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** I would like to say something. Not many people know it, but your fire department was on Channel 13 yesterday. Buddy did a good job.

**CHIEF SCOTTY WHITTEN:** They both did. They come Friday to do some interviews of fireman and their thoughts on 9-11. Those are the 2 that I chose.

**MONTHLY POLICE DEPT REPORT:**

**CHIEF BECKY SHEFFIELD:** For the month of August, we used 1,087 gallons of gas, answered 1,421 calls, and worked 21 wrecks.

**AMENDMENT TO JACK'S AGREEMENT:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the amendment to the Jack's agreement.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, Jack's has asked if we would be willing to extend their contract with us for three 30-day extensions. They have offered to pay us \$5,000 a month for each extension. Rita, anything else?

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** Yes, they may not use all 3 additional extensions, just as much as they need prior to closing. We will need a vote to approve the amendment to extend the purchase and sale agreement.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, I will entertain a motion then to approve the amendment to the original purchase and sale with Jack's Family Restaurants. They are asking for up to three 30-day extensions. And they will pay \$5,000 each month to escrow for each 30-day extension. And they may not need them all, but they have asked for that, so I need a motion to approve.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Council, do y'all have any questions? If not, 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 to approve the monthly bills for August 30 – September 12, 2022. Y'all got those in your packs. Do y'all have any questions about any of those? If not, then I need a motion to approve the monthly bills.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion to approve the monthly bills. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Seconded by Councilwoman Williams. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**APPROVE MILLAGE RATE:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to approve the millage rate.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** It is that time of year again where if the council has any interest in raising, lowering, or keeping it the same. Just as a matter of record, our net taxes decreased by \$19,912.83 this year. We do have about \$19K less which is about 2.21% decrease. But also to remind the council that we did go up on water rates this year. So, we just need a decision from the council to keep the millage rate the same, to go up or go down.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, thoughts from council?

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** Mine is that being we went up on water rates, we ought to leave it the same.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Same.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Ronnie, Sebrina? Any thoughts from you? No? With that being said, I reckon that, at this time, we are just voting to advertise the proposed millage rate instead of an actual vote to approve the millage rate.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** This is to start the process with a clear understanding from council that the millage rate will stay the same as we advance forward during the process.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Well, I need a motion then to approve the process to start with the millage rate by leaving it at 7.5 mills.

**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 motion from Councilman Woodard. All in favor, show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**APPROVE TAX BILLING CONTRACT WITH SPRINGBROOK:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to approve the tax billing contract with Springbrook.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, this is the same group that we worked with to do our tax collection. Their estimated cost this year is going to be \$5,422.50. We spent about \$4,340 last year. Like everything else, it seems to be going up.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Postage has gone up. And I reckon it depends on how many tax forms we have.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** How about explaining that to the people, what this is.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** What this is, is a company that the county also uses to collect delinquent taxes that have not been paid. We actually turn them over to this group and they will actually advertise them, and they will get ahold of all of these people and send them notifications and all. And what they do, well let's just say, if somebody owes them \$200, they will bill them \$200 plus the fee. So whatever taxes we owe, we get the full amount back and they make their money on the fees that they charge for them. That is pretty much in a nutshell what they do. So, what this is, is that them calculating it, the postage to mail all of it out with the mailers and everything, what people owe, print services, freight and all on it. It is a service done for us to collect delinquent taxes. And they don't charge a percentage of the tax, they put a fee on it and that is where they make their money. So, I need a motion then to approve Springbrook to do the taxes, well the contract for tax billing for this year.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I have a motion by Councilman Mullis. Council, do y'all have any other questions. If not, I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Second.

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

#### **BID CULVERT REPAIR AT 14<sup>TH</sup> AVE/PAGE STREET:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to bid out a culvert repair at 14<sup>th</sup> Ave and Page Street.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, we have been getting numerous complaints. Both Facebook and in person, phone calls, even stopping me in the grocery store complaining. We have got water coming across the road right there at 14<sup>th</sup> and what some would consider the Chester Rd or Page Street. I think that Jesse has been up there a couple of times. We have sent the street department up there a couple of times. The water department has tried to help us, but we cannot get those drains open. We are asking for permission to dig them up, replace them, and repave them. We need to bid that out if the council will let us. Jesse, is there anything else that you need to add?

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** Apparently the culvert has collapsed over the years. It has been there a long time. We went back and measured it and did a little surveying to get the appropriate writeup in the paper for this project.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright. Council, I need a motion then to approve to bid out for culvert repair at 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Page Street.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Got a motion from Councilman Mullis. Council, do y'all have any other questions for Jesse or Spence? If not, I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:** Second.

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

#### **MAPPING SOFTWARE:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to bid out for mapping software.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, we are desperately in need of some software that will assist us in mapping out the city's manholes, water lines, valves, and cut-offs. So, if the council will approve it, we will put out a bid and ask for companies to respond. If not, we will try to select one another way. Mr. Royce is leaving at the end of the year. Before he gets gone, we want to get everything mapped.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any more questions? If not, then I need a motion to bid out for mapping software for city lines and manholes and everything under the ground.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

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

**COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor, show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**2021-2022 LMIG:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the 2021 – 2022 LMIG streets.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We believe we have got sufficient funds between LMIG and TSPLOST to recommend the council approve the paving of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Bay Street, Main Street west, Pine Drive, and 10<sup>th</sup>. GDOT has said that if we wait until the spring, we can use TSPLOST Band 1 funds to pave Laryn Lane and Mary Alexander Drive in Morgan Creek, and parts of Plaza Drive if we need to. We also have sections in Page Street that we would like to hopefully get paved in the fall rotation.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** Sounds good.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** And that section is basically from where you turn off the Dublin Hwy to probably the stop sign. That's the Page Street section. Everything else is fine. But right there where the daycare is at, that is a high travelling road. And it bumps up your car pretty bad. Potholes too.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Now some of these that you are talking about, it's getting time to do the 2023 LMIG application. So, some of these roads, we should probably put on there for next year's LMIG. Instead of waiting for TSPLOST and Bands and stuff. That might be a prime one, that Laryn Lane.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Well maybe I should ask this then. Will y'all allow us the flexibility of that based on the available funds to pave what we think we can do with the amount of money that we have at the time?

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Well, I think that the question at hand right now is to approve to bid out this paving here, isn't it?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, Sir.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Which is 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Bay Street, Main Street west, Pine Drive and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** And Plaza. Excuse me, and Page.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** And Page Street.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Where is that on here?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** He's asked for it.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Okay, that hasn't even come up yet. Priced out or anything and nothing like that.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** And these haven't neither. That is the thing. We are having to work backwards on this because they are wanting to get to paving before October or November. The numbers aren't finalized.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Then what are we making a motion on tonight? Because I don't know.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** What streets do you want to pave in this cycle? Is what we are making a motion to pave. He is wanting to add Page to that. And I am asking you to move the Morgan Creek stuff until the spring.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Okay, so what about Laryn Lane?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** That is Morgan Creek. And Mr. Raymond, you were okay with us moving that to the spring?

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** Yes. As long as we get it in March or April, wasn't it?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** GDOT told us that they should start seeing funds come in the first of the year. And hopefully into the spring, there would be enough funds to begin Band 1 projects. And those would be the Band 1 changes that we would make.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** Yeah, and then I would be able to get the whole thing.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes. What we are trying to figure out now is just how much asphalt are we going to be able to buy to get all of this other stuff paved. I know that 10<sup>th</sup> is probably out #1 priority right now. And nobody knows what asphalt is going to be in October and November. So we would need some wiggle room. You know that we get estimates from engineers, but until it is bid out and that is decided, we are flying in the dark.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** So when are we going to bid it?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** When you tell me what roads to bid out.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** And I am asking because it is like tonight, we make a moved to bid these things instead of waiting another 2 weeks and another 2 weeks.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yeah, that's what I am asking. Can I have a motion to bid this stuff out.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** And now we are adding to it?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Add Page Street according to Councilman Hamilton. And we move Mary Alexander and Laryn Lane to TSPLOST Band 1, and Plaza. If that is what y'all want to do. I am not trying to steer you, I'm just.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** I know that I would rather have Morgan Creek to go in the spring because I can get the whole thing done. That's what it needs. The whole Morgan Creek needs to be paved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** I just need to the stop sign.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I gotcha. We will try to do our best. Again, this depends on what everything costs. What we bid out, what we get. How much money do we get? Does a 14-inch sewer line rupture between now and then? Those are all factors that we can't control.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** So what are we doing now?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Asking for permission to bid out...

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** These streets for the 21-22 LMIG.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** And anywhere else that I can find some money to throw in there. 1<sup>ST</sup> Avenue, Bay, Main Street west, Pine Drive, and Page. Then moving Morgan Creek's Mary Alexander and Laryn Lane to GDOT Band 1. Oh, and 10<sup>th</sup>. Absolutely 10<sup>th</sup>. It is turning to dirt.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Well that one was in the original TSPLOST, and it got moved back and moved back and then it finally got to the 3<sup>rd</sup> one. And then it got cut off again.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Again, that is the problem with trying to estimate this stuff and not being able to finish it. But 10<sup>th</sup> is the #1 on the list. It has been pushed down and pushed down. If we don't get anything else done, my goal is to see 10<sup>th</sup> paved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, I think I know what we are doing. I need a motion to approve to bid out the 2021-2022 LMIG streets which are 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Bay Street, Main Street West, Pine Drive, 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and a section of Page Street.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Sound good to me. Is everybody happy with that?

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** I am.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, I need a motion then to approve to turn that in to be bid out.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any other questions? If not, I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor, show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**RESCHEDULE COUNCIL MEETING:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is reschedule the Columbus Day council meeting that is scheduled for October 10. Which I think normally what do we do?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Go to that Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, what do y'all think about that? Are you good with Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup>? Same time? Alright, I need a motion then to approve to move the October 10<sup>th</sup> council meeting to Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, that same week at 6 PM.

**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:** Second by Councilwoman Williams. All in favor show of hands. Motion approved unanimous.

**STORMWATER EQUIPMENT:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is stormwater equipment.

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** Good evening. Y'all approved us to bid out for a dump truck. What we are asking to do is a lot for \$150,000. We could purchase a used dump truck, a trailer, a truck, and various tools to go along and pull the excavator around and be able to service it and maintain it and so forth. Wynnon and I got out last week and went to several different dealerships, checking on trucks and all sorts of equipment and come up with a ballpark number that we were going to have to have. To get quality stuff, that is where we are going to have to be at. It is used but it is quality, not just raggedy junk. I know that is a lot for not being bid out and so forth by putting your faith in us. But we can't ask your dealerships to just sit there and hold a vehicle for 2 or 3 months. The only way that we can benefit is that when we find it is go back and get it.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** And our ordinance does allow for y'all to vote by majority to waive that bidding requirement if you think it is in the best interest of the city. It is a highlighted section in your packet. For emergencies and in the best interest of the city. Section 2.69 I think of the City of Eastman ordinances.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any. Of course, I know we discussed this at the work session last Friday. Cause the dump trucks, when you say they are averaging around \$50K and basically a utility truck is..

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** Dump truck is going to run about 50 or so, truck will run around 55-60, the trailer will average out about 30, and various tools will amount to about 10. So, that puts us around the \$150K mark.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** And if you was to buy new ones, what would the total be?

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** You would be pushing about \$280K. Either one of these trucks are \$100K trucks. And then you add everything else in there if you bought all brand new. I am not trying to present anything foolish. Wynnon and I got out and planned and researched.

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** And he presented that in an outline last Friday. And you could include that in your minutes. (See below:)

*City of Eastman Storm Water Supervisor need List*

- 1) *Truck to move machine. Needs to be big enough to pull 23000 lbs. It also has to be able to haul fuel tank and toolbox. \$55,000 to \$60,000. I prefer one with a flatbed. Woody Folsom in Baxley has 3 on hand Already previously approved by council.*
- 2) *Trailer to move machine. Has to be able to haul 23,000 lbs. Most places local don't have in stock but can build with lead time up to 4 weeks to 5 months. We can get 1 from Texas pride delivered for around \$25,000 to \$30,000 asap. Machine will need to be moved weekly on most projects. We can sub the moving, but each move will cost at a min of \$200 per move. (Stupid move on us)*
- 3) *Fuel tank and fuel pump to go on the truck. Machine will use approx. 25 to 30 gallon per day. I prefer to keep fuel on a truck to prevent truck theft. Cost will be \$1000 to \$1500 for pump and tank. Can buy at tractor supply. Fuel cost at the moment should average around \$500 per week on machine only.*
- 4) *Grease gun. Machine has to be greased daily to prevent pins and bearings from faster wear and tear. Cost will be Approx \$260.00 for a decent battery operated one.*
- 5) *Gas powered air compressor. I will use this to keep filters blown out weekly. I will also use this to use air powered tools for simple maintenance. Cost \$1500 Northern tool or local place*
- 6) *I will need Misc. air hoses and parts/ tools to go with the air compressor. Local at napa or tractor supply Cost \$ approx. \$300.*
- 7) *Chains and binders to chain machine down when moving machine. Cost Approx. \$1000 Local at napa or tractor supply.*
- 8) *Misc. hand tools to change busted hydraulic lines and general maintenance. Cost approx. \$500.*
- 9) *Chainsaw. This will be used to cut trees close to areas that the machine does not need to be really close to. Cost \$400 local at Wayne's Lawn Mower.*

*Total cost will be around \$95,000 up front fees. This cost is to keep this machine moving daily and keep it maintained without a lot of sub-contractor fees. Keep in mind this machine is just like a vehicle. Only the major components are under warranty. Without daily maintenance the 5-year warranty is void. I plan to run this machine 6 hours a day on average. 1 hour fuel up and general maintenance. 1 hour to plan the next day. Maintenance to me means everything. I plan to also keep a weekly log of general maintenance. This will be on the machine and truck. I will turn these into our City Manager at time of turning my payroll in each week. I plan to keep track of fuel cost on each project. I also plan to take pictures of before and after pictures on every project. I also ask that once a major is complete that someone from the council and or the city manager come out and walk each project regularly with me.*

*I know this is a new endeavor for the City of Eastman. I by no means am taking this position lightly. I'm coming in with big dreams, Ideas and expectations from myself and everyone around me. So I ask for your support and guidance.*

*Thanks,*

*Wynnon Pittman*

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I am sure April will be working on those. She is in training; I should have pointed that out. That is why Tammy is in training too.

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** All we are asking for is a good quality truck to be able to purchase and not wait for 3 weeks for to bring it before council and approve it. Because in today's market, no one will hold it.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** If they can sell it, they are going to sell it. The outline is the truck to move the machine and there is a trailer to put the machine on. This is big stuff. There is an excavator that is 23K pounds, give or take. And a fuel tank and service pump to go on the fuel truck, grease guns, and equipment like air compressor and stuff. Wynnon is going to be keeping the thing serviced daily and working on it to keep it where we are not running it until it stops and is falling apart and then you are down because you have got to go here, there and wherever to get something done.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** And if any of the council would like to see the progress that he has made in half a day or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a day, he's got pictures. We are already opening up these easements and right-of-ways. It is money well spent; I promise you.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any more questions? If not, then I will entertain a motion to approve the purchase of stormwater equipment like a dump truck, service truck, a trailer to haul the excavator and all of the equipment and fuel tanks and fuel equipment for a cost of up to \$150,000.

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

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Any other questions, council? If not, I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD:** **Second.**

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

#### **CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I don't have much to add. I want to thank the council for the excavator and the equipment. We really appreciate it. And y'all are going to see some amazing work with that. We are going to put some pictures up on Facebook. Some before and after stuff so people know that we are doing a good job with their tax money. Thank you again.

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

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** I didn't see 13, but I sure appreciate you and the service that you do and having trust in your guys. That is what it is all about.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**SUSAN COFFEE:** Where is Legion Drive in all of this? LMIG whatever. Because you have got the metal plates down there and where is it lining up in all of this?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Right now we are trying to come up with the money to do it honestly. There is 2 problems down there. One is the actual collapsing roadway. We have got one person that says they can do that for what \$480K or \$500K. The other bid is going to come in under \$250K or under. We are still waiting to see. To complicate matters, nobody really knows how to fix it. Which is kind of a scary problem. The second part of that is that lift station has failed almost daily. Almost every time it rains. We have borrowed the money to try to go into Jessup Heights and down 9<sup>th</sup> and numerous other areas in the city to repair sewer lines that are getting infiltrated with rainwater. The problem with that is, after we bid it out, we had an estimate here, but the bid came in \$800K over the estimate. So the money that we borrowed from GEFA is not enough to pay that project off. So, Jesse and those engineers in conjunction with EPD, who is mandating these repairs, are trying to figure out a way to either reduce the scope of that project but at the same time keep EPD from imposing daily fines on us. My other goal, I promise you, is to get Legion Drive repaired. I am terrified every day when a school bus rides by that road, and something happen. But we are going to get it fixed one way or the other.

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** Can I interject right here? So, the 2 engineers that we dealt with want us to go away with these culvert pipes and do box culverts or a bridge. We are looking at \$400K-\$500K for a surface street.

That is a lot of money. Those 3 pipes were put in Legion Drive when I was in my twenties, and I am fixing to be 69. Those pipes have worked all of these years. The reason they quit working is, like me going from my twenties to 69, the Harrell's age and the property that these pipes discharge onto was allowed to grow up, 5 beaver dams were built, so the positive flow stopped. So, when our water was going through these pipes, it was just like somebody put a cork at the end of them and they stopped. So the pipes came apart. I don't have a million-dollar engineering firm that I work for, but I say that we replace the pipes. It has worked for all of these years. I know hydrology. I know the city has grown some but not that much to increase the water flow. So, I say let's replace those pipes and maybe even add one more pipe to fix the positive drain and we can do it for less than \$300K. But the 2 engineering groups that looked at it wants to do the box culverts. Well, to do the box culverts, I've got to move 3 water lines. We've got to raise sidewalks. I have got to change everybody's driveway configuration. You have got the Housing Authority right there, those other apartments. You got the pump station there. All of that has to be addressed so that \$500K just for the culverts, you might as well go ahead and add \$150K on it to do all of the other. I guess I am just butting heads with some of my fellow engineers on what to do. But I just can't see spending almost \$600K on a surface street in the city of Eastman. It is ludicrous to me. That street is just not that important.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I think our plan, once Jesse is ready with that, is they will come in with their proposals and the council will have a chance, and Jesse can make a recommendation, and the council can make an evaluation, and then we can move forward.

**MITCHELL COFFEE:** Will the Harrell's let you in there?

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** We have an easement. We have free pass to go up and down there. I just have to get with EPD and the core of engineers.

**MITCHELL COFFEE:** So they are wanting to go with the same thing as the Congo Lane extension?

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** Yes, that is a box culvert. Plus, you know when they redid the Congo connector, they elevated it. Look how high it is now compared to all of the existing. It's got probably 50% more area to drain through than what Legion Drive does. But that is what I am trying not to do. I don't want Legion Drive to be in the rooftop of the Housing Authority.

**SUSAN COFFEE:** Well please put some more lights down there so when we do have water down there on that road and you are driving at night, you can see it.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We will ask GA Power to put another light pole up.

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** GA Power will be in that area in the next week or two and hopefully their engineer will come by. We have lights going up at MLK. And I will bring that to his attention.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** If that makes it a little safer, we can pay that light bill.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** If you are talking about GA Power, we got one over in Sunset.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, she is still waiting. The one on the curb?

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Yes, and it is pitch dark.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Okay, we will follow up with that. And the basketball goals are too.

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** The basketball goals should have been installed today and we have a little finishing up to do tomorrow.

**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