

April 11, 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, Attorney Rita Llop, Engineer Jesse Bearden, City Clerk April Sheffield, Assistant Police Chief Billy Cooper, Fire Chief Scotty Whitten, and Building Inspector Jack White. Present from the community were John Battle, Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Pastor George Fluellen, and Gail Smith-Carr.

All attendees practiced social distancing guidelines due to COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was streamed via Facebook Live, and the public was provided an opportunity to submit questions and/or comments via Facebook Live.

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 item on the agenda is to approve the agenda unless we have anything to add to it?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: No Sir.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I make a motion to approve the agenda.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Got a motion from Councilman Mullis to approve the agenda as it stands. 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 on the agenda is to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2022, regular meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilman Mullis to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Council, do y'all have anything that y'all noticed in them as far as spelling or anything that needs to be corrected? 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:

MONTHLY FIRE DEPT REPORT:

CHIEF SCOTTY WHITTEN: For the month of March, we had a total of 43 calls. 23 inside and 20 outside. 1 structure fire. Brush fires were a total of 10. Power lines down 1. Gas leak/spill 3. Medical calls, we ran a total of 7. Vehicle rescues, total of 13. Electrical alarm, a total of 2. Check on smoke, total of 2. And I do want to say on that one structure fire that we did have in the city, y'all know that it was the plant out there at the airport. Those guys worked very, very hard. Those cities that sent in help, we

greatly appreciate it, them coming in to assist us. I also want to thank the city manager for his support during that night.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Thank you Sir, we appreciate you.

MONTHLY POLICE DEPT REPORT:

ASSISTANT CHIEF BILLY COOPER: For the month of March, we used 1,062 gallons of gas, answered 961 calls, and had 38 accidents.

APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to approve the monthly bills for March 28, 2022 – April 11, 2022. Y'all should have got those in your packets. Council, do y'all have any questions about any of them? If not, I need a motion to approve the bills.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I make a motion to approve the bills for March 28, 2022 – April 11, 2022.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I've got a motion to approve the bills. I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Seconded by Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show hands. Motion carried unanimous.

SKINNERTOWN COUMMUNITY ANNUAL MEMORIAL WALK:

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We have a request from Sharon Pitts with the Skinnertown Community Organization. There is a map in your packet that shows the proposed walk. It is going to be Mt. Moriah Street, down Dodge Avenue and Main Street. We ask that the council would consider approving it for them.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: This is the same route that they do each year, isn't it?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes. It will be Saturday, May 7, 8:30 AM is the warm-up.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Billy, is the police department going to be able to help with this like they normally do?

ASSISTANT CHIEF COOPER: Yes Sir, we probably will.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: She said that she would get with y'all after it was approved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Saturday, May 7th.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes. 8:30 is the warm-up. There is going to be a 1PM – 5PM BBQ cook-off.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: So, the walk starts at 9 and ends at 11:30 at the church. Then from 1 – 5 is community day with a BBQ cook-off tentative. Now, where will that be at.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I believe it is at Mt Moriah if I remember correctly.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: At the church I reckon. Council, do y'all have any other questions or anything? If not, then I need a motion to approve the Skinnertown Annual Memorial Walk and BBQ Cook-off.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Second.

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

LULL FOR THE STREET DEPARTMENT:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is I believe to advertise for a lull for the street department.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes. You remember that we talked about it at one of the work sessions. It has gotten to the point that we need one weekly, if not daily in some cases. Instead of renting one, we would like to go ahead and bid out to purchase one if the council will allow us.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: Explain what it is, because not everyone knows what a lull is.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: This one will be a 4-wheel track vehicle. It has got a boom on it that will extend out. It has forks that will allow us to lift I believe up to 5K pounds. The one that we are going to quote out will have a bucket on the end so when we are putting the flags up, we will be able to do that safely or more safely than putting a ladder up against a light pole and trying to do it. Jesse and Matt have told me that we would be able to pull pumps from the lift station using it too. It is something that we will use for the next 20 or 30 years. Rather than rent one every time that we need it, let's just go ahead and buy one.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: I will make one comment. If you leave here and go across 3rd, you will see one parked there by Ms. Simmons' place. It is being used for the work on the Leatherman's place. Just for reference.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Y'all got the specs and what size that we need?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, we are finalizing that, if y'all approve it, based on the specs that me, Jack, and Jesse have come up with. That is what we will publish at the next available opportunity.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Now bid us out one big enough that pumps. Don't get us some baby one that we have to turn around and say that this one won't do this and that.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We are going to make sure that every department can use it. It is going to have everything that we need.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Just to be sure, y'all are going to get the specs and go ahead and advertise it with this motion? Or are you going to bring it back to us with the size and what you are wanting.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I prefer to go ahead and advertise it once we finalize the specs on it, which we hope to do in 24 – 48 hours. If y'all will trust me, Jack, and Jesse to approve the horsepower, the lift, or say the capacity to lift and the boom length on it. Once we finalize that, we will put it together in an ad and we will run it in next week's paper.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Yes, I trust y'all to do that. I just wanted that clarification. I reckon we will move forward, and I will entertain a motion to give Spence, Jack and Jesse to let them come up with the size that we need and advertise for bids on a new lull machine.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Some people call it a lift but for whatever reason, the people around here call it a lull.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright, I have a motion for it. Are there any more questions? If not, I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Second from Councilman Woodard, all in favor show hands. Motion approved unanimously.

DELINQUENT TAX SALE:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the delinquent tax sale.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: It has been the custom in the past for this council to hold a sale on delinquent properties every other year. So, this is the year to do it if y'all will approve us to partner with GTS again to do that.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: All the fees that they charge are paid for by the people that we charge. There is not anything extra required from us.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I think that this is the same group that the county uses.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: Yes, we have used them for the last 5 or 6 tax sales.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And are very well satisfied with their services.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: How much delinquent taxes do we have out there?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I would have to get back with you on that.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: We start out with probably 300 taxes and then weed it down to 50 or so.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We will have that exact number to you before noon tomorrow. Once those notices go out, you will notice a lot of that diminish before the sale occurs. Or so I have been told.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: He said it would be an October sale by the time we got through all of the processes.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: How far behind are people on their taxes?

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: It would be for 2021 taxes and 2020 taxes because of us skipping a year. And also, with having that late of a sale date, the buyers will be expected to go ahead and pay 2022 taxes as well.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Any more questions? If not, then I will need a motion to approve to allow GTS to conduct our delinquent tax sale.

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: Second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor, show of hands. Motion carried unanimous. I think that they pay the postage, they do everything, the mailers. It doesn't cost us anything.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: Yes, they are only paid by what we collect from what we add to the taxes. If we don't collect, they don't get the money either.

PEABODY PARK STAGE:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Peabody Park Stage.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, we have several guests from the United Concerned Citizens to make a request to council regarding the Juneteenth festival and improvements at the Peabody Park area as well.

GAIL SMITH-CARR: I stand here for the United Concerned Citizens of Dodge County. We are coming back before you for the official Juneteenth committee to ask for another proclamation for the weekend of June 18-19, 2022. I want to ask also, last year I think it was a big success, asking again that the road be closed with the barrels. But we had some that were coming on through and trying to drive through; so maybe we can close that street and the area like we did last year. It was MLK Jr Drive. We hope that the flags will be flown again this year.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We hope to have a new lull to hang them with again this year.

GAIL SMITH-CARR: That's right. The next thing is the stage. With these events that we are having, last year we had to use trailers that we pulled in. We had dance competitions and different things and a stage would be very needed over there at Peabody, for not just this event but future events. And it would be open for the public as long as they go by the guidelines of the United Concerned Citizens. That is much needed for the community for the different things and events for the public.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And we have talked and y'all would be okay with the library or the college using it if they needed to use it also? If they have an event or something where they might could make use of a public stage. John, are you good with that too?

JOHN BATTLE: Whatever events that are held there, with the bylaws and procedures of the United Concerned Citizens, if they stay within those guidelines with safety and all of that, then we want that.

But for any other activity that is not confined to the bylaws, we want it to be for the well-being of the community and citizens of Dodge County.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Is this going to be like a permanent or what size stage are you talking about?

GAIL SMITH-CARR: We are looking at a 16 x 24. I went and spoke to Don's Rental and what he sent us was about the size we had last year. Those kids were dancing and flipping, and we thought that we really needed something a little more stable and be there permanently. Then we won't have to keep revisiting this.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Where would it be placed at?

JOHN BATTLE: If we are fortunate enough to get the stage, annexed to the regular building is the old kitchen. We are in the process of trying to get funds to refurbish that. When we finish with the event, it has a big door on the side. We can fold it up and probably push it in there for protection and safe keeping so y'all don't have to worry about trying to store it down here where people will have easy access to it. So, we will put it in that building, that is what we are hoping and working on.

PASTOR FLUELLEN: Um, you won't be able to fold that stage that we are talking about. It would be a permanent outside stage with all treated wood and also done with the waterproof seal. It will be a 16 x 24 and it will be adjacent to the cement slab that is right there with the mural that we have. And so that when we get the lunchroom area done, the stage will also be in part with it. It will be for, like in Macon with Music in the Park, where they have live bands that come and play, picnics and things of that nature, outside streaming movies for family. It will be used for several different events for the city. And just like Mr. Battle and Ms. Gail said, to come and rent it from the city, they would need to come to the United Concerned Citizens and go according to the guidelines that they have set, and it would be for the public.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I ask these questions, and it is not trying to knock you down, but this is something that we are going to have to take and see how we can do this. Peabody, the city don't own it. So, it's like us giving money to build something and then you say that if somebody wants it, that they can rent it and then we are going to all get in trouble. Am I right in going down this path, Rita?

ATTORNEY LLOP: Yes, you should probably take it under consideration. I hear Mr. Battle saying that there are guidelines for use of the Peabody Center, is that correct? So, perhaps you could provide what those guidelines are.

PASTOR FLUELLEN: The fee is for the upkeep and the grounds and for things of that nature like you would do at a park. The kind of things that you would do at a city park. Sometimes, you have to put it in a fee or something. We don't do it here in Eastman but like in McRae, go to the park and your family is having a reunion, and pay for the gazebo things.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: And going along those lines, the state owns that. I reckon what I am getting at, the city, we don't own that complex. I don't know. This isn't saying no we can't do it, but it's like we may need some kind of memorandum of understanding and probably need a copy of what y'all's guidelines are.

GAIL SMITH-CARR: And the guidelines is that everything needs to be like for the family. That is what the guidelines are for the United Concerned Citizens. We aren't trying to have alcohol and big things, that is what he is saying are guidelines is. Everything to be like for the entire family. We want it to be like a park for the entire family. As far as having something where we got groups like that are gang related, No.

PASTOR FLUELLEN: I understand what you are saying also Mr. Buddy, due to the fact that like you say, I understand that it is not owned by the city. What we are trying to do now is make it city friendly. We are trying to make it a part of the city. And everything that we have talked doing about doing along with the walk park, where we want to bring down everything along that street. We want to make this building a part of bring in the unification with the library and the college and so on. So that even when

the kids are at the college and they want to come around and be at the Concerned Citizens Building, which we are hoping to make a historical building also, so that you can go in and see some of the historical sites. It will be a part of the community and that is what we are fighting for.

JOHN BATTLE: Let me just add this to the attorney there. We already have a memorandum agreement that we are working on, right? So, we are in the process. For the past previous event, the city has approved us. So, we can go back and visit that. Take that memorandum and make sure that we can interject what we are talking about. We can put words in there which would incorporate all of this, which will keep the city safe, keep the United Concerned Citizens safe, and we could revisit that, and we could add a paragraph to that and make it feasible where it will protect us and the city. Because the United Concerned Citizens is liable for that property.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: And the purpose of that memorandum of understanding is like every year out there at the rec department, there is these travel ball teams. And we put out some good ones because they are winning state tournaments every year. But, if they come to us, we just can't give money to them. That is the purpose of this. It is not saying no we can't do it.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We have got to find a legal way to do it.

JOHN BATTLE: Like I said, we need to revisit the memorandum. We can add a statement or phrase in there that will cover the city and with this particular piece of property, we would not have to visit it every year. We hope that this piece of property will be a long sustainable piece of property. If we manage it right and keep it sustained due to the property and the kind of wood, it is going to be. What is it called, treated wood? If we do what we are supposed to do, we hope that we will not have to come and visit this in my lifetime. And I hope that be 30 years.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I tell you what we can do. We can go ahead and make a motion to come up with a proclamation for Juneteenth, hang the flags, and close the street. And when y'all are doing this to add this in here, stop, and if you got a question, call Spence or bring it by and say, what about this?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I would suggest Rita and myself and this group get together between now and the next council meeting, and let's finalize a draft and let's get it to y'all before the meeting if that is okay with y'all.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: It is like you said John. Us, y'all. It is the same that we do with Faithful Hearts. We have a thing with them. They take animals, not all of them because they can't, but they home them out and do whatever. But that will cover all of us. But I will ask for a motion to go ahead and do the proclamation for June 18-19, and hang the flags, and close the streets. And as it gets closer, y'all can get with Becky and Billy and them and see about policing stuff. They will probably get with Brian and them for some Sheriff's folks and all. But y'all work in the next week or so and get that done for when we come back for the next meeting, and we will finalize that part. How about that?

GAIL SMITH-CARR: That's great, thank you.

PASTOR FLUELLEN: Alright, thank you.

JOHN BATTLE: Sounds good to me.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright, I will entertain a motion for the city to come up with a proclamation to issue for the annual Juneteenth event to be held the weekend of June 18-19, 2022, and hang the flags as we have done in the past like last year down Oak Street, and close Martin Luther King Jr. And like I said, y'all work with Spence and Becky as we get closer to that and all. I will entertain a motion for all of that.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Got a motion from Councilman Mullis. Council, do y'all have any more questions or anything? 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. And y'all get back and work on the MOU.

CITY OF ETHICS RECERTIFICATION:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the city of ethics recertification.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: It is time to renew our resolution if the council wishes to participate in GMA's City of Ethics program. We would like to be recognized, if possible, at the June 2022 conference. If the council would agree to it, we would like to present that resolution and move it forward and be a part of that program again, as we have in the past.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Would you like me to read this resolution? If not, we would be happy to provide you with a copy of it. (Copy is attached as part of the minutes.) This is a step that we did several years ago. Every 4 years, we recertify. We actually came up with an ordinance that says we are all supposed to be ethical. I need a motion then to approve the resolution for recertification to be a City of Ethics with GMA.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD: Second.

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

BUILDING INSPECTOR RECOMMENDATION:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the building inspector recommendation for Vintage Pine Beauty Spa, LLC. Sandy Adams at 308 Pine Street. Contractor is Michael Jones.

INSPECTOR WHITE: We have the complete package with all permits, the plat, copy of the deed, the electrical and the blueprints, specs on the groundwork and everything. We would like to move forward if y'all will allow it.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: And where is this on Pine Street?

INSPECTOR WHITE: It is in between Plaza Cleaners and the RESA building. The empty lot.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Oh, over there by Community Action Agency, across from Rickie Coleman's Fast Lube. Alright. It looks like everything is in order. Then I will entertain a motion from council to approve the building inspector permit for Vintage Pine Beauty Spa, LLC., Sandy Adams.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Second.

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

HOME OCCUPATION LICENSE:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is an approval of a home occupation license for the Jermayne Hamilton Leadership Foundation. Jermayne Hamilton @ 5820 8th Avenue with professional services/professional development. Since this involves council member Hamilton, we will ask him to abstain and leave the table.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Yes, I will abstain. (Exits the room)

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Just to run through it real quick, Mr. Hamilton has put in an application for a home occupation license. The type of business he lists is professional service and development. He will

be working out of his home doing Zoom conferences with individuals and he will also be meeting offsite with customers at different locations. In talking with him, it is not retail trade. There is not going to be a large influx of traffic in the residential neighborhood or his home. From what he has told us.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: And no sign in front of his house either.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: There are some limits to our sign ordinance. I will have to double check on that.

ATTORNEY LLOP: Size and location, I think. But I think he actually has to have an application or a permit for the sign.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any other questions? He did say that it would either be zoom or telephone or even go and meet folks somewhere. But it wouldn't be like traffic in and out of the neighborhood and house. If there is no other questions, I will entertain a motion to approve the home occupation license for the Jermayne Hamilton Leadership Foundation.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Second.

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

(Council member Hamilton reenters the room)

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I am going to yield my time to our city engineer. Several of the council had asked for an update on Legion Drive and he has got that prepared for you.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: During the course of review of the Legion Drive, fortunately we have not had any 5-inch, 2-hour rainfall events this year. Legion Drive, plus the destruction of 5 beaver dams, has almost made it back to normal, or at least the water flow. That tributary that runs to Legion Drive begins around 12th or 13th Avenue, right below the middle school. There is almost 500 acres of water that drains through that tributary. Of course, the park, every cross 9th, 8th, 7th, 6th, 5th and so on to the Post Office on 2nd. So, it's a pretty big watershed. Those pipes have historically taken care of the issue until the beaver dams got to be the biggest issue of impeding the flow. With that being said, Hofstadter and Associates came down and did some surveying and did some preliminary designs. And they talked about where on the Congo Lane extension, at the same creek, you are probably 18 feet in the air from creek. That is basically what they are wanting to do to Legion Drive. It would be putting box culverts in to make sure that there is no impediment of flow, and the flow can get on out of the way. They are talking about raising Legion Drive and putting those boxes in. And with that being said, you have got changes of sewer, you've got a lot of the repaving and of course all of the re-striping to do, and you have a lot of stone and rock riprap. But it would be nice. These are the Mercedes Benz of road crossings, but it is also the Mercedes Benz price of \$483,936.99. You are looking at almost a half of a million dollars for Legion Drive crossing. It is a surface street. It is not a major thoroughfare. I know it gets a lot of business, but it is a surface street to spend almost a half a million dollars on. Alright, my proposal. Those pipes are in pretty good shape, but they do need some help. I can have those pipes relined with smooth bore plastic. Basically, it is called cured in place polypropylene. Those pipes will continue to function for another 40 years with this new liner in it. Of course, we have had some damage to the road because of some of the flooding. We have one lane closed because the dirt and the roadbed has washed out from under the pavement. So, of course, we are going to have to cut that pavement. And if you wanted to, we could replace those pipes, but I think those pipes are in good enough shape that we don't have to. We could do some repaving and do some grading. Also, with this, by Hofstadter wanting to bring the box culverts back and replacing with them, it means we are going to have to change the

water lines and we are going to have to change the sewer lines. All of that is included in their price. If we did this, all of our infrastructure is going to stay the same. Of course, we are going to have to work in the stream. We are going to have to clean out the sediment from Legion Drive probably all the way up to Cooper if not all the way to 2nd. But, mostly from Cooper to Legion, we will have to clean out the sediment to give us an unimpeded flow. So, ballpark within \$20,000, I say the city can do my proposed plan for \$175,000. That would be a savings of a little over \$300,000. I say that let's keep the Chevrolet that has been working all of these years and spend less than \$200,000 versus the Mercedes Benz for a half a million. The purpose of that road is to cross it. A half a million dollars on a surface street seems ludicrous to me. But that is why y'all are there and I am here.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I know that when I ride by, over on the left, that ditch is about full. Full of dirt, grass, weeds, everything. Will that digging out some, looking down that creek, do we need to wallow that out going back toward Bill and them's place so the water can flow all of the way?

ENGINEER BEARDEN: We will put it back to its natural conditions of what it was prior to the beavers. That is what the core of engineers allows us to do. So, we will have adequate drainage, yes. So, that is what I have in here. The lining was \$103,044. For the grading, I have estimated \$48,000, and for the paving \$21,500. Of course, these are subject to change because prices are going up on everything. I have to beg some of these suppliers to sell us water meters some of these days. But this is today's prices. But we don't have to move any water lines. We don't have to move a 12-inch sewer line. We have a big sewer line that is exposed, and it will have to stay exposed. But that is okay, it is a lined pipe.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: How far? I mean this watershed comes up from all the way to Ms. Genevland's house on Park Street and all of the way to the school. How far back can we dig and unimpede the water flow?

ENGINEER BEARDEN: We are limited to 200 feet per road crossing.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We can go 200 feet up and down from each crossing?

ENGINEER BEARDEN: Yes, to only remove sediment.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I remember years ago, just in neighborhoods, everybody's houses use to have drainage ditches. Now everybody's yard is nice and smooth, and the rain now flows out of the yard and across the street and everything else goes into it too.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Is this causing an immediate attention?

ENGINEER BEARDEN: Yes Sir. We are about to lose the southeast bound lane on Legion Drive. That is why the barrels have it blocked and why you have to take the center lane. It is pretty immediate.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: This would qualify as ARPA money as well as SPLOST. So, there is 2 different pots that we can pull from.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: I need to turn the cheek and shouldn't have said that about them. I am not complaining one bit about Hofstadter's design. I like to say that we have got that design. But DOT paid for it on the Congo Lane extension. Never had another day's problem there. I can't tell you that if we have another 10-inch rain in less than 24 hours, sure Legion Drive is going to run over. There are 3 - 42inch pipes. They don't take the flow that they have historically. With some of these high intensity rainfalls, we might still have a little spillover. With that box culvert, we never will. But then again like I say, you are talking about elevating the road. Maybe not as much as the Congo Lane extension is elevated but you are still talking about placing a lot of fills. It will probably be 5 to 6 feet higher than what we know as Legion Drive right now. It will be elevated up and I don't know how that is going to impact the intersection of MLK and Legion Drive. Anyway, there is 5 or 10 more variations between mine and theirs. If neither one of these suit y'all, we will drop back and punt and come up with something different.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: One more. What would be the difference if we decided to draw back and refigure the price, what would be the different other approach?

ENGINEER BEARDEN: If you do it my way, just remember back about 4 years ago going across Legion Drive and it won't be any different. It would be put back just like it was except it will be improved. It will have liners in the pipes and have the capacity restored into the channel and the water will get out of the way. With this, just close your eyes and think about crossing the creek right there on Congo extension. That is what it would look like. Big road fill coming up and elevated higher. So, when you come off Griffin and come down that hill, you will level a little bit and then go on. I don't know how that elevation is going to impact the Housing Authority, Junior Howell's business, the old store on the corner and the church on the other corner. I don't know how that is going to impact their ingress and egress because I have not seen a full drawing of Hofstadter's proposal. You will have other concerns with that. With mine, you are just going back to the old Chevrolet that we use to drive.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: One question. We are going to have to keep the m beavers out of there, right?

ENGINEER BEARDEN: That is #1 priority. We have an easement now. In the past, we have never had an easement. It took Spence and myself dealing with Rita and all of the Harrell siblings that are scattered about. It has taken us almost 9 months to get an easement to go on their property. We have got that easement now so we can keep that maintained and keep that positive drainage. When I say positive drainage, that means that that creek is going to run. It is not going to back up and pond up and those beaver dams are not going to back the water up on Legion Drive again. I hate that happened, but it did. We would have been trespassers if we had got out in there. We did do some by hand because they had gave us verbal but that did not allow us to put equipment on their property. But now we have that easement.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I reckon as far as action, y'all talk about it and come up with it wrote down and prices and stuff and we can make a move next meeting and go ahead and vote.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: I don't know if I will have it that quick, but I will do my best to.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: By the next meeting or 2?

ENGINEER BEARDEN: 2? Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Thank you for your hard work.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Chief, could you reach out to those agencies and tell them that we surely appreciate them backing us up with the water and everything. From the city, we sure appreciate it. And, if we need them again, we know they will be right around the corner.

CHIEF WHITTEN: I will.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I will say this too, it goes unsaid that we really appreciate those firemen. But you had Jesse out there, you had Matt and Terry out there, you had Mr. Royce. They were turning valves and redirecting water that whole evening trying to get enough power out there or water pressure to them. We really appreciate what all of those guys did to support Scotty and them.

CHIEF WHITTEN: I have talked with the leaders of Valence, and we are kind of putting together a kind of appreciation. Don't exactly know what date, but we are putting it together. We just appreciate everybody's support.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

VIA FACEBOOK:

BEN EVANS: We need speed bumps around Cottondale Baptist Church.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: That has been the single most popular thing that I think we have spent money on in 2 months is those speed humps. I guess they are a lot cheaper than police officers running radar guns, aren't they Coop? We have one neighborhood ahead of him, but we will put him on the list.

GAIL SMITH-CARR: It works.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: It works? So y'all are happy with them.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: How much are they?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Well, we have bought 3 now for roughly \$8,000, I think. They are not cheap, but they are highly effective and very durable. These are the humps that slow you down to 15, not to 5. So, they don't damage the vehicles. That has probably been a success. That method versus the actual bumps that slow you down to 5mph. We have 3. We order them and it is usually 4 to 6 weeks and then a semi brings them in. We can only do so many every quarter and stay within budget. We are trying to space them around different neighborhoods to keep everyone happy and be fair about it.

SHARON COBB FLANAGAN: I will just comment on the Ben Evans. There is others that are in that neighborhood that are actually in the county. They are saying that the speed going through that area, well I think it is one block that is in the county, but the people that are driving through Cottondale to get there are asking for some control over the traffic speed. Whether it be policing or something. This sounds like a good solution.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: It works good. We have used them in neighborhoods here and that is what she was just telling us. I think we have 3 in your neighborhood.

GAIL SMITH-CARR: Yes, over in Bacon Heights.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I think it is Congo Lane that is next up.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: It's MLK and it is wonderful too.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We have gotten a lot of compliments on MLK. What we are trying to do is work through the council districts and we are going to get over to Cottondale and get him some too.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Sharon, is the county doing any of that?

SHARON COBB-FLANAGAN: It hasn't been discussed. What I know is those white strip lines, I don't know the terminology, oh rumble strips, that is what is being put down. I don't know about in the Cottondale area.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I ask because there are some county roads that are outside of the city limits but seem like they are in the city limits. They have asked about speed bumps too.

SHARON COBB-FLANAGAN: Okay, if I have a way of getting those locations, I will get those to Conner. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Okay, I will get them to you.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PROPERTY MATTERS

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I will entertain a motion to go into executive session at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I make a motion that we go into executive session.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: 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.

(All members exit the room to go into executive session)

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I would like a motion to come out of executive session and go back into regular session.

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 carried unanimous.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Now I will entertain a motion to give City Manager Barron approval to purchase the MB Grace property on 5th Avenue, contingent upon a satisfactory survey, removal of personal property from the seller, a satisfactory title search, and an execution of rele ase.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: **So moved.**

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

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: **Second.**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Second by Council Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK