

**April 25, 2022**

The Eastman City Council met in a regular scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Buddy Pittman, Raymond Mullis, Sebrina Williams, Jermayne Hamilton, and Ronnie Woodard. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, City Engineer Jesse Bearden, City Clerk April Sheffield, Police Chief Becky Sheffield, Attorney Rita Llop, and City Inspector Jack White. Present from the community were John Battle, Mitchell and Susan Coffee, County Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan, State Representative Robert Pruitt and Juliana Pruitt, and County Manager Conner Bearden.

All attendees practiced social distancing guidelines due to COVID-19 restrictions.

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 thing is to approve the agenda unless there are additions.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: No additions from me.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have anything to add? Need a motion to approve the agenda as it stands.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis to approve the agenda. 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 April 11, 2022, regular meeting. Council, y'all got those in your packets. Any questions or concerns about them? If not, I need a motion to approve the minutes.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.**

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

**HOLLY DRIVE PIPE:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** First thing under new business is the Holly Drive pipe.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** A section of the roadway has collapsed. Actually, it is about 50% through the road. I spoke with Blake Studstill and he has called around and located a section of pipe for us that would replace what is there. The cost is over my limit. It is \$2,797.96. I would ask that the council would approve us purchasing that pipe to repair Holly Drive.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Are they going to repair it also?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** They are but it is under my limit, and we are still negotiating the fee for the repair. This cost is just for the pipe.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any questions for Spence? If not, I need a motion to approve to purchase this 24 in x 20 ft corrugated pipe at a cost of \$2,797.96. And Spence is working with them on a cost to fix it. So, we need to go ahead and get the pipe and someone to fix road before something happens. Alright, I will entertain a motion for the pipe and to fix the road.

**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 WILLIAMS:** Second.

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

### **INFRASTRUCTURE MAPPING:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is infrastructure mapping.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We are in desperate need of some updated maps regarding the city water lines, sewer lines, fire hydrants, and cut offs. If the council would agree to it, I would like to put out for bids and just find out exactly what it would cost to update our maps. We are also required under state and federal regulations to have a lead service line inventory and have a replacement plan in place by October 2024. So, we may want to add that to it. Put bids out to map our infrastructure and figure out what sections if any still contain lead so we will be in compliance with those guidelines come October 2024.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** And you are talking about mapping water lines, sewer lines, valves, etc.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Everything. Every single element of our water and sewer system. We would have a map, both print and digital. And one that we could update with time as we can add to it.

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

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** That other thing you said, you want it on there too?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes sir. We need a lead service line inventory and replacement plan. That is not something that we are going to be able to do in house with the resources that we have got right now.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, if y'all have no other questions, I will entertain a motion to approve to bid out for mapping all of the water line and sewer line infrastructure and conducting a lead service line inventory, so we can do a replacement plan for it.

**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:** Got a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

### **3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE AND COLLEGE STREET SIDEWALKS:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and College Street sidewalks.

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** Yes, we would like to be able to put out bids for 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and College Street sidewalks. The sidewalk needs repouring and the stumps ground out. It has turned into a safety hazard.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Excuse me sir, can you repeat that?

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** We need to take bids on repouring the concrete sidewalks on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and College Street. Where the trees were cut down, the tree stumps have forced the cement up and become a trip hazard.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We had discussed waiting until the TSPLOST had been voted on, but we had an incident earlier this week where the Chief of Police was injured. We have received at least 4 or 5 complaints that I know about. I would suggest that we go ahead and bid them out. At least do some patchwork to get them where they are safer.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any other questions, thoughts or comments? If not, then I will entertain a motion to bid out for sidewalk repair work and replacement where need be on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and College Street sidewalks.

**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:** 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 from April 11 – April 25, 2022. Y'all got those in your packet. Need a motion to approve the monthly bills.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion to approve the monthly bills. Council, do y'all have any questions about them? If not, 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.

**PLANNING & ZONING RECOMMENDATION:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the City of Eastman Planning and Zoning Board with a rezoning from B-1 to a P zone. 5 city blocks adjacent and lying due east and south of the Dodge County Courthouse. You have a map in your packet.

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** This section is to the east and south of the Courthouse Circle. That includes Bethel Street and Page and then it does jut out to Clements and back down Anson. Most of these residents are single family and there are a few that were grandfathered in as multi-family housing. There are some businesses as this includes Lolly's, the Probation Office, and DFCS was there at one time. I am sorry, the old child support office. Anyway, all of that is a B-1, a business section. And all of those houses that are single family are R-1 or should be an R-1. But because we had the mixture of Lolly's and the other businesses, to fix this, because we have got some turnover with housing, if a single family tries to sell his house, he will have to get it re-zoned in order to sell his house. Because it is in a business district. We have had several, several issues over the last several months with that. So, Planning & Zoning took it upon themselves to correct these 5 blocks from the B-1, Business 1, to a P, Professional. And they did it Professional because you can have certain businesses that already exist that can be considered in a P. And you can have multi-family housing and you can have single family housing. So, the Planning & Zoning has requested that y'all go along with their recommendation to change these 5 blocks to better suit the neighborhood.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, are there any questions for Jesse? If not, then I will entertain a motion to approve Planning & Zoning's recommendation to re-zone from a B-1 zone to a Professional zone. The 5 city blocks over by the courthouse.

**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.

**CITY MANAGER HAS NOTHING TO REPORT:**

**OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I would like to take this moment. At the last meeting, Sharon was telling me about her olive oil and the award that she has won. Will you please stand for those that don't know you? And if you don't know, Sharon is in the olive oil business. I think you have been growing trees and producing olives. Just a brief paragraph or 2. Five Otters Olive Oil has recently been declared one of the world's best olive oils for 2022 at the New York International Olive Oil competition. It was conferred the Gold award by a judging panel of the NYOOC World Olive Oil competition. The competition has 1,240 entries with 27 countries of which 135 are from the United States. Sharon has her seal now. Her bottles have got Eastman, GA on there. This is just a wonderful namesake for every bottle of this oil that goes around the world. Kudos to you and a job well done. I know you are proud. We are proud of you and for you. We would just like to give you some recognition. Also, I would like to remind everyone that we have the Small Cities Conference in Dublin this Thursday and Friday. It is all day Thursday and then Friday morning from 9 – 12.

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** I have something to add for Thursday. The Arts Guild is putting on the Fairy Tale Courtroom. It is the Trial of the Big Bad Wolf and the Wicked Witch. It is at 7:00. After 2 performances on Thursday for the schools, there is a public performance at 7. Y'all are all invited.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**SUSAN COFFEE:** I have had the pleasure in the last couple of weeks of touring the city. And I am looking at speed limits. The speed limit on College Street when you come off of the 4-lane is 35 mph. The speed limit on 117 at the 4-lane is 45 mph. The speed limit on the Cochran Hwy, now this is all on the city limits side, is 45 mph. The speed limit on the Dublin Hwy is 45 mph. On the Soperton Rd, it is 45 mph between the cemetery and El Rancho, because there is no city limits sign. If it is, it is covered over with vines, and you can't see it. The Airport Rd itself, from the point of where you turn off and you go past all of the industry out there, is 45 mph. Wonderfully so, Hawkinsville Hwy, at the city limits sign at the top of the hill is 55 mph. There on the road past Pearl Bates and about between Wood Valley and the church, it drops to 45. And when you get to the top of the hill, it drops to 35. And they want you to go 35 through the 90° curve. A 45 mph speed limit folks ought not to be. And you are probably going to look at me and say that you don't have any control of it because it is a state hwy. Well, I'm sorry. One of us could go here to the state folks and remind them of that and we would get nowhere. But if you all fuss, if the county commission fusses, if our representative fusses, something might get done. Because just since September, I know of 3 wrecks that could have been really, really bad. One of them was where a Prius was rear ended by a pickup truck and spun around and hit a school bus. Fortunately, the bus wasn't hurt, and neither was the kids, but you think they made it to school on time? I doubt it. Then you had the one where we had honored Leonard Floyd. We could have easily had some major injuries there. Then, the other night, just a few hundred feet from my house, another car rear ended a pickup truck. Next time you go out the Hawkinsville Hwy, there is a big splotch of white paint that shows you exactly where it happened. The pickup truck wound up in the ditch. Both vehicles totaled. Folks, that is ridiculous. I am sure Chief Sheffield can tell us how many times the buses come down Hawkinsville Hwy. And I myself, when people are speeding up from the 45 and they have seen 55. We have come close to being rear ended trying to get into our own driveways. It doesn't matter. You can have your turn signal on. And when you turn off of your drive, the car is right there. Something needs

to be done. I seem to remember at some point there is a city ordinance that says all of the roads inside the city limits are to be a certain, well I am saying a 35 or 45. I doesn't matter. But it is surely, surely not to be 55. And I am going to fuss until it gets changed. Thank you.

COUNTY MANAGER BEARDEN: I want y'all to mark your calendars for May 10 at 6 PM. We are having our first LOST negotiation meeting. Our kickoff meeting. For those that haven't been to one of these, it is kind of to explain what LOST is and what it is used for. And then to set the next agenda for when we get into the deep negotiations. That's May 10 at 6 PM in the Commissioner boardroom.

**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**