

March 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, Jermayne Hamilton, 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, Engineer Jesse Bearden, Paul McCranie, and Wynnon Pittman. Present from the community were Susan, Mitchell, and Charlotte Coffee, Sharon Cobb Flanagan, John Battle, Martin Kehayes, Benton Shumate, Justin Haley, and Charlotte Hopkins.

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 Chairman Pittman.

Invocation was given by Councilman Hamilton

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: The first thing on the agenda is to approve the agenda.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes Sir. We actually need to make 2 deletions. #1 and #8. #1, based on public feedback that we received from the public hearings or the public reading. The other one is going to be #8, the GEFA meter project bid. We have had the bid opening and the engineers are still tabulating and analyzing the data provided in those bids.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: For those wondering about the second reading of the alcohol ordinance, we have had the public reading and we have had public feedback today asking for changes in it. If you have or were listening on Facebook, or know anybody, please let them know that if you have got any questions about this ordinance. I promise, we are not putting this off. We are trying to make the thing right. Today, we had to make some changes in numbers and figures and distances and stuff. And I think with the public feedback, there are some things and other questions that have arisen to what the interpretation to a few things are. We are going to have to look those over with some more definitions. So, if you have got any questions, please get with Spence. And we can get with Rita so she can look into it. When we pass this, we really want it to be right. It has taken a long time, but this is a pretty big thing for Eastman. So, we want it to be right when we do it. We don't want to pass it tonight and then everybody be in court fighting us because we did something wrong. We want this to be a smooth transition so we can get it on and go. So, that is the reason that we are pulling it off tonight. Okay, **I need a motion then to amend the agenda and take off the Second reading of the Alcohol Ordinance and to approve the GEFA meter project bid.** I need a motion for that please.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Council, do y'all have any questions? I need a second.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.

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

Motion carried unanimous. I would like to say that it is good to have Councilman Hamilton back. He has been off training this past month with his job.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to **approve the minutes of the February 27, 2023, regular meeting.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a motion from Councilman Mullis to approve the minutes. Council, do y'all have any questions that you need to ask Spence or April? 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.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

PLANNING & ZONING BOARD POSITION, DISTRICT 5:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the planning and zoning board position for District 5.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Yes, Sir. For the planning & zoning position for District 5, I would like to appoint Dwayne Burney for this position.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright Council. Do y'all have any questions about that. If not then, **I will accept a motion to appoint Dwayne Burney to the P&Z Board position for District 5.**

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.**

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRE REPORTS:

CHIEF WHITTEN: For the month of February, we ran a total of 39 calls. We had 26 inside the city and 13 outside. We had 1 structure fire, 1 electrical, 1 careless act, 8 brush fires, and 1 vehicle fire. 1 LP gas leak, 3 natural gas leaks. There were 7 medical calls. Vehicle rescues 6. Electrical alarms 3. Lift assists 2. Life flight 2. Check smoke 2. Power lines/trees down 1. And public service 1.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Scotty, will you check your bottom flag on your flagpole?

CHIEF WHITTEN: Yes Sir.

POLICE REPORTS:

CHIEF COOPER: For the month of February, we answered 1,356 calls, used 1,044 gallons of gas, had 18 traffic accidents and patrolled 11,710 miles.

FIREWORKS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is fireworks.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I would like to see us do what we done last year. We give \$4,000 towards the fireworks last year and we had some of the best fireworks that we ever had. I was able to collect enough money for them. And this year I am going to try to do the same and I would like to put some more food trucks out there. If there is anybody here wanting to donate, I will be coming to see you, or you can mail a check to the City of Eastman, saying fireworks. I actually ran into a man at Peaches to Beaches that asked if I was doing the fireworks and he said that he wanted to donate this year. I told him that I would appreciate that, and I appreciate everyone that gives or donates. **So, I make a motion for \$4,000 like we done last year.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: We have a motion on the floor for the city to put in \$4,000 for fireworks. And Raymond will surely be going around to try and collect another \$8-9,000 more to get able to have the citywide July 4th fireworks. I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Council, do any of y'all have any questions or comments about it?

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: We have to approve buying the fireworks and doing the fireworks also.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: So, we need to make a motion to contribute the \$4,000 after we make a motion to approve the fireworks show for Tuesday, July 4th for?

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: \$12,500.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I get what she is saying.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: That is how we have done it in the past.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: It is because we have to sign a contract.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I understand. It is like we have been doing. If we go ahead and pay for the fireworks, it saves us a lot of money down the road. **So, I want to put that in motion first.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, so I have a motion to approve to have the fireworks program, Tuesday, July 4th, and for us to approve to sign a contract for \$12,500 to be go ahead and sent to the fireworks company.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Make a note if you don't mind. Anything collected over that will just go towards the fireworks.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: It always does. That's the way I do. That way I get more fireworks and other stuff.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Thank you.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any questions about that? Alright, so **I have a motion to go ahead and sign a contract with the company and send them a check for \$12,500.** I need a second.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: **Second.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor, show of hands. **Motion carried unanimous.** Then, we had a **motion on the floor for the city to give \$4,000 to the fireworks** and Raymond will get out and start collecting and calling on and see everybody else to give money for it.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: And that is the same thing that the city gave last year.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: So, we have that motion. We need a second.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: **Second.**

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

STREET DEPARTMENT TRACTOR:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to request to solicit bids for a tractor for the street department.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Yes. Y'all are familiar with all of the sidewalk curb and gutter repairs that we have been doing with the cleaning and so forth. What we are wanting to do is get a small tractor. Something that we can utilize on top of the sidewalks. And if we can, with an affordable rate, get one with a backhoe on it that will clean the gutters where the stormwater runs into. It will be beneficial to us and help the water department a little bit. That way, it can be used multi-task instead of one way. And we would like to solicit bids for it.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any questions for Jack? If not, then **I need a motion to approve to solicit bids for a small tractor with a backhoe setup for the street department.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: **So moved.**

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

COUNCILOR WOODARD: **Second.**

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

APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next item on the agenda is to **approve the monthly bills for February 28 through March 13.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: **So moved.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Council, do y'all have any questions about any of them? I need a second.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: **Second.**

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

MAPPING EQUIPMENT:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is mapping equipment.

WYNNON PITTMAN: Basically, when Paul and I came on board with the water department, we learned that with our mapping, the utilities all around town has no mapping at all. If there is anything, it is pretty much outdated. Spence, myself, Jack, and a bunch of us has done a lot of research on the quickest way of mapping stuff. Before Mr. Royce left, him and Jesse actually got out and mapped. I think it took them like 2 weeks to do just the water valves in general. They actually had an old data collector that was collecting GPS data that basically downloaded into Google Earth. When I got my hands on it, it took me probably 3 days to get it swapped over into what we are using now, which is Diamond Maps. And I reached out to Diamond Maps and actually got to talking with them on quicker ways of doing it, and they recommended what you have in your hand. Which is a Trimble catalyst receiver, which is actually blue toothed to any phone. And I could actually use that. The \$415 receiver is just a handheld receiver that will be on a rod. The big-ticket item is a one year subscription to what they call a Trimble catalyst that I can pretty much get anything within 1 – 10 cm anywhere in the world. You should have all of your data there. What we are wanting to do is map every utility in this town, where each one of you can pull it up. Where anybody that wants to come in city hall can look and say this is where Scotty's fire hydrants are. There is numerous ways of doing it. I am guessing that it is going to a year to do it the way I am doing it between me and my guy. Between running the excavator when it is not wet. When I can't use him, I can be mapping. If I am letting him mulch, I can be mapping. But we are just wanting to upgrade our system so everybody in the community can see what we have got. And have pinpointed. When I say this, you will actually be able to pull it up at the end and see where a water meter is. And at this present moment, Zeke Lupin is the only man that knows where everyone in this town is. So, in the midst of this, Zeke and I will be riding with this, if y'all approve it, and we will have it in a map where you can actually see where every utility thing is in this community.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any questions, thoughts, or comments? We have a bid for \$4,717.37. Now this is equipment. You said the word subscription. What is that for? Is it every year.

WYNNON PITTMAN: Yes. What that is, as long as we use it up within a year, we won't have to do it again. We should be through in a year, unless we decide that we are going to map something different. The actual one-year subscription is the big-ticket item, \$3,860. There is actually other subscriptions out there that we could use on this same company, but then you are going to get further away from it. This is going to pinpoint it within 1 -10 cm no matter where it is at.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And I would suggest that we spend more than \$4,000 a year, looking for water lines and gas lines, and cut offs and pipes. Even if we had to continue with more than one year of it, it would more than pay for itself.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, **I will open up a motion to approve the purchase of the mapping equipment for \$4,717.37.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: **So moved.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Got a motion from Councilman Mullis. And if the council doesn't have any questions, I need a second.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: **Second.**

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

WYNNON PITTMAN: Thank y'all.

LMIG CONTRACTOR:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to approve the LMIG contractor.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Hallelujah. We have finally got to the point of doing some paving. These were the contracts again: First Avenue, 10th Avenue, Page Street, West Pine Drive. We voted to do that in previous meetings. We had 3 submissions with East Coast Asphalt as the lowest at \$281,682.54. We also had submissions from Scruggs Company at \$310,578 and from Griffin Grading and Concrete at \$393,031.07. Hofstadter and Associates has reviewed the submissions and issued a recommendation letter. Their recommendation being that we go with East Coast Asphalt at \$281,682.54.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: That is going to be First Avenue, 10th Avenue, parts of Page Street, Pine Street, Bay Street, and West Main Street. Alright, **I need a motion then to approve East Coast Asphalt for the LMIG contract at a cost of \$281,682.54.**

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.**

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: When will they start paving?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Just as soon as possible. But we are on the schedule of East Coast now. Hopefully, late spring, early summer maybe. We are at the first of March now. I would love to see them in April or May, but they couldn't give us a date yet to get started. But we are making progress and I know that it is long overdue.

STREET SWEEPER:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is a request to solicit bids for a street sweeper/catch basin cleaner.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Yes, once again I am asking for something else. But I am trying to make our town better. A street sweeper. I mean, we got neighborhoods and all that the streets just look like crap in. Point blank, our entryways into town. A street sweeper would help keep the curbs and gutters clean. The one that we are looking at or would like to be able to get will have a vacuum system on the back of it. We could use it multi-tasking like cleaning out the pump stations when we have to have a pump truck come in. This one will multi-use. It will pump out pump stations. You can go and clean curb and gutter systems out with it. You can vacuum under the road with it. So forth and so on. It would be something on the lines of what we are looking at. I know that it is going to be a little pricey and it may not be this year. But I would actually like to be able to get bids and see what one is going to cost for us.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We are not asking to buy it yet. We are just need firm numbers on it so we can see how we can go about financing one.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Yes Sir.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And Scotty needs a fire truck. He is over there giving me a bad look. We know he needs that.

INSPECTOR WHITE: I understand. But as far as a community goes, and this is just my perspective on it. Somebody else may disagree with me. But the only way that you are going to draw people to a community is to have a good-looking little community. If you come into town and it looks like crap, ain't nobody going to want to stop here. Nobody is going to want to put a business here. I am just wanting to dress our town up and make it the best we can possibly have.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, do you have any other questions or anything? Well, **I will ask for a motion then to request to solicit bids for a street sweeper/catch basin cleaner.**

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.**

WATER TANK CONTRACT:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next is the water tank contract with Leary Construction.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes. Our annual contract for water tank maintenance is up. Leary Construction is who we have used over the past several years. They have done an excellent job. We noted in their annual renewal that it was about 48%.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: 44.8%

CITY MANAGER BARRON: It was a 44.8% increase. So before we commit to that, we ask permission to bid that out to see if there may be another option. And again, there may not be. We may still be with Leary. We would just like to bid it out and see what type of response we get for water tower maintenance.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: The \$58,000 that is written up here, is that?

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: It's for the whole year. It will cover 5 tanks per year.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Do you know the exact price from last year?

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: For the last 10 years, it was \$40,340 per year.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So it went up about \$19,000 or close to it.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, **I will ask for a motion to bid out water tank contracts and maintain and look after our water tanks and things.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Council, do y'all have any other questions? If not, then I need a second.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. **Bidding approved.**

SHELDON STREET SPEED LIMIT:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is Sheldon Street speed limit.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I am not sure who is going to introduce that.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I was out at Peaches to Beaches this weekend and walking around and talking to some people. The Sheffield man that lives on that street, what's the name, the one that goes by the Mexican trailers and all?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Sheldon Street,

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Yes, Sheldon Street. He says that there are so many youngens over there, which they are. There is a pile of youngens over there. The cars are coming through there faster than they need to. There are 4-wheelers over there. I even talked to the police, and they said that they would go over there. But he said that he wants a 15-mph speed limit put and signs saying Children at Play. But I think that it is a good idea to protect the children in this city and that is one place that somebody says. I talked to Jermayne because that is his area and Jermayne said that he was good to do it. So, that's what I want done. And he wants some speed bumps whenever we are able to get some.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes Sir. Ms. Sebrina is looking at me. I haven't forgot about yours.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: I was just wondering about that.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I would like to make a motion to be able to do that.

INSPECTOR WHITE: May I make a suggestion please? Instead of another speed bump on Sheldon Street, why don't we put another 4-way stop there where you use to cross to go to the old MC's. You got one up at your street. If you put another one there, that will slow traffic all of the way through.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: I like the idea of a speed bump, so it reassures things. You know that you can blow by a 4-way at any time. But a speed bump is going to put some caution in your mind.

INSPECTOR WHITE: I understand. I was just making a suggestion. With that other intersection there, I was just trying to slow things down even more.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: It was a great suggestion. I see what you are saying. But that speed bump will make you think a little bit.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I say we go ahead and see about the speed limit to see if that will slow it down.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We can have signs up tomorrow if y'all vote to pass it. Now the speed hump is going to take months to get it installed. Well, I take that back. We pulled that one up off of MLK. We might could move it over there, couldn't we? Well, Ms. Sebrina?

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: They have slowed down pretty much on MLK.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: The bump sure slowed them down.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: But if you remove the bump, well then you know what happens.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Which actually, the Congo Lane connector is ahead of this. We will move it to your request first, whichever. If that is what you still want. Or do y'all want to just get with me after the meeting and let's talk.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Yeah, let's do that.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Okay.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright. **I have a motion to make the speed limit and put signs for 15 mph and some children at play signs and also speed breakers when we are able to get them.** So, I already have a motion, I need a second.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: **Second.**

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

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I was going to ask Justin Haley to give us a brief update on the Food Program. I think they are having some great success, but I want y'all to hear it directly from him.

JUSTIN HALEY: I'm not coming to ask for money again, thank goodness. Somehow Mr. Spence always invites me but leaves me off of the agenda. But that is alright. Just to give you a quick update. Basically, I thought this was like a 6-month update, but time has flown. If you include August, which is when you guys done that, and some checks were wrote at the very end of August. And I also will go ahead and include March, that makes almost 8 months basically, 7 full months. So over this course and span, we have averaged seeing 250 households a month, which is 35 more than what we had anticipated or put down at the original asking. We are averaging 9500 pounds a month. And that averages out to 35 pounds per household and that is what we were looking at. That is pretty much the same amount of pounds that we set forth to do plus pretty much 35 more households. And that is due to Peachtree City, as I talked about, which is free food. We do have to use a U-Haul to go do it, but that only costs about \$150 because they cut us a deal on that which is really good. Our backpack program is actually doing 15 more kids a month than anticipated. We do 175 kids a month. We are averaging 1200 pounds a month going out to those students and that is averaging 7 pounds a student. I actually just got done, right before I got here. I brought in a 6,000-pound load of our last backpack order. Because there is only 10 weeks of school left, we went ahead and got everything in stock plus what we had, will cover the rest of the school year. So, for the next 4 months, I won't have to order anything as far as that from Macon. We won't have to spend any more money to cover the students there. When the students get

out of school, the Peachtree City program has a summer nutrition program. Then we can pick back up and do stuff and focus solely on kids, and that actually is free through them. Again, we won't have to spend anything until actually the beginning of next school year for us. Basically the spending average is this, I just rounded everything up so that way I still saved a little money even when I rounded stuff up. In the 8-month span, 7 full months, basically 8 months because I won't have to really do any more. We wrote some today, or Friday, to cover everything for March. I have spent \$20,000 in 8 months. Which averages \$2500 per month versus the \$4000 and some change that was allotted. We have done the different stuff with Peachtree which has enabled us, like I said, to cut down on costs from having to buy from Macon with the expenses just being the U-Haul and some gas. That has helped us tremendously bring in those amounts of pounds of food. For the backpack to help out, but mostly the food bank and not have to spend so much money. So, I am averaging \$1500 less a month than anticipated by finding those areas to help the food bank in that way. And also the goals that I had set out, unfortunately there was a hiccup or two that a couple of you guys know about, but we are quickly trying to get that resolved and get in the new building. I had spoken to you guys' grant writer, and she is starting to look for grants to help us there. And I am having somebody do the website and Facebook update to get all of that set within the 9-month span. So basically, all of this is on track and good to go. The only thing that is having a small hiccup is the building, but we still anticipate being able to get in that particular building. Like I said, feeding more households than anticipated and kids and saving \$1500 a month than what I had allotted and asked for at that particular time.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Sounds good.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: We appreciate your dedication and keeping your word.

JUSTIN HALEY: Thank y'all very much.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: I want to thank the council for picking up the load while I was out for those council meetings. I know there were a lot of questions in the community, as you can see. Mr. Raymond, you picked up for me and I thank you. And I am pretty sure everybody else did as well. We are a team and that is how we like to stay. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

CHARLOTTE HOPKINS: Good evening. My name is Charlotte Hopkins. I had not planned on any public comments tonight but as you mentioned the speed at Martin Luther King, I just wanted to let you know that it is picking back up.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Is it? We had originally pulled that speed hump due to the ambulance coming around from the hospital and we were worried that it might have been slowing it down. Would you like to see us put it back you think now?

CHARLOTTE HOPKINS: Any time that you want to, you can. As long as it is good with representative Williams.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: They are getting wild on that street again.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: It's getting bad? We can make that happen.

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