

**June 13, 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, Engineer Jesse Bearden, City Clerk April Sheffield, Police Chief Becky Sheffield, and Assistant Fire Chief Johnny Howell. Present from the community were John Battle, Mitchell and Susan Coffee, and George Smith.

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 and I think we have got one item to add. Which is the LMIG streets for 2022. Council, do y'all have anything else that you want to add? If not, I need a motion to amend the agenda and add #8, LMIG streets to it. And with that motion to approve the agenda as it stands with that motion.

**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 May 23, 2022, regular meeting. Council, y'all got those in your packets over the weekend. Did y'all see anything, or have any questions or anything like that? 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:**

**ASSISTANT CHIEF JOHNNY HOWELL:** It was a pretty average month for the fire department this month. We didn't have anything major outstanding. For the month of May, we had a total of 43 calls. 27 of those calls were inside the city limits and 16 of those were outside the city limits. On electrical fires, we had one inside the city and 2 outside the city. Brush fires, we had a total of 3 and all 3 of those were outside the city. Dumpster fires, we had 1 of those and it was within the city limits. Vehicle fires, we only had one of those this month and it was also inside the city. Down power lines, we had a total of 3. One of those within the city and 2 were outside the city. Medical calls, we had 9 inside the city and 2

were outside of the city. Rescue calls for the rescue vehicle, we had 2 inside the city and 1 outside. Electronic alarms, 8 of those were inside the city and 2 of those were outside the city. Check smoke smells, we had a total of 2 of those and both of those were inside the city. Power lines and down trees, we had a total of 4 with 1 of those inside the city and 3 being outside the city. We had one cancellation and also had a public service that was inside of the city. That makes a grand total of 27 calls inside of the city and 16 outside the city for a total of 43 calls.

**MONTHLY POLICE DEPT REPORT:**

**CHIEF BECKY SHEFFIELD:** For the month of May, we used 1,142 gallons of gas, answered 1,098 calls, and worked 27 wrecks.

**APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to approve the monthly bills for May 24 – June 13, 2022. I think y'all got a copy of that in your packet over the weekend. Do y'all have any questions on it or anything? If not, then I need a motion to approve the monthly bills.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.**

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

**SCADA SYSTEM FOR WWTP:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to bid for the new SCADA system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** SCADA is the electronic system that Matt uses to monitor the treatment plant. It is on its' last leg. It has been there basically as long as the plant has. The electronics, we can't obtain them and they are not being supported by the manufacturer. So, we would like permission from the council to bid that out. A new system and we would like to add the wells and more lift stations to it. So, if there is a problem, we will be notified electronically.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** So that will get all of the lift stations?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** All of the lift stations and all of the wells and the wastewater treatment plant.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** And this is a motion to advertise for this? Council, do y'all have any questions? Spence? I think Jesse is coming to tell us something.

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** SCADA is Supervisory Controlled and Data Acquisition. Basically, it controls, monitors, analyzes. Smart technology. If something is going wrong, it monitors it and if something flips, someone gets a phone call. The voice on the other end will tell Matt that well # whatever or pump # whatever is not working. It's smart. Gotta have it. If not, then someone would have to be monitoring it themselves 24/7.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any other questions? If not, then I need a motion to allow us to bid out for the SCADA system for the wastewater treatment plant, and all of the lift stations, and wells.

**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.

**2023 FISCAL AGENT FOR THE CLUB:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the 2023 fiscal agent for The Club.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, we need a vote from Council to continue operating as the fiscal agent for the old Boys and Girls Club. The plans for creating a new city park with them are coming along great. We have got a draft of that now. Just like we did in 2022, we want to handle the finances. And we would ask for permission from council to continue doing that.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, I need a motion for the city to continue and be the 2023 fiscal agent for the Club.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

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

**UNITED CONCERNED CITIZENS MOU:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the United Concerned Citizens MOU.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** The city attorney has prepared an MOU for the city and the United Concerned Citizens for the use of the Peabody facility for public events such as this upcoming Juneteenth festival. She's reviewed it and I have reviewed it. We sent it out last week to y'all. If you have no changes, we would like to go ahead and pass it so we can send it back to the United Concerned Citizens for their review. If there are changes, if you would let us know as soon as possible so we can get a vote and get it over to them.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I didn't see anything. It looked good to me.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** It looked good.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** It looked good.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** So, y'all are all good with it? Alright, then I need a motion to pass the memorandum of agreement between the City of Eastman and the United Concerned Citizens of Dodge County regarding the historic Peabody High School and facility.

**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.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I will get a copy to Mr. John before he leaves tonight to take his group before he leaves also.

**SCHEDULE WORK SESSION:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to schedule a work session.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** For insurance for 2023 and for alcohol sales.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** This work session will be for next year's employee insurance, healthcare insurance, and start with the planning for the alcohol referendum and alcohol sales. I know that we have been talking about it. We go to the GMA Convention next Friday and we will be gone through next Wednesday. We would really like to try and have one next Tuesday. And I think the insurance folks are coming down and they are going to talk to us and then we can get started on the alcohol referendum

sales and all. Is next Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup>, good with y'all? Do you have a time that they are going to be here?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We have talked to them, and they are trying to juggle their schedule. 3 PM in the afternoon. It may not be optimal for everybody, but it is about the best that we can do and get the majority of the council here if they can make it. That's 3PM on Tuesday, June 21 at City Hall to discuss our 2023 insurance and for the alcohol sales.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Everybody good with that? I need a motion then to have a work session Tuesday week, June 21, 2022, at 3 PM. And the purpose of it would be to discuss the 2023 healthcare insurance and alcohol sales for the city.

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

**WORK SESSION:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is library board appointment.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We have received a request from the Ocmulgee Regional Library to reappoint Ms. Cindy Greene to their board if the council would consider that. Her first term will end on June 30, 2022.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I think everybody had a copy of this in your packet. Ms. Anne Bowen from the library has said that Ms. Cindy Greene's first 4-year term will end June 30, 2022. Ms. Greene serves as the Dodge County Library Board chair and holds an office on the regional board. Our bylaws allow a board member to serve 2 4-year terms back-to-back. May we please have a reappointment of Ms. Greene for a term extending into 2026? Council, do y'all have any questions? If not, I need a motion to reappoint Cindy Greene to the Dodge County Library Board.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I 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.

**LMIG 2022:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the LMIG street projects. You have a list of maps and all in front of you.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** 2022's LMIG is basically the completion of stuff from the previous years. Where we basically didn't have the money to complete it. But it's going to be 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, if y'all approve it, 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bay Street, Main Street, Pine Drive and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue. About the 3<sup>rd</sup> page of that handout has got a map showing it. It is going to cost, we estimate, around \$203,748.48. The good thing is that we have got about \$224,000 in that fund. So, we have got some contingency. If y'all approve that list tonight though, we need to make a decision in the near future about Morgan Creek and Plaza Drive. There has been discussion from the council about paving and striping them. But both of those are on the TSPLOST that just passed last month. They are already planned to be paved. But it could take months if not years to get to those projects. We need to decide if we are going to wait. We don't have to that part tonight. We don't have to do any of it tonight. But if you want to approve the LMIG, be thinking about how you want to pave Plaza and Morgan Creek, using discretionary TSPLOST from the old TSPLOST, or let the time go by and let that fund accrue.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** This part of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue is turning back to dirt. We have got to get it paved. The money is in the TSPLOST discretionary fund to do Morgan Creek. And that might be what you want to do tonight. Pass the LMIG and then give me permission to bid out Morgan Creek, so I can come back to you at the next meeting with an official figure.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Let me ask this. With these LMIG projects, I see this happening a lot. It has happened with us with things. We have an estimated cost to do them, but it hasn't been technically bid out.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** This is just an engineer's estimate.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Do you have an idea when they might because right now that is an estimated cost but if we wait 6 months from now, then it may be \$50,000 more or is there any control over that?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I don't know the answer to that. I will just tell you the sooner the better, but we are not under a deadline where it has got to happen tonight. But if you do want to take it and look. We can actually have a video conference with the engineers if you want.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I am fine with going ahead and voting to do it. Is there a way to push them?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yeah, we will try to push them.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** If we can get them to move on. If that discretionary money changes, then we are going to have to move money out of this to finish that.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We are going to have to tap another fund.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** If we can go ahead and start with this too. It may be something that is out of your control.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I will do my best to harass the engineers.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, council do y'all have any more questions?

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** Now, on Morgan Creek, when can we do what you said to do?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Now that you have gone past your LMIG list, why don't you put in your motion that the city manager has permission to go ahead and get a bid to pave Morgan Creek and Plaza Drive. And come back to the next council meeting with those estimates for you. And then you will have a little bit more of an informed decision as to whether you want to dip into your discretionary fund.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** And then is it possible? The only thing with that is that whoever gets the LMIG project paving.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I would like to get them to do all of it.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** It would be nice to have them do all of it while they are here so we wouldn't have 2 different crews here. It may be even less if they are already going to be here and they are not moving equipment.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I am thinking the same thing.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, so why don't we make a motion then to approve to pass the LMIG projects along with the Morgan Creek and Plaza Drive but under the condition that when we get when the state does the bid, because they bid those out, then we can contact them to see when and while they are here to do these 2 at the same time. So, I need a motion saying all that I just said. Make a motion to approve the LMIG projects that the state has just set that we would do. Once we find who gets or wins that bid, we can contact them to get a bid for them doing Morgan Creek and Plaza Drive while they are doing the rest of these LMIG projects.

**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 by Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. Motion approved unanimous.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I am sure that everybody here in this room knows that the alcohol referendum passed at the election a few weeks ago. I know that I have been asked questions and other folks have been asked questions. Maybe what is our timeline or what our plan is. As we stated a while ago, Tuesday week we are going to start with our first work session on starting to look over ordinances and starting to look at our new ordinance for alcohol sales in the city. A rough guessing time would be probably or hopefully be about 3 months or so to get the ordinance all laid out and approved and adopted. At this particular time, then we can start and will have with it applicants and applications for who is interested in applying to set up a liquor store in town. And that may take a month or two. And we are in the holidays, so hopefully by the next, we are about halfway through June now. In about the next 5 months or hopefully by the first of the year, we should have or hopefully should have everything ready. The people that is chosen or qualified to be able to open it and hopefully by the first of the year we will be able to move forward and Eastman will be in a new era and a new time. Do y'all have any questions or anything? Council, any questions? Our goal and objective is to get the ordinance and not be like the City of Statesboro that passed one last year and now they still have not got their ordinance done right or finished. I think they have got some other issues that folks are backing out and all but our goal and I hope my intent would be that in the next 3 months we will have an ordinance laid out and we can start taking applicants and applications for whoever is interested in possibly being the owner. Y'all good with that? And we will start at the first. Y'all please at that meeting next week have all of them, Hawkinsville, McRae's, Dublin, and Laurens County, and any of these other, Perry's, their ordinance. Because we are not reinventing the wheel or anything. They have got them everywhere. Hopefully we can take and combine some of everybody's and come up with a good ordinance and we will be moving forward.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Juneteenth is this weekend. Keep it in my everyone. We invite you to come down and out to the Peabody School for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Juneteenth celebration.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** What are the times on that?

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:** It starts Saturday morning at 10 and lasts until 9. It is going to be full of activities for the kids, adults, food vendors. It is going to be nice. If you have time, stop by. Also, we pick up Sunday at 10 and it goes until 4. They will be a church service and gospel music. Everyone is invited. Please come.

**JOHN BATTLE:** To add to what Ms. Sebrina just said. We understand that it is Father's Day. Just come by and show your face. There are going to be some free gifts given away to fathers. We are trying to recognize fathers with a gift because it is Father's Day.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:** The gifts are going to be spread out throughout the day, not all at one time. And you must be present to win.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Is the lemonade stand going to be there this year? That was some of the best lemonade.

**OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** I want to thank the city, Mr. Spence, and whoever else had a hand in these security vests. You know that we really appreciate it for Sunset Park. We thank you for expertise.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** And we are working on getting that fence moved. It is a little more difficult than we thought it was, but we are going to have it handled soon. And the other things that we need to get done.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have y'all done got it open and started?

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** No, we were waiting on these vests and make sure that we honor every request.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** Did they have something there the other week?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** There was talk about it, but I don't believe it happened.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** The fireworks are going good right now for July 4<sup>th</sup>. So, y'all keep that in mind.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**SUSAN COFFEE:** I love the idea of Plaza Drive being paved. Absolutely love it. But are y'all fixing to dig it up for the fix sewer after you pave it? That is what the problem has been is all of those pipes. They paved it and then they dug everything up. That's where the bumpy bump goes. I know you were talking about the sewer's improvements coming down there. I just don't want that so often we pave a street and within 6 months or 2 days, something is dug up.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We have actually been running into the paving equipment busting water lines as they are paving. So, then we have got to try to get those water lines fixed.

**SUSAN COFFEE:** I just want to make sure that if we are going to pave it, I know how long this one has been there, and not dug up in 2 days.

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** I will add, talking about Plaza. Last Thursday, we replaced all of the air release valves on the force mains. A 2.4-mile force main from James Avenue to the Treatment Plant. So, many of y'all might not recognize that from the railroad tracks to and below the TG&Y Plaza, all of the effluent still goes to James Avenue. Even though the treatment plant is not there anymore. The infrastructure in town still goes to James Avenue. But then it goes into storage tanks, and it is pumped 2.4 miles to the treatment plant. And it had 8 air release valves. Over the years, these valves have quit working, and we got down to one valve that was working. So, we replaced those last Thursday. It is just amazing with just how much the efficiency of that pump and that pump and line is cleaning itself out. So, I am going out on a limb and say that by the middle of September, there will be no more odor at our Walmart. Because these valves are letting it breathe and work. Without these air release valves being functional, the effluent has gone septic. And septic is where the odor comes from. And anaerobic bacteria. So, hopefully now this pipe can breathe, and it can function properly. We had a guy come in last week, Mike Smith who owns Calibration Controls (CCA), to do that for us. We are looking forward to working with him in the future on some of the other issues that we have.

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

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CHAIRMAN

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CITY CLERK