

September 26, 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, Police Chief Becky Sheffield, City Engineer Jesse Bearden, City Inspector Jack White and Paul McCranie. Present from the community were Mitchell and Susan Coffee, John Battle, Vicki Hardeman, Elvis Davis, and Lonnie Lewis.

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: Next on the agenda is to approve the agenda but I think we have got a change or two.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, Ms. Vicki Hardeman with the Downtown Merchants Association has asked to come before the council and make a request regarding blocking a road for the Christmas festival. She is on a time sensitive deadline, so if we could make her #1 it would be appreciated. That is the only change right now. Well, let me say that the new #3 is actually going to be requesting to apply for a CDBG for a sewer rehab instead of Bacon Heights.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright. Council, do y'all have anything else that we need to add or a question? If not, then I need a motion to amend the agenda and change #1 to Vicki Hardeman and the old #2 for CDBG to sewer rehab. I need a motion to approve those amendments.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: **So moved.**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a motion to approve the changes. I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: **Second.**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: All in favor? Motion carried unanimous. Now I need a quick motion to approve the agenda as it now stands.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: **So moved.**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Motion to approve the new agenda. 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 MINUTES:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next is to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2022, regular meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: **So moved.**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. 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.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:**VICKI HARDEMAN:**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: First is Ms. Vicki Hardeman. Will you come forward please?

VICKI HARDEMAN: I know that all of you are aware of the annual Christmas Open House that we have every year. It is scheduled for November 10 this year from 5-8 pm. And I found this little train thing. I didn't prepare myself too good because I didn't bring a picture. He runs it with a riding lawn mower. And this guy has built like some little cars behind it. I wanted to see if there was a possibility that we could block the street, only from 5-8, on corner of 3rd and Main to just maybe down to sidetrack or a little more so the little kids could ride. We would need some space for the little train to turn around and such. And then maybe possibly have a food truck or two in there. We are trying to add to our Christmas open house and make it a little bigger and better. And then we could put it all in one location and just have the one street blocked. It would only be from 5-8 pm.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And I did run that idea by Scotty Whitten, the fire chief. And he said it wouldn't interfere with fire operations of the council approves it.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any more questions for Vicki?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: What was the date again?

VICKI HARDEMAN: November 10th.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: That is on a Thursday night? Yep. Any other questions? Well, I will entertain a motion to close that street from the corner of 3rd Avenue down to Sidetrack or a little bit further down below it from 5- 8 pm for the annual Christmas open house downtown.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I 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.

INSERTION VALVE EQUIPMENT:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is insertion valve equipment.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: The Council previously approved us to bid out for water department valve equipment. No one responded to the bid, so we reached out to Dublin Winwater and to Consolidated Pipe and Supply Company Inc. We received a bid of \$73,061.52 from Dublin Winwater and a bid of \$67,863.00 from Consolidated Pipe. But the difference is Dublin Winwater also included training in the amount of \$4,800. After speaking with Jack, Paul, and Mr. Royce with the water department and Jack, do you want to give them your recommendation?

INSPECTOR WHITE: The package is more complete with Winwater. You actually get it broken down into more detail with what you are looking at. As far as getting what you want and then training, I would recommend going with Winwater. With the other bid, you have a lot of questions about what all you are getting.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any more questions? If not, then I will entertain a motion to approve the purchase of the valve insertion equipment from Dublin Winwater for \$73,061.52.

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. Do they have this in stock or is this a 6-month delay?

INSPECTOR WHITE: There is a 6-week lead time on it. We will go ahead and talk to them tomorrow and get it ordered.

CDBG:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next is the CDBG grant for sewer rehab that we are applying for.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, we are at or approaching the 70% completion point with our current CDBG. It is getting time to select a project to apply for a new one. We have been talking with Jesse and I think that he has got some ideas that we need to consider, and we need the council to make a decision on what to apply for.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: First, I will give an update on the Cottondale CDBG. Last week they pressurized all of the pipe. They had a few little leaks and creeks and things like that and all of that was repaired. This week they are going to sanitize the pipe. Let it sit for 48 hours. Then they will take a bacteria test and that another 24-hours. So, hopefully, we will have a clean system and then we will start tying services to it. So, all the pipes are in the ground. The only thing we need to do is once we get a clearing on the bacteria, is to get the services and reconnect the new line to the houses. So, with that being said, the CDBG is available again to us. As you all know, we signed a letter a year and a half ago with EPD in Albany for a corrective action plan because our I&I, which is infiltration inflow of groundwater into our sewer system causes us to have spills when we have heavy rainfalls. And so we've got, of course, the GEFA fund to take care of the Jessup Heights, Pine Drive, 11th & 12th, and around the Palm Drive, 7th area up that way, Delacy & 7th. But that's not going to take care of all of our I&I problems. We are still going to have a good bit of problem over north of the Dublin Hwy, around the Sheldon Street area, those areas in there. Down there around the TG&Y shopping center with the Eastman Housing Authority and Harrell Street. And the third one was Edgewood. A lot of people don't realize that Edgewood and all of that area on MLK and Edgewood drains back to Jessup Heights. And so, of course, that puts that much more pressure on what we are already attempting to fix now. Due to the corrective action plans with EPD, I just feel like that we need to continue with this sewer and this infiltration and inflow problem.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I have got a question for you. I rode over in that neighborhood last week I believe it was. Are they going to straighten up all of that stuff that they have messed up over there? You know what I am talking about?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: The cuts in the road and everything?

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: Well, that and they just pushed all of that dirt up and just left it there.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: That and all of the debris in the roadway.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: There is a lot of cleanup to be done. But you know that it's a tight little place. And to get all of the equipment that they need at one time, has been kind of hard. So, they concentrated and I kind of wanted to let them get along with this. I wanted them to get all of the waterline in that they could and then they could come back and pick up the debris, the busted concrete. But you know that it is tight over there and it was just hard for all of them to do everything at one time. But you know that we've got road crossing that's gotta be repaved. There in front of Cottondale Baptist Church has to be repaved and sidewalks repoured. So, yes, we probably could have done a little bit better job, but we had a good contractor. It's a mom-and-pop contractor and so, I guess I kind of gave him a little more growth than normally I would have. But yes, we're in the process of getting that cleaned up. As soon as they get through this week, and we know everything's good and they're not going to have to dig up anymore. Then, it's going to be cleaned up and repaved.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: Good. Thank you, Jesse.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any other questions? I will entertain a motion then to approve to the application process for a CDBG grant for a sewer rehab.

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: Second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show of hands. Motion approved unanimous.

SUNSET PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next is Sunset Park playground equipment.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Last week I met with representatives from Sunset and the Minister's Association. They are asking if the council would please consider purchasing some new playground equipment for the Sunset Park. This would include a multi-station play set, two barbeque grills, a rotating climber for the spring mounted bouncy stations that the kids can ride on. A rough estimate of that amount would be approximately \$114,835. Now that is just the price in the catalog. I have explained to them that we would have to bid that amount out. So, we're asking first for permission to bid it out and then we will bring that back to the council and let them make a decision.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Do we have a picture of what you are talking about?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Right here. Do you want to start with the multi-station playset first?

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: No, I mean can you make a copy of all of this stuff? Sure, you said \$114K and I about fell out of my seat. I am like, how much equipment?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, we will be glad to. Do you want us to do it now or do you want to wait until the next meeting?

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I would like to see what all you are talking about.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: If we can get copies, that way we can take them home and look at them.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Do you want to just table it and get the copies after the meeting then?

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright, we will get the copies and carry them home so we will be able to look at them.

LONNIE LEWIS: About the Sunset Park equipment, I met with Spence last week and he showed me the book that the prices of the equipment and everything. We know that there, out there at Sunset Park, all of the equipment is old and run down. So, I saw on TV where Kemp had released \$250 million for parks and recreation. And I want to see if we can get that grant so we can update all the equipment at the Sunset Park.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We can't apply until we get bids on it.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: And they did extend it didn't they? Because I have been looking into that same thing. Didn't they extend it, and they are waiting on it or something like that?

LONNIE LEWIS: Nah, they said they are going to release it January 1. They will start releasing the money the 1st of January 2023. So all we gotta do, or you gotta do is put the grant in. Hopefully, y'all will get accepted and we can move forward with the equipment at the park. I appreciate the goals. We got the goals up and everything. They have been playing on the goal. Everything has been running smooth with the goals. I know the next step is the cameras. We have got to get the cameras up and then move the fence back a little bit.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: Aren't they working on the grants for us now?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: That grant is for the Club.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: But the other one too. The one I heard on TV.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We don't qualify for the other one.

GRAD SITE/ONE GEORGIA:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the grad site at the airport and a One Georgia grant or something. I think we have some discussion on that right now. Right now, it seems that it isn't annexed into the city so it ain't nothing we can apply for anyway.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, the Development Authority has asked if the city would join them in making an application for that land that we're in the process of annexing in. It's 68, roughly, acres. Isn't that right? So the question is, do you want to go ahead and start the paperwork on it or just wait?

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Me, I would rather wait. Because I think we have had this conversation. We have got water and sewage out there.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, it is right there at the edge of it.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I don't know and with the grad site folks. You have been to Atlanta with them. They say, don't go out and run it everywhere.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: That is what I have been told but now, this is with the development authority. So, I refer back to them.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: But it is coming to us. I mean, I don't know. Right now, the city, it is not in our name. So, there is nothing that we can apply for anyway. So, I mean, it's not in the city.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yeah, the question was whether to start the paperwork before rather than just wait, but I mean, what's the time frame on annexation?

ATTORNEY LLOP: I have not heard from the county. I probably need to follow up with them.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: So yeah, whatever y'all think is best, we'll delay that too.

ATTORNEY LLOP: If that is true, I can go ahead and have the resolution and will come prepared for the next meeting. And then we will have to file with several state agencies before it's finalized. But that can be done after it's accepted by the city. We can have that in the works.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright.

APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next is to approve the monthly bills for September 13 – September 26, 2022. Y'all have them in your packet. Any questions about any of them? I will entertain a motion to approve the bills for September 13 – September 26.

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.

PLANNING & ZONING RECOMMENDATION:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the planning and zoning recommendation for Mr. Elvis Davis @ 5711 1st Avenue for a special use permit converting the old Teddy's Treehouse into apartments.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Mr. Davis has applied for a permit, and we have carried it to P&Z to turn the old Teddy's Treehouse into apartments. It has been approved through P&Z and he and I have spoken on what we expect as far as the municipality and the code and so forth. Everything is a go as far as I can see. It is in y'all's hands.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Elvis, any idea if this passes and all, when you will start on it?

ELVIS DAVIS: I hope within the next month or so. I still have to finalize and do a couple of other things.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: You hope to complete it by the first of the year? And how many apartments?

ELVIS DAVIS: 8

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright. Council do you have any more questions? If not, then I will need a motion to approve the planning and zoning recommendation for Mr. Elvis Davis with a special use permit to convert the old Teddy's Treehouse into apartments.

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 motion from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

BUILDING INSPECTOR RECOMMENDATION:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next is the building inspector recommendation for Norman Simmons at 321 Poplar Street. It is self-contracted and a rebuild after a fire.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Mr. Simmons has applied for a building permit to rebuild where his home had burned. He has signed to affidavit to not hold the city for any blame for any fails or any questions about it, because he is wanting to be a self-contractor. He has given us a rough draft of what he is wanting to build. I am going to leave that in y'all's hands. He has told me that this is going to be his personal residence but that has yet to be determined.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any other questions? If not then, I need a motion to approve the building inspector recommendation for Mr. Norman Simmons at 321 Poplar Street.

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 MULLIS: I just want to reflect on that I know that we have a lot of people that is wanting some lights in the neighborhood and stuff like that. But I talked to a Georgia Power man the other day and he said they can't hardly get the lights. So I don't know how long it will be before we get enough lights to even handle what we have got. I just want to pass that along so people would know that it ain't us, it's Georgia Power.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Before we leave, I would like to get a printout about the equipment for the park to have for the next meeting.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We could have had it tonight if y'all would have asked. Just let me know ahead of time, when you get the agendas, and we will have it. You know that it just speeds things up.

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK