

February 13, 2023

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, and Ronnie Woodard. Others present were Police Chief Billy Cooper, City Manager Spencer Barron, City Clerk April Sheffield, City Attorney Rita Llop, Fire Chief Scotty Whitten, City Inspector Jack White and Wynnon Pittman. Present from the community were Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Angela Rogers, Reggie Sheffield, Paula McCain, John Battle, Ron Daniels, Opera Jordan, Emory Tuff, Steve Harrison, Joachim Harrison, Kennedy Hettlinger, and Charlotte Hopkins.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pittman.

Invocation was given by Vice-Chairman Mullis.

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 2 deletions and 1 addition.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes Sir. We need to take off #4, the SCBA equipment, and take off #7, the first reading of the alcohol ordinance. And then add the Oconee Drug Task Force Agreement.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have anything? If not, I will entertain a motion then to amend the agenda by removing #4 and #7 and adding the Oconee Drug Task Force Agreement at the bottom. So, I need a motion for that please.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next is approve the minutes of the January 26, 2023, regular meeting.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Council, do y'all have any questions or anything about the minutes? If not, I need a second.

COUNCILOR WOODARD: Second.

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

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRE REPORTS:

CHIEF WHITTEN: For the month of January, we ran a total of 54 calls. We had 31 inside the city and 23 outside. We had 1 arson case, 7 brush fires, 3 vehicle fires. There were 14 medical calls. Vehicle rescues 13. Electrical alarms 3. Lift assists 7. Check smoke 4. Power lines/trees down 1. And public service 1.

POLICE REPORTS:

CHIEF COOPER: For the month of January, we used 1,044 gallons of fuel. WE answered 1,333 calls and had 20 traffic accidents and 142 arrests.

WOMEN IN AVIATION:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Women in Aviation 5K run.

ANGELA ROGERS: Hello. My name is Angela Rogers, and I am from the University right up the street. The Aviation Campus. I am sure that you guys are aware of us. I am the president of the Heart of GA Chapter for Women in Aviation International. It's a professional aviation group for women and men to encourage young women to enter into the work force. Our late advisor, Lisa Henry, founded our chapter in 2007. And we have since named the 5K after her. We would like to move it into the City of Eastman rather than have it on the airport because it produces some issues on our logistical things that we kind of go through on a day-to-day basis. We would like to put it into the city so we could have more opportunities to reach out to everyone and get more involved with the community. We are looking to have it on March 11 from 7:30 – 11:00 AM, at the First Baptist Church. I gave you guys a route that was produced by Mr. Reggie Sheffield for the 2019 Child Abuse 5K, that was previously approved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Y'all are leaving from behind the church over there?

ANGELA ROGERS: Yes Sir.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Coming down 6th Avenue to Creighton Street and going. There ain't no need in following all through that. I think y'all talked to them. It's not on any state routes or anything where you have got to get permits for that?

ANGELA ROGERS: Correct. There is only 1 busy section where we might need the assistance of local law enforcement. I don't think that we will need barriers or barricades. So, that's a plus. But really, it's a pretty clean route. It's not going to put anyone in harm's way or anything like that. Or create any issues with traffic so it should be great.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: The last time that route was ran, it was with great success. We didn't have any problems with it.

REGGIE SHEFFIELD: I would just say that the route crosses 9th Avenue in 2 different places. But, from 8 – 9:00 on Saturday mornings, there's not that much traffic there. But that would be your only major streets that would be crossed.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any other questions or anything?

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Does rain cancel it?

ANGELA ROGERS: No, they can suffer. No, it's for a good cause. So because this is a memorial 5K, we don't want to cancel it. And because 20% of our proceeds are going to a local Eastman family, who has a family member who is going through cancer treatments. So no, it's rain or shine. Y'all can run in some trash bags or ponchos. It will be okay.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I like her.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: She also flies planes. Isn't that, right?

ANGELA ROGERS: And helicopters.

REGGIE SHEFFIELD: We would also like to extend an invitation to all of the city council members and the city manager and the city attorney to participate in the run as well.

ANGELA ROGERS: I also put in sponsorship forms in your folders. I see them up there. They are purple, they are hard to miss. So, if you felt like writing us a check, you most certainly could. It is right in there.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, y'all have any other questions? I'm looking at this thing with the bronze sponsors and stuff. Let's get your route passed and we will discuss the other stuff later. I need a motion to approve the Women in Aviation 5K Run route.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: **So moved.**

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

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: **Second.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a second from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor, show of hands. Motion carried unanimous. If you can get with Chief Whitten and the police chief.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: If you don't mind giving myself or the Chief a call tomorrow to make sure we have the police lined up if we need them or if you need any type of barricade. Chief Cooper might be the best stop first.

ANGELA ROGERS: Sure. I can give you guys a call tomorrow.

REGGIE SHEFFIELD: Thank y'all very much.

APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next item on the agenda is to approve the monthly bills from January 27 through February 13. You all got them in your packets. Any questions about them? If not, I need a motion to approve the monthly bills.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCILOR WOODARD: Second.

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

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Arbor Day Proclamation. I think y'all have a copy of it in front of you. It's the same one that we do every year. If y'all would like, I will read it for you right quick. Or if you would like for us to just pass it, we can do that.

PAULA MCCAIN: We are going to read it on Arbor Day. So, it will be read with the flag, and there will be pictures taken. And then we will be giving away, I have got 100 seedlings with half persimmon and half crepe myrtles. We will be giving those away as well from 9 – 2:00.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: And that will be this Friday, the 17th.

CITY MANAGER BEARDEN: So we really hope y'all will pass this.

PAULA MCCAIN: Well, I will still give away the trees.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Well, I need a motion then to approve the Arbor Day proclamation.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Got 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 approved. That is this Friday.

PAULA MCCAIN: At 10:00. At the Chamber. And everybody is invited to come out and get your trees.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: No dogwood this year? Persimmon, that is pretty neat.

SURPLUS AUCTION:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is y'all have a list of items, equipment, and miscellaneous inventory for us to approve to advertise that we will be auctioning these items off in the near future. Per what we have to do and all, these will be placed in the newspaper and advertised for surplus auction. Council, I need a motion to approve this list to be advertised.

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.

SURVEY OF CITY PROPERTIES:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is survey city properties on the 400 block of Main and College. If anybody is wondering, that would be there, there, and back over there (points across the street). Including the bus station and the lot behind it. What we are asking is to approve to have a survey of all of the properties drawn and squared up to see exactly where the lines are. So, I will entertain a motion to have a survey done of the city properties across the street.

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.

DDA APPOINTMENTS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Downtown Development Authority appointments.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes. There has been discussion among the council and polling among themselves. I believe the top 2 contenders at this point are Mr. Ron Daniels and Ms. Paula McCain.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I think that there are 2 members on the board that their term expires at the end of this month. So, we are looking to go ahead and approve their 2 replacements. Spence, you polled all of the council members and got their recommendations or top 2 choices. So, I will entertain a motion to approve Ms. Paula McCain and Mr. Ron Daniels to be the new board members for the Downtown Development Authority.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a second from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous. Thank you. Welcome aboard. We are looking for big things and good things.

OCONEE DRUG TASK FORCE AGREEMENT:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Oconee Drug Task Force agreement.

POLICE CHIEF COOPER: We have been partnered with Oconee Drug Task Force for a lot of years. This is just basically our part due. Every year we pay a certain part and our part this year is \$8,803. It pretty much stays about the same.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I think that is what it was last year and the year before.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: And they are?

CHIEF COOPER: Oh, they are doing really well. They have a relatively new agent. I think he has been there about 8 or 9 months. He is working really well. And they have got another that is fixing to go through school.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Good deal. Council, I will entertain a motion to approve the Oconee Drug Task Force agreement with the city.

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.

CHIEF COOPER: Thank you.

CITY MANAGER HAS NOTHING TO REPORT

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

COUNCILOR MULLIS: There is one thing that I am proud of. The city has a new limb and leaf truck. So, we can pick up our own limbs and leaves. Mine haven't been picked up in 2 months, but they are going to get picked up now.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

VIA FACEBOOK:

JESSIE SMITH: Cemeteries and roads are looking great! Keep up the good work!!!

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Thank you.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Thank you.

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK