

November 14, 2022

The Eastman City Council met in a regular scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present: Raymond Mullis, Buddy Pittman, Sebrina Williams, Ronnie Woodard and Jermayne Hamilton. Others present were City Attorney Rita Llop, Police Chief Becky Sheffield, Assistant Police Chief Billy Cooper, Fire Chief Scotty Whitten, City Manager Spencer Barron, City Clerk April Sheffield, City Inspector Jack White, and WWTP Superintendent Matt McDaniel. Present from the community were Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Mike and Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Wendy and Bethany Pittman, Vicki Hardeman, Carl Evans, Cathy Sapp, Paul Cribbs and associate from Schroder Development, Patrick Sapp and Jill Hardin, Ken Lowery, John D. and Robin Carter, Tim and Paula McCain, John Battle, State Representative Robert Pruitt, and County Manager Conner Bearden.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pittman.

Invocation was given by Chaplain Hamilton.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: The first thing on the agenda is to approve the agenda and I think that we have an item or two that we need to change.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, we need to add Vicki. She is asking for a street closing. And we need to change #5 and #6 to a work session.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, is there anything else that y'all see? If no, then I need a motion to amend the agenda and take #5 and #6 off, which are the 2023 limb grinding renewal and the garbage contract renewal and add a work session. Also, under #7, we need to add the street closure. So, I need to amend the agenda with the changes and with that motion to approve the agenda also.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved on all of it.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: We've got a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Approve the minutes of the October 24, 2022, regular meeting. Y'all got those in your packets. Did y'all see anything that you need to ask about? If not, then I motion to approve the minutes of the October 24 regular meeting.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCILOR WOODARD: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor by show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

PLANNING & ZONING RECOMMENDATION:

STRAW BOX, LLC WITH PROPOSED SUBDIVISION:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is planning and zoning. Straw Box LLC., with a proposed subdivision on a 64-acre tract on Orphans Cemetery Rd and next to the North Lakes Subdivision. With that being said, I think that we have a crowd here. It has been before planning and zoning. Planning and Zoning has approved from their end, so it comes to us. If there is anybody here that would like to make their comments or anything, please come forward to the mic and speak.

KEN LOWERY: If I could, I would like to show you some pictures of my house. Can I do that? I want to show you some drainage problems that we have got up there. And that is before you come up with these 140 houses. This is my house today; this is my house after a rain. This is my driveway today. That is before you build a hundred or so houses. This is where it is coming from, a sewage pipe put in by the county, running right in my yard. It comes down this way and down North Lakes. You can't call that a ditch because you have got a telephone pole right in the middle. It comes right straight down between Ms. Marilyn and my yard. It like to have got in my pool. And what I gather, if somebody owns land up above you, and a natural flow of water comes down there, that's tough. But if somebody captures water, and runs it on your land, they are responsible for fixing your land. Now this is before we even thing about the houses up there. Another thing that I would like to bring up, and y'all know that 95% of the people in that neighborhood don't want this mess. The 5% that wants it, gets a monetary advantage for getting this place. Another thing that I would like to do is apologize to the planning and zoning board. They are just doing their job and I kind of got a little ugly with them. I know that they are just out to make the county and the city money. And if you build 140 houses up there, I figure that they are going to get \$300K a year in city and county tax dollars. Look, it's cut and dry. We didn't stand a chance. It's all about the money. But I want to tell you another thing about it, I have been living up there 8 years. There is 10 lots up there that has been for sale, ever since I have been up there. Family lots. Half-acre to $\frac{3}{4}$ acre, with a pond in the back of it. It's the family dream. Buy that half-acre or $\frac{3}{4}$ acre and build you a house on it. Have a pond in the back of it. Have a good neighborhood. Schools and everything within a mile from you. And they can't sell it because people in Dodge County ain't got the money to buy a house and build a nice house there. So, do you think you can go up there and build 140 houses and people are going to flock to it and buy the thing. Well, it won't do that. And like I said before about the drainage. From what I read, and I sure ain't no lawyer, you can't let somebody come in and propose a subdivision without a drainage plan. A storm runoff, drainage plan. Now I don't know if we got it or not, but if it's saying, well Dodge County might can, but for what I read in Georgia, before you can put apartments on a place, it's got to have a storm drainage runoff plan. Now if they got it, that's fine. But I can tell you this, by the look of my picture, you should come see it. It ain't going to get no better by putting 140 houses up there on concrete coming down to my house. And the county fellow who come out there to put the sewage pipe in before mine and Ms. Marilyn's house, I asked him myself, "Look here fellow, that water comes straight down to my house." He said, "My hands are tied." Well, the zoning committee said, "Our hands are tied." A lot of people got their hands tied around here. We lost, but we ain't got to like it. We ain't got to like it one bit. I'm going to tell you something. We got a good neighborhood. The police ain't been up in my street in 8 years. The Sheriff ain't been up in our street. And I shore ain't arguing about it because they are good. But we don't need them. We got friends and neighbors and looks like now, we're going to have a, well they call it a halfway house. I call it a woman's prison or whatever's left of them. And you are going to put 140 houses up there and you can't tell me that people won't come in there and start buying. It's going to wind up being subsidized houses. That's all it is going to be. We beat, and we ain't got to like it.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright, thank you Sir. Anyone, anybody else?

MIKE FLANAGAN: I also live in North Lakes. I live just around the corner from Mr. Lowery. And I live on a property that backs up onto a pond. And I am downhill from everything that's going to get ready to be built. Now, I understand from conversations that we have had over here with the builders and the engineer, that there is going to be a stormwater runoff plan that will be executed but not until the city council has approved going forward with this project. Is that still correct?

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I am saying yes, but I don't know if we approve to move forward. But that would be part of the next step. So, bringing forth tonight, if we approve this move, they're not going to be starting to build a house next week.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: This is conditional that it moves it to the next step. So, they invest the money in that plan. It's the way I understand it. The developer can correct me if I am wrong.

MIKE FLANAGAN: So, my following question is, who has to review that plan and approve it? Is that the state EPD?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Conner's dad told me that it was UGA.

COUNTY MANAGER BEARDEN: It should be EPD.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Oh okay. I'm sorry. I was thinking it was somebody up there.

MIKE FLANAGAN: So, if the plan is done and then it comes back and goes to EPD, and until that time, the project is still on hold?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes.

MIKE FLANAGAN: Alright. Well, my concern has been traffic. We all have been through the traffic issues. My concern has been safety and there's a bunch of people in here that have more concerns about that than I do because they have kids. But the water runoff, as the pictures you saw showed, and Conner has been out there trying to dig open the one culvert that we have to get the water to run away. And of course, when he got that open, it ran right down to his house and Marilyn's house. So, it's a continuing challenge for us and when you put roots, concrete, asphalt, and take away all of that vegetation that's out there, we are going to have a potential heck of a mess. If they come through with a good plan and it gets executed, then I'm not sure where we would go from here. That's my major concern now.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Thank you, Mike. Anyone else? There is no one else that has anything they want to say or add?

REPRESENTATIVE PRUITT: I would like to add something if I could. I am going to speak as I guess a proponent of this in some manner. And I'm not saying that this project in particular is what we need, but I can say that I've tried to bring in 6 people from outside of the state of Georgia and hire them for So Poly and every one of them has moved to Dublin and set up over there. And so, personally, whether they are there or not, I could care less from a work standpoint as long as they are there. But, from a community mindedness, it really breaks my heart that they do that and move away like that and not investing in the direct community here. So, I would say that at some point, in some way, we need housing for the area. If not for that, but also for flight students and the growth that's expected out there. I'll put on real quick my hat for economic development as well as that new position that I'm in and from that and I'll say that there's an expectation that I have of myself and of that board to move forward with some opportunities out there. And I would say that there are some really good opportunities that we are working on right now that could bring some housing that would far exceed that number that you are saying right now for that development. So, I think there is a need in this community for housing in one way or another. I'm not saying that this is the actual one that we need, this project here. But there is a need for it, and we need to figure out how to solve that issue moving forward, one way or the other.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Thank you, Rob. Anyone else?

COUNTY MANAGER BEARDEN: So, I want to talk about Mr. Lowery's issue about the water issue. And I think when we've, or I've come to those meetings, and I have told you that the Board of Commissioner's main concern is the discharge of stormwater and runoff. In fact, we know that there is a drainage issue there. The reason that the county's hands are tied is that when that neighborhood was built, underground utilities were put in before any acceptance of the roads into the county system or even the city system. So, it limits what you can do with open ditching. However, I also know that there's a pond behind his house as well and that water's going to go to that pond. If there was an easement between him and Ms. Marilyn's house where you could concrete it and make that water go directly into the pond instead of the water would be ideal, but at this time there isn't one. So, the county is aware of the

stormwater and knowing that the next move does require that stormwater in an environmental study. That's what the Board of Commissioner's concerns are just the stormwater.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Anyone else? Anyone wanting to comment. Of course, I think looking at most of you all, there were a whole lot more people at the planning and zoning meeting and like Mr. Lowery said, that's like a first step in the development projects and all. They did what their job was. I attended that meeting. I listened to a lot of passionate concern and issues. After that meeting, I know that there was 2 big issues that were brought up. At the back there, there was a proposed road coming in and out of the subdivision and then there were issues with, which there's not but 5 houses back there that are going to border up against this development and they had issues of looking out their back door, or their backyard and looking at new houses. Or some of them going to be as big as some of the houses that are out there. Probably not. I think these are going to be 1500 square foot brand new houses. I think Mr. Paul said that they are going to do them brick instead of siding and all. Since that meeting, we've had them down here a couple of times. The developer has agreed that back road that was an issue that was coming out back there on top of y'all. That road ain't going to be a road. He said that's fine. I'll leave that shut. As far as the bordering, those few houses back along the back there and for everybody's, there's a big preliminary plat back there. He said that he could take and put that in the covenants for whoever bought those particular lots. You gotta put a six-foot privacy fence up. And with that, like he said, with privacy fences after a few years, the paint fades. If it is wood, the sun warps the boards, and they look pretty rough. We came to a consensus that they are cypress trees along with Leland Cypresses or something fairly fast growing. He would plant a buffer of them along that whole back line back there. They will grow, they will grow together. You can't see through them. That will help with noise and all. He agreed to those 2 terms and like I said, those were 2 huge issues that night at planning and zoning. Mr. Paul, thank you for agreeing to do that. Now, as it moves forward with us, like Spence said a while ago, it's like we said, if we vote to pass this tonight, they're not going to be building houses and tearing the place down come Monday morning, or even Wednesday or Thursday this week. This is a conditional plan to move forward and if we pass this, then the storm drainage that I think they call the topography map. Mr. Olin can get with them, and they will come up with storm drainage systems and they will have to be approved and all before it moves forward. We have a city code enforcer. There was conversations at the last meeting that these houses, they're building them somewhere and they're falling in before they get the built and the trusses were sagging and the roof was sagging. Not the case. We have a full-time code enforcer. If they are putting a house up and the roof's falling in before it gets built, he'll pull the plug on it. The house will be right before it gets built. Like I said, we've had several meetings here with it, with the developer and all, since the first original meeting. And we even took it a step further and contacted the city manager in Hawkinsville. Mr. Paul and them built stuff over there. She wants him back over there doing some more. I know that we listen a lot of times. You look on Facebook. You learn everything on Facebook. You know the city, we're doing nothing. We're going stagnant. We're going to dry up and do nothing. I think y'all heard that Eastman need housing. We need housing bad. The school is projected I think legislature there already put money in the budget or we'll be doing that the first of the year. Within the next 5 or 6 years, that school and all out there is going to be double the size or more. The student numbers are going to be doubled. So, this is a very interesting project. We need housing. Hopefully, something like this can lead to other developments in other areas and all. But now it comes before us, the council, to approve or disapprove moving forward with it. Is there anybody else with any other comments on? I ask that again because when I ask for a vote for us to approve and like I said, this is a conditional approval. They're not going to be leveling trees and start building houses Thursday or Friday or next week. They've got a lot that he's got to do to come back and move forward with. Anyone else with any comments?

KEN LOWERY: I'd like to say one more thing and then I am going to leave. This here has been going on for about 2 years. It didn't start tonight. It didn't start last month. And what our neighborhood is really

disappointed at, y'all act like y'all wanted our opinion. The planning and zoning acted like it, but they didn't give a rat's butt about our opinions. It was that \$300K of that city and county tax money that they was going to get every year from that building. Y'all have it.

SUSAN COFFEE: I don't back up to this housing, but I have a nice house too, backed up to Wood Valley. My concern is not so much the housing but the point that Robert brought out is that he's got people who have moved to Dublin. We don't just need housing for students. We need housing for senior citizens that want to downsize, which this might work. But I am hearing and hearing and hearing that this is all supposed to be for students. So, if that's what I am hearing, yes Buddy I am. But I'm hearing that we need it for the school. We need it for the school. You folks need to stop and realize that there are senior citizens that need accessible, affordable housing in this town, also. It doesn't matter if it's apartments, duplexes, or what, but we also need houses for executives. And I would be more interested in this project turning into multiple different kinds of housing where it could be a good environment for seniors, for students, and for the executives that want to come in here. But even if the executives want to come in here, we got a lot of work to do to keep them here.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Thank you, ma'am. Any others?

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD VIA JESSE BEARDEN ON FACEBOOK: The erosion, sediment, and pollution control plan will be reviewed by the Ga State Soil and Water Conservation.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: We were close. Any other comments? Alright then council, I reckon now I will entertain a motion to move forward with a conditional plan for the development, so they can do all of their studies, erosion and soil, drainage, and all to move forward with this project.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: **So moved.**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Council, any other questions or comments? If not, I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: **Second.**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2023 CAPSTONE RENEWAL:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: First item under unfinished business is the 2023 Capstone renewal for the employee insurance. You?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I'm good with it.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright, they came to the last meeting and talked to us.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We spent \$864,214.20 on our current policy. If we use \$100K of our surplus, which is what we talked to some of our council members about doing, they would insure us for \$868,335.20 for 2023. So, that would be a \$44,121 increase.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: The insurance for next year is going up 12.1%, which would bring it to \$968,335.20. And so, what Spence is talking about when he uses the word surplus, the last few years since we have went self-insured and stuff and we built up a surplus and it don't go to the general fund, and it don't go to paved roads and this and that. It's strictly to help offset insurance premium cost and all. And so, we have a few hundred dollars shy of \$200K in our surplus. So, if we use \$100K of that surplus, like I said, that drops the cost back down to \$868K and some change which for next year we pay basically what we paid this year for employees' insurance. And then we still have \$100K surplus in the bank and at this particular time for this year, we don't know what our surplus will be, but we will have a \$100K in the bank for next year. And so, in using that, it's like a \$4K increase for next year. So, council do y'all have any questions or other comments about that or anything? If not, then I will entertain a motion to renew the employee insurance with Capstone at a cost of \$868K and some change. I will entertain a motion to approve the insurance.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

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

WOOD VALLEY REPAIR BIDS:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Wood Valley repair bids.

INSPECTOR WHITE: We had requested to bid out for Wood Valley repairs where the concrete and the roadway had started busting, sinking down. We got 3 bids and the best one to come in was \$5800 and we would like to move forward with it as soon as possible.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: You say the lowest one is \$5800?

INSPECTOR WHITE: \$5800 was. There was a \$5750 from Sani Roberson, but Sani can't get to it. The cheapest one that we can get access to right now and get moving with is \$5800.

COUNCIL MEMBER: This is an actual roadway.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: This is that concrete section in Wood Valley. Have you noticed how it has been cracking in a twenty something foot area?

INSPECTOR WHITE: 20 X 24. They are building new houses in there and they have got another one going in. There are trucks going in and out hauling lumber, breaking it down. If we don't get it fixed, it's going to be impassable before long.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council do y'all have any other questions? If not, I will entertain a motion to approve CB's Pools and Concrete for \$5800 to do repairs to Wood Valley Drive.

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.

WWTP BACKHOE QUOTES:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Wastewater Treatment Plant backhoe quotes.

WWTP OPERATOR MCDANIEL: So, this morning, Rodney tried to move it and I think it took its last drive. He couldn't get it to go in reverse, forward, or anything. So, it's perfect timing. We got 2 bids in. I'm not sure if you have got them right in front of you. But we have \$83,000 for the CAT and the John Deere is \$71,000. The only problem with the John Deere is they don't know when they are going to get one in. It could be 2, 3, 4 months before we get that. They have a CAT. It's ready and it's a little bit bigger than the John Deere.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: So, if we ran into a problem and needed it on the street department, we could borrow it.

WWTP OPERATOR MCDANIEL: Right. And we did get a price on a used one, another John Deere, and it was almost the same price as the new one.

COUNTY MANAGER BEARDEN: I have recently learned that you don't get the government contract price like you use to either.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any other questions for Matt? If not then, I will entertain a motion to purchase the Caterpillar backhoe for \$83,268.

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.

BONDS & FINES ORDINANCE:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the bonds and fines ordinance.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We had a fee increase wasn't it, Becky?

POLICE CHIEF SHEFFIELD: Yes.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And this is to amend the ordinance to add the new fee increase to our existing fines. We have to have 2 readings. This will be the first reading and it will be published and available here at the city hall for anybody that wants to come read it. And then at the next one, we can vote it in.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright, this will be the first reading of the new bonds and fines ordinance. I will entertain a motion to approve the first reading.

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: Have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

MONTHLY FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

CHIEF WHITTEN: Good evening. For the month of October, we ran a total of 44 calls, 27 inside and 17 outside. One structure fire outside, 1 electrical fire, 1 stove fire, 4 brush fires, 2 vehicle fire. Power lines down were 2. With medical calls we ran 7, vehicle rescues 12. Electrical alarms 2, lift assists 1, 3 life flight. Check smoke 6, power lines and trees 2, and machine fires 1. I would also like to add that you will probably see a fire safety trailer parked around at the station. We will be going out to the schools. I know fire and safety was last month, but we were able to get it this month. So, we will be going out to several schools and taking it for education. The reason and purpose is for the kids. And we also have several churches that we have been to for fall festivals and if you have a church that is going to have a fall festival, request it and I can get it. It is furnished by the State of Georgia Fire Commission. Two of my guys had to go off and be trained on it. So, we got it this week and have it the whole week and so it will be available for us.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Good job.

MONTHLY POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

POLICE CHIEF SHEFFIELD: For the month of October, we used 1,063 gallons of gas, answered 1,735 calls and worked 26 wrecks.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: No questions for the Chief? Thank you, ma'am.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR PARADE:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Martin Luther King parade.

JOHN BATTLE: Good evening once again. If the Lord will, come 2023, January 16th, the NAACP, the Concerned Citizens and Unity of Dodge County. We ask that the city council approve the Martin Luther King Jr parade for the 16th. It will start at 1 PM and line up will be at 2nd Avenue in front of the post office and it will conclude at the courthouse. As you know, we sent the same letter, and we hope that we will use the same route. And have the same streets blocked. It doesn't take but about 20 – 30 minutes to proceed through town.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: Mr. John, do y'all just go down college and turn and go down 5th? Or do y'all turn on Main?

JOHN BATTLE: Yes, we go on main. We go down and come back up front and go across. Same route.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: It's the homecoming route except you are going to start here at 2nd Avenue.

JOHN BATTLE: Yes. And we just ask that y'all provide us with the safety. Block the roads off. Keep it safe because you are going to have a lot of kids out there and we don't want nobody to get hurt.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Very true. Council, do y'all have any questions for Mr. Battle? If not, then I will entertain a motion to approve the January 16, 2023, Martin Luther King parade.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: **So moved.**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: We 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 is to approve the monthly bills for October 25 – November 14, 2022. Y'all should have gotten those in your packet. Are there any questions about any of them? If not, I need a motion to approve the monthly bills.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: **So moved.**

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

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: **Second.**

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

AIRPORT AUTHORITY MEMBER:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to the Heart of Georgia Regional Airport Authority member.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, we were notified by the Heart of Georgia Regional Airport Authority that Mr. Jason Braden had resigned off of their board. And they submitted a letter nominating Ms. Paula McCain, if the council would consider her. I am sure y'all know Paula. She is an exemplary member of this community and also works for the Chamber.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Any questions? If not, then I will entertain a motion to accept the resignation of Jason Braden from the Airport Authority. And per the Airport Authority's request, appoint Ms. Paula McCain to the Airport Authority Board.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: **So moved.**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright, I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: **Second.**

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

VICKI HARDEMAN, STREET CLOSURE:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is street closure. Ms. Vicki?

VICKI HARDEMAN: I came 3 or 4 weeks ago to get the street closed from the corner of 3rd and Main, down to the fire department, or right before it, for Christmas Open House. Because I had some outside vendors coming in, but then the hurricane come through, so we had to cancel it. I was able to get them all rescheduled tentatively for next Tuesday week, the 22nd. I wanted to see if I could get the street reclosed from 5 – 8 on the 22nd. For the same event, and some of the other merchants are going to stay

open again late as well because the weather just really put a damper on our Christmas Open House. It's from my stop sign down to just the other side of Sidetrack to that empty building there was where we had it. It's the same little setup, I just wanted to see about moving it.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Tuesday, November 22nd? Council, do y'all have any other questions for Ms. Vicki? If not, I will entertain a motion to close that section of Main Street and right below Sidetrack up to that 3rd Avenue intersection for retrying Christmas Open House again.

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: Got a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor by show of hands. Motion carried unanimous. We will be doing it again ma'am.

VICKI HARDEMAN: Thank you Sir.

WORK SESSION:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is a work session, scheduling one.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: The sooner the better please. This is going to be your garbage contract renewal and your limb and leaf situation. Let's add the budget to discuss also while we are in there.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Today is the 14th. Do you want to shoot for the 22nd? Just them 3 things?

POLICE CHIEF SHEFFIELD: Spence, we got court on the 22nd in this room at 5:00.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: If y'all could do it in the afternoon, surely y'all could be out of here in an hour or two. Mr. Ronnie is looking at me like I have never had a work session in less than 3 hours since I have been here. I promise, I will get you out of here.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Do you want to do it next Monday?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I work for y'all. Whatever works for y'all, and we'll be here. Ready to go.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: We have DDA and P&Z next Monday.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We can have the work session in my office and leave the doors open. If the public wants to come in, they can. It's not a big office but reality as long as the meeting's open.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: DDA meets when, 4:30? And court is at 5:00? If we do it at 3:00, we should be done in plenty of time.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: What day is that again?

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Tuesday, the 22nd. Court is at 5:00. If we start at 3:00, we should be done. Y'all good with Tuesday at 3:00? How did you word it? Leaf grinding and garbage and the budget. I think everybody got one of these copies of the budget. Take it home and look over it and we will go over it right quick then.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: These are all tentative numbers. And you will notice some of the dates blacked out. We will have to set those dates to pass them before we can fill them in.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I am going to put 3 – 4:30 at the latest. Alright, I need a motion for the work session for limb grinding and garbage contract renewals and budget for next Tuesday, November 22nd at 3:00.

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I would like to add that we have a clerk position that is a full-time position with health insurance and retirement open at city hall. So, if you know somebody that is interested, put

in an application. We are advertising on Facebook and the internet. We are looking for some good candidates.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: I would like to revisit a possible grant opportunity sometime this month for the parks. We had passed around a couple of flyers or pictures of some possible equipment that could go out there. And I would like to revisit that if possible.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I would like to throw out a hee haw for our workers in the city. If y'all have been noticing in the city how much cleaning is going on. They are working hard at everything. You've got concrete on the sidewalks down here. They are getting grass up. Stand up and tell what some of the things that you are doing. Tell it. I would like them to hear some of the things that you have done.

INSPECTOR WHITE: We have got a lot going on. We are still making progress on some sidewalk repairs. We have done 3rd Avenue. We are going to 9th Avenue next. We are going up to the Brewer House and the sidewalk there. We've been cleaning up curb and gutters. Basically, the sidewalks, you can tell they are actually sidewalks. They have been neglected for a while and we are making progress on all of it.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: He has got the steps on 3rd rebuilt in front of Joey's office. He's got the place where Becky fell, fixed.

CHIEF SHEFFIELD: They did. And they called me to approve it.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: But I do want you to pass that on. I do. Now y'all other council, talk to the city employees and tell them how much we appreciate them. I have actually heard people, and others that don't work down here, say that the city is looking a lot better. I just want to bring that out.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Thank you, Sir. And we have the employee luncheon, Thursday?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: As far as I know, we are on track. We have got the food coming and we have purchased some more supplies today. So, we are looking forward to a good time of fellowship and food.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: What time was that?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: High noon. 12.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

COUNTY MANAGER BEARDEN: I am actually really proud of this and wanted to mention it. Me and Raymond attend Regional Commission pretty regular. However, we were given some information that I announced to the Board of Commissioners last Monday, but I want to announce to y'all. Dodge County has a 3.6 unemployment rate. The state is at 3.1 so we are a little higher than the state. But, when you look at the surrounding counties, we are actually lower than them with the exception of Pulaski. They still have a 3.1. So, I am pretty impressed with that 3.6.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion from Councilor Mullis and a second from Councilor Hamilton, the meeting was adjourned.

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK