

December 12, 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, Fire Chief Scotty Whitten, City Manager Spencer Barron, City Clerk April Sheffield, City Inspector Jack White, Engineer Jesse Bearden and Wynnon Pittman. Present from the community were Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Rob Grimsley, Chuck Yzenski, Mark Studstill, Phil Bearden, Spud Bowen, Charlotte Hopkins, Emory Tuff, John Battle, and Justin Haley. Also in attendance were Jean Nelson, Mary Jowers, April Giddens, Shirley Adler, Ginger Hightower, Judy Gulley, and Diane Lemley.

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 item on the agenda is to approve the agenda and I think that we are removing one and adding two.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, we are going to take #4 off (Alcohol Ordinance) and add the Department of Community Supervision and also add the Dodge Historical Society. And I believe that is all. Was there any other group that wanted to get on the agenda besides these? We already have Faithful Hearts on there.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, I will entertain a motion then to amend the agenda, remove #4, add the Department of Community Supervision and add the Dodge Historical Society. And with that motion, whoever makes it, will also approve the amended agenda.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: We've got a motion from Councilman Mullis to remove #4 and add them 2 new ones. 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: Next on the agenda is to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2022, regular meeting. Y'all got those in your packets. Any questions or comments that y'all need to ask Spence or April about. If not, then I will entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2022, 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 show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

WATER DEPT CAMERA BIDS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: First item under unfinished business is water department camera bids.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, Jack is going to cover the submittals on that.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Paul has requested a camera to do inspections of sewer lines. He had a rigid camera 6303. 200-foot reel and the kit with the monitor and batteries also. The cheapest one that we come back with was the P&H Supply. It was \$15,886 and some change. And that would be the one he would like you to go with.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Jack, this is everything that y'all need to make it work and do what y'all need it to do?

INSPECTOR WHITE: Yes, Sir. As far as I understand. Paul couldn't be here tonight, so he asked if I would present it to you.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: If the council remembers, we have never had one of these. We have been borrowing Mark Studstill's. We appreciate him letting us use it. And also the Housing Authority for letting us use theirs. But I think that it is just time to buy our own.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Does anybody have any questions? If not, then I need a motion to approve P&H Supply company for the camera system to inspect sewer lines.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Need a second.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous. P&H Supply for \$15,886.21.

MAIN STREET PROJECT BIDS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Main Street project bids.

INSPECTOR WHITE: I had requested at the last meeting to be able to take bids for the seal coating and striping of the Main Street area. Striping by Tim came back with the lowest bid, \$24,419.78. He also agreed that he could do it in sections without having to block the whole street and take a chance on businesses having to be closed. We can do it in sections where everybody's able to continue working.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any questions for Jack? Alright, if not then I need a motion to approve the Main Street paving project. Striping by Tim for \$24,419.78.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Second.

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

LEGION DRIVE PROJECT BIDS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Legion Drive project bids.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, this is a multi-year project and I think Jesse's going to come up and explain what he has come up with and see if we can save Legion Drive.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: So, we have been talking about this for what seems like years now. Anyway, we put a solicitation for bids in the paper and received 2 bids. One from Graham & Studstill and one from Otis Grading & Land Construction. So, we had talked to 2 different engineers and they both recommended us putting in 2-box culverts there. And this was going to disrupt so much with elevation changes and driveways and the pump station that we have there. It's a great idea but the urgency of that, I just didn't see. Plus, we were talking about over \$500K to be spent on approximately 250-ft of Legion Drive. That just didn't sit well with me. So, the specifications were in the paper and ran for a week or so. Like I said, there were 2 bids. Graham & Studstill's bid was for \$238,320 and Otis Grading and Landscape for \$302,349.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any questions for Jesse? If not then, I will entertain a motion for the Legion Drive culvert project for Graham & Studstill in the amount of \$238,320.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

MONTHLY FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

FIRE CHIEF WHITTEN: Good evening. For the month of November, we ran a total of 43 calls, 25 inside the city and 18 outside. Structure fires, had 3. Stove fire, 1. Electrical 1. Careless act 1. Brush fires 3. Power lines down were 4. Gasoline spills 1 and natural gas 2. With medical calls we ran 9, vehicle rescues 9. Electrical alarms 5, lift assists 2, and power lines and trees 2.

MONTHLY POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

POLICE CHIEF SHEFFIELD: For the month of November, we used 1,015 gallons of gas, answered 1,414 calls and worked 22 wrecks.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: And this is Becky's last police report.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I hadn't thought about that. For the record, this is Becky's last police report as a police chief. (Audience stands and claps)

FAITHFUL HEARTS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the report on Faithful Hearts Animal shelter.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes. We have several members from Faithful Hearts here and I don't know if they are going to give the numbers or if they want me to read them out? The last time I believe that we gave them any funds to operate on was 2020. They're going to give an update on what they accomplished which is some amazing work for the city of Eastman.

APRIL GIDDENS: We have 438 pups so far this year that we have taken in.

DIANE LEMLEY: Our incoming adult dogs that we took in this year was 69. And then we adopted out 64 of those. And at the shelter, we currently still have 43 adult dogs. We've got 16 dogs in foster homes for a total of 63 dogs that are in our care between dogs and puppies. Now, out of these 69 that we took in, like April said, 438 puppies we add on top of that.

APRIL GIDDENS: These are the puppies that we have transported out that people have brought to us from. That were theirs, that were puppies that they picked up off the side of the road and that they have picked up at dumpsters. So, those puppies were also. We send pictures to the rescues, and they are most of the time adopted by the time that they get there. So, they are adoptions also.

DIANE LEMLEY: This Friday alone, it's every other Friday, we send puppies up on the transport.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Can you explain to them what that is?

DIANE LEMLEY: Yes. We have a transport that comes out of Alabama.

APRIL GIDDENS: No, it comes from Tennessee.

DIANE LEMLEY: It used to be Alabama. And they pick up puppies here. We contact them. They come pick them up and they transport them up to New York and New Jersey.

APRIL GIDDENS: But the rescues have to accept them from the pictures that we have sent them. We have to get them health certs. They have to have 2 vaccines. They have to have 5 days of wormer. Have to have no skin issues.

DIANE LEMLEY: If they have any of that, we have to take care of that before we go. And like this Friday alone, we got a mama dog and 11 puppies. And actually, this was a little dog that came from y'all that we got from the city to keep from her having to be put down. She had 11 puppies.

APRIL GIDDENS: In our care, she had the 11 puppies.

DIANE LEMLEY: They thought she already had her puppies when they gave her to us. But no, she had them about a week later. We don't get any other funding from anywhere else except for just

fundraisers or donations. And our monthly donations that we get from just donors that do to us every month only totals \$377. And we did a fundraiser 2 weeks ago. And you know that fundraising just is not that easy. We only did like \$659 but we were very thankful for that. So, our money is just really tight and stretched right now. So, anything that we could possibly get for helping out these animals. We deeply appreciate it.

APRIL GIDDENS: And our largest expense is for our 2 employees that we have that work from 8 to 3. And it's \$18,200.

DIANE LEMLEY: We used to try to do that on a volunteer basis. Everyone that was down there was volunteers. We just couldn't keep the volunteer staff to do it. So, we ended up last year having to hire 2 positions. And then the nighttime shift that goes down is still volunteers.

APRIL GIDDENS: And our vet services this year today is \$16,805.

DIANE LEMLEY: That's our second big expense. Because all these animals that come in our care have to be vetted. They have to be spayed, neutered, anything like that before they get adopted out. A lot of them have health issues that has to be tended to. Heartworm treatments, whatever.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And just to explain to the public and new council members that may or may not know how it operates. In general, the city doesn't do very much in the way of adopting out animals. Unfortunately, we don't have the staff or the capacity. So, that's where Faithful Hearts steps in. They're connected and they have the visibility. Just listening to them talk, that's over 500 dogs and puppies that y'all got out of the city of Eastman right now that we would have had to deal with otherwise.

APRIL GIDDENS: There could be a lot of dogs on the streets. And those puppies would be reproducing.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We hate having to euthanize at the rate that we do. It's just unfortunate. But we just don't have very much storage facility.

DIANE LEMLEY: Well, we just saved you 5 last week from having to have that done.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Question, if I want a dog from y'all, what do I do?

APRIL GIDDENS: Fill out an application and it goes before our adoption committee.

DIANE LEMLEY: Then they contact you. You set up an appointment and you come to see the dog. If y'all get along, you with the dog and if the dog gets along with you, there is an adoption fee. We do have to charge an adoption fee because we do have to pay Dr. Rahn.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: That's what I wanted everyone to know. That there is a fee.

APRIL GIDDENS: Yes, like I said, \$16,805 goes to vetting these dogs.

DIANE LEMLEY: And that adoption fee does go to help pay that bill.

APRIL GIDDENS: So many people think that they are free. They are not free. Because they are perfectly healthy. Up to date on everything for a year when you get a dog. Thank y'all so much. We would very much appreciate whatever y'all could give us. \$10,000 could go a great, long way in vetting more dogs. Thank y'all so much for having us.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And the funds are available if the council decides to allocate that. In the past, I think we have given them \$7500 a year. But that was 2 or 3 years ago. And with the cost of everything going up.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Well, they are actually saving us money too.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes Sir. Without a doubt. They are saving us money and a lot of animals lives too.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, do you have any more questions? What do y'all think? Are y'all in? Alright. With that being said, I will entertain a motion to provide Faithful Hearts with \$10,000.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I second that motion.

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

COUNCILOR WOODARD: Second.

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

EASTMAN HOUSING AUTHORITY:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Eastman Housing Authority and I think we've got a letter from them.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes Sir, you do, from Ms. Michelle Butler. She is asking that Mr. Stephen Whigham and Ms. Alice Faye Oxford be reappointed. And Mr. Papel has notified that board that he is resigning, and they have asked that this council would consider Ms. Lindsey Wilkes for his spot on the board.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Is anybody from the Housing Authority here?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I don't see anybody from the Housing Authority here. I think they just sent the letter. I am sure that they are tied up somewhere else.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: So, we are reappointing Stephen Whigham and Ms. Alice Faye Oxford. And replacing Mr. Papel with Ms. Lindsey Wilkes. Council, do y'all have any other questions?

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Who are the other members on that board?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I honestly don't know who the members of that authority are. April might have them that we could get that for you after the meeting.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: I have a list of members in a folder, but I can't remember off the top of my head.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right, I will entertain a motion to honor the Housing Authority's request and reappoint Stephen Whigham and Ms. Alice Faye Oxford, and to appoint Ms. Lindsey Wilkes to replace Mr. Papel who is retiring next month.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCILOR WOODARD: Second.

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

APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next is to approve the monthly bills for November 28 – December 12, 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 HAMILTON: Second.

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Department of Community Services Supervision. Just supervision?

ROB GRIMSLEY: I am Rob Grimsley, and I am the Assistant Chief of the Dept of Community Supervision office here which was formerly the probation and parole office here. Some people are still confused since we combined it and changed names a couple of years back. As of next month, our office here by the old courthouse is closing down. We have numerous drug classes that we offer there and different services that we do for our offenders. But, as of next month, we will be closing down and moving to the Helena State Patrol post that they have redone for us. At this time, we have been looking for places that we can hold our alcohol and drug classes for our offenders, and we have come up empty. We were coming today to request to possibly use this building for a couple of hours on Monday and Tuesday. Mr. Chuck can tell you what the specifics are and what classes we offer and times. But we are just requesting that we be able to use the facility.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: What time? And you said Mondays and Tuesdays?

CHUCK YZENSKI: Hello, I am Chuck Yzenski, and I am an alcohol and drug counselor with Community Supervision. We will need the building from about 3:30 on Monday afternoon until about 4:45. And then on Tuesday, from around 8:30 in the morning until about 3 or 3:30 on Tuesday afternoon. All of that time will not be in class. I will have a morning class on Tuesday from 8:30 until 10 and an afternoon class from about 2 to about 3:30. Not all of that time will be spent here. Sometimes I may have an assessment and I have to see an offender. And they will come here to do that. And that is what I will use the other time for, to make myself available for them. We would appreciate it if the city council would let us use the facility so we can still service our people here in Dodge County.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We explained to them the meeting routine that we have here at 6:00. We have municipal on Tuesdays. And so, we understand that this may be an experiment and we have got to try it and make sure that it works. But they are not in a position to be able to pay rent for a facility. It is something that we need for the city of Eastman. If we don't do it, they are pretty much going to be stuck begging a church or something. And we definitely have a drug and alcohol problem here in Eastman. And this would be a great resource to help these men and women with that. I think. And again, it's an experiment.

ROB GRIMSLEY: And after every day when Chuck gets done with his classes, you would not be able to tell that we were here. We would clean out the bathrooms, take the trash out. That would not be an issue, because we do administer drug screens while they are there in class.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Now that is in here?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes. Just here in this room. It would be separate from the daily operations from city hall.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Well, I got a question. What about the place where they use to have something at the old fire station.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: The AA building.

FIRE CHIEF WHITTEN: That house is dilapidated.

INSPECTOR WHITE: That building is about condemned.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Okay, just asking.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And I ain't trying to steer or push you. I'm just saying that if you want to try can try it. And if there gets to be some kind of conflict.

CHUCK YZENSKI: I'm willing to try whatever. Our schedule is not set per se in stone. If we need to cancel some Tuesday classes during the month, or some Monday classes during the month, that's fine. I would just like to have a place where we can meet more often than not in Dodge County to keep our offenders on track with what they are doing. Trying to stay clean. Drug addiction is a struggle, and they need support from the community. And I am thankful that we have other programs here. The Refuge, One Way, and the Sure Foundation. All of us working together and we have got to tackle this. Anything that you can do to help us, we would appreciate it.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, what do y'all think?

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: I'm for it. I am for the program, for everything. It is just about this building. This is our main building and I think it would be more beneficial for the AA building just in case we may have something come up that we may have to cancel. Of course, we don't want to get into the cancel business because that is not beneficial to y'all or your program. But that building sounds more controlled than using our city hall building.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: What kind of shape is it in though?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I think Scotty was saying not good. Scotty, have you been in there lately to know what it looks like?

FIRE CHIEF WHITTEN: No, I haven't. But I know they were having problems with the roof leaking.

INSPECTOR WHITE: I know that they were having some structural issues and they were having some problems with it. That is why they quit holding the AA meetings there.

FIRE CHIEF WHITTEN: It would take a lot to fix that building.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: What about the bus shop? I don't even know if that building would be any safer. This is it as far as what the city has got. And I get what you are saying. Absolutely. But we are not going to be able to get those probationers to McRae. We were doing good to get them to the office in Eastman most of the time.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: What is the mandatory hours? Question in the back?

JOHN BATTLE: How many numbers are they talking about? How many people are they talking about housing? Because you have got to take into consideration parking and all other stakes. How many people are they talking about housing in the class?

CHUCK YZENSKI: We normally have 8-10 on Monday afternoon. And more likely, it's going to be below 10. With 2 classes on Tuesday, anywhere from 5-10 in each class. No more than 20 total on Tuesday. In no class, the most you will have in 1 class is 10. That is the most that you will have at one time. And most of our supervisees don't drive. They come down here and they get dropped off. They are not going to be able to drive to McRae-Helena. And they don't drive to our office. They are brought or walk. And if I have it here, someone said something about the tech school. Yeah, the tech school would be great if you had folks that could drive to get there. The tech school in this county is so far out, that it is going to be hard for our folks to get there. So, I need somewhere central in town with easy access for our supervisees to get to.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Most of them probably don't drive anyway.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: if we are only talking about 4 or 8, we also have this little probation office right here on the other side of that wall. It's a very small office but if you don't need a desk in the middle of it, you can easily get that number of people in chairs around it if you don't need the city hall.

CHUCK YZENSKI: I will do drug screens on the class that comes on Monday, and those that are in phase 1. We call it our aftercare class for folks that have just come out of prison or RSAT and are required to take this class. Phase 1 folks have to be drug screened twice a month. Phase 2 folks have to be drug screened once a month. So, I will be doing drug screens more on the Monday class than on the Tuesday class. The Tuesday class, everyone that comes to that class gets drug screened once a month. Or more if I need to see that I need to do so. But we will pick up after ourselves. I will make sure that we pick up any trash or anything.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Well, like you said, let's try it. Don't you think? Let's try it. And if it don't work out, we will try something else. That's what I say.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: And also, y'all can sit down with Spence here and get all of the kinks worked out. And see how it works with that building back there.

CHUCK YZENSKI: Yeah, we can look at it and see if it will work.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: One more question. As far as housing, will it be just state offices? Are y'all going to have security? Training programs?

CHUCK YZENSKI: It won't be a training program. It will just be a class. And the total hours that you are looking at as far as class time is probably only no more than 3 hours of class time. Then other times, if I may have a supervisee come in for an assessment, it will just be me. I usually am the security. I usually am the person who handles all of that. And if I need help, I always can call on the police or the Sheriff. I haven't had any problems and I have been doing this since '87.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We did something similar in the 90's. I was a parole officer back then. I can remember us coming over here to do that. We had drug and alcohol classes. And I don't remember why we got away from it. Maybe we just found a location somewhere else. It's not completely unheard of as far as doing with this.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, any more questions? If not, I will entertain a motion to allow y'all to use this or that room, y'all can work it out. I'm sure you're not going to let it be wrong.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I think we can find a way to work it out and do our best to keep the operations separate and maintain the responsibility of the government.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I need a motion then to provide the Department of Community Supervision to utilize space at city hall to maintain your drug and alcohol sessions and classes.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have 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.

CHUCK YZENSKI: Thank you, we appreciate y'all.

DODGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Dodge Historical Society.

PHIL BEARDEN: Good evening, folks. I would just like to start by thanking you for the previous 25 years that you have supported the Dodge Historical Society and mainly the Eastman House. That is primarily our area focusing goal. Basically, the reason we exist is to keep the Eastman House up and healthy. We show that thing 6 or 8 times a year. We recently had a unique visitor. We recently showed the house. A guy from England came by and he had been corresponding for several years, actually about 2 ½ to 3 years. For 3 years, he had been corresponding with Ms. Jane Walker in McRae, Georgia. And he finally got over here and one of the primary things that he wanted to see when he came to this part of Georgia was the Eastman House. So, we opened it up and met with about 6 or 8 people that evening. About halfway through the conversation, we found out that he was William E. Dodge's great, great, great, great-grandson, who is a playwright in Great Britain. And he plans to do a screenplay and build a movie on the Dodge Land Wars that won at some point in time. If he can get it published or produced it would be great. He is planning on writing it and getting it produced. That is just some of the things that we do. We open it up for anybody that wants to use it. We keep it up. We have got the maintenance and the yards, the building and the security, the power bill and the insurance. The insurance is almost what y'all give us each year now. So, if you could continue to support us. Again, we appreciate the past 25 years of support, and we hope that you can continue to support that endeavor.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Y'all do a great job. You essentially function as the museum for the city of Eastman.

PHIL BEARDEN: Absolutely. And people are always impressed when they come in there and see it. That credit goes to the original Dodge Historical Society that did that work in the 90's and put that building back. We maintain it and keep it up and add to it. We have painted it twice since I have been involved. Recently, well 2 years ago, it was \$20,000. Our budget, between what y'all have given us and what we have fundraised over the years, and what the county has given us, has allowed us to save up the money to paint that thing. But the way things are going now, somebody is going to have to up the money for the next time to be able to paint it. Because we have no surplus whatsoever. We are in a deficit every month and every year. Sooner or later, somebody is going to have to paint it again. We hope to be able to change that. And if we can, we would. Maybe if the city of Eastman continues to prosper and do so well with all of the stuff that y'all have got going, we may hit y'all for a raise. But this year, I would like to ask for the same amount as the previous years.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: \$3500 is what we have been giving them since I have been here.

PHIL BEARDEN: Any questions or comments? I will be glad to entertain any.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Are y'all still having your monthly meetings?

PHIL BEARDEN: Yes. Well, Covid kind of killed some of that and we are not meeting as regularly. We ended up with 3 good speaker meetings, which is where someone comes and speaks. We had 3 really good meetings. We also share that building now. Well, before Covid we started, and then their organization fell apart more than ours did during all of that. It is the Wiregrass Genealogy Society. They use the building as well for their monthly meetings. Hopefully, this coming year we will be able to get things back on track and grow our membership. We keep about 60-80 members to be about accurate.

We have some really good meetings. Anytime y'all want to come to one of our meetings, you are more than welcome.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We appreciate it. It is definitely a public service for the city of Eastman.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, any more questions for Phil? If not, I will entertain a motion to continue to provide the \$3500.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCILOR WOODARD: Second.

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

BUILDING PERMIT:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is a building permit for RRS Enterprises LLC at the intersection of Hwy 117 & 341.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Yes Sir. RRS Enterprises have come asking for a building permit. They are building a Skwecky Kleen at the intersection of 117 & 341. Basically, straight across from Walmart. They also gave me the plans for the whole development that they are going to do out there in the future. They plan on having a strip mall and a couple of other buildings. We just want to get this project up and running and have them invest in the future.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I reckon that everything is in order?

INSPECTOR WHITE: Everything is in order. We have got the deeds, plats, money for the permit. The whole nine yards.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, do you have any questions? Then I need a motion to approve the building permit for RRS Enterprises, LLC.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a motion from Councilman Hamilton. I need a second.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All in favor by show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I just want to tell the Lions Club, the churches and civic organizations, and everybody that contributed to that Christmas parade, it was fantastic. It was the best that we ever had that I can remember at the city of Eastman. Thank y'all, especially to the Lions Club for putting it together and organizing it. And the only other thing from me is that I asked Justin Haley to be here from the Food Bank, to give us a quick update on his financials and status. He was going to be here at the last meeting, but we had a conflict.

JUSTIN HALEY: Yes, sorry about that. The Rec Department started a girl's flag football league for the ages 7-10 and 11-14, since the high school did so well. That is just where I left from. They were short of coaches, so I have the privilege of coaching a bunch of 7-10-year olds and learning flag football. I just left an intense game to run over here. That is where I was at for the other meeting last time, so I apologize. But just real quickly, and to keep it short and sweet. Our October total is, because I did miss that month. We served 249 households, and we distributed 8,600 pounds. And our backpack program, we are doing 174 kids a week at 4,176 pounds and the backpack and the weight pretty much won't change. So that's what we do every week. The total expenses for October, which was light bill, rent, one-time using a U-Haul to be able to go to Peachtree City to be able to pick up free food which saves a lot of money as well as food expenses like the backpacks from Macon was right at \$2400. So, it's around \$1600 under the budget. November totals are we served 255 households with 9,100 pounds. The backpack again is 174 and right at 4,176 pounds distributed there. We picked up a new program through the Peachtree City Food Bank which allows us to get what is called pallet distribution. They give

us pallets full of meat and we have some city help to be able to unload that that day. And basically, it's free. We rented a U-Haul. It's \$175 to rent a U-Haul. But we are able to go up and we basically got right around 10,000 pounds of food, which saved about \$1600 that we would normally have had to buy. We get to do that now once a month. The total expenses for the month of November, with backpack and serving 255 households, was right at \$2,000 because of that. So, I plan to be able to keep somewhere in the neighborhood of being able to serve 35 to 40 more families than what we normally have projected to. But also, save that \$2100, or \$2000 to \$1800 a month, by doing that where we get the free food through Peachtree City. And the other update really quickly, we secured the building which will be what use to be Jerry's Auto Parts and I know some people are probably glad to see that one get cleaned up a little bit. That is going to get cleaned up and we get to move in in February. It's about 6500 square feet and the exact same rent we're paying now. So, nothing goes up and it's a lot better space for us that we can work out.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Any questions? Keep up the good work, Sir.

JUSTIN HALEY: Thank y'all very much.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Yes, I would like to go ahead and put Sunset Park on the next meeting. About the equipment and different things of that nature.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And prior to that, I will get you the equipment that they are considering for y'all's review.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: I just want to thank you Ms. Becky, for everything. You have done so much. People don't know everything you have do, but I do. I just want to thank you for your service.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMITLON: Yes, definitely.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I've knowed you from long ago, when you use to be my neighbor. Then I came down here and I appreciate everything that you have done for the city. And also, being that we have sold the Fred's building, and the reason that we bought the Fred's building is for the new city hall. And then we sold it because we got the Goody building for the new City Hall. We need a new city hall. And I want us to get back on that.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We'll get busy on it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

EMORY TUFF: I just wanted to say this to Ms. Becky. I have been back here 9 years. She's very special. When she can know your family before she knows you. She knew who I was, and I didn't know who she was in the grocery store. I come from a place that used to be called Oil Mill Lane. I was born there. Now it has become Norman Avenue. And I remember when it was Oil Mill Lane. Just clay dirt there. With Fred Bennett's, all of his gins and all of that stuff flying like it was snowing. But it wasn't snow. But to have met her in her capacity of her duties. She never let go of her heart and her compassion for the family that was going through the trouble that they were going through. If your son or daughter was being arrested by her staff, she knew how to comfort that mother and that father and help them through the steps. I didn't know she was retiring. I always blow at her when she is directing school traffic. And I look at her. She is shopping for the grandchildren. Same as any other normal person but she has such compassion in her job and what she was doing. I was so sad to see her go. Because she answered a lot of questions concerning Georgia. I have been away for almost half a century. But she was able to answer a lot of questions and help. I am going to miss her. My eyes are full of water. Not because she has to go. I really would like to see her stay a little longer. Let me be here at least another 15 or 20 years. But I know she has to. But I will say this, good job. Thank you. I'm very proud of you. And meeting you and getting to know you.

POLICE CHIEF SHEFFIELD: Thank you.

12-12-22

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ADJOURNMENT:

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK