

April 10, 2023

The Eastman City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present: Jermayne Hamilton, Raymond Mullis, Buddy Pittman, Sebrina Williams and Ronnie Woodard. Others present were Police Chief Billy Cooper, Fire Chief Scotty Whitten, City Manager Spencer Barron, City Inspector Jack White and Administrative Assistant Dayna Winslette. Present from the community were Ash Brewer, Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Brian Dennis, Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Martin Kehayes, Kelvin Patel and Wally Putnam.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pittman.

The invocation was given by Chaplain Hamilton.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I'd like to welcome everybody here tonight and welcome everybody that's tuned in to Facebook. As we get started, first item on the agenda is to approve the agenda, and I think we're going to...

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Add one item, number eight: Appraisal of City Property.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, and I think number two, we're not going to approve that tonight. We're gonna look at a work session for that.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir, please.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Okay. It says, number two states, "Approve Water Tank Maintenance Bid." We're going to, we just got those in, so we're not gonna approve them tonight. We're gonna take a look at them and study them because, I'll be perfectly honest, they're running from \$500 to a million plus.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Yeah, let's do that.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: We're going to talk about those in a little bit.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: So, what number was it?

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Six.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Number two on Unfinished Business.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Oh, two.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Yep, it's number two.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Under Unfinished Business, I'm sorry.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Unfinished, yes ma'am. Alright, **with adding Appraisal of City Property and not approving number two under Unfinished Business, I need a motion to approve the amended agenda and, also in that motion, to approve the new agenda as it stands.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Council, y'all have any other questions? If not, 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 approve the minutes of the March 27, 2023, regular meeting. Y'all all got those in your packets over the weekend. Ya'll have any questions about the minutes or anything? If not, **I need a motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2023, regular meeting.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I 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.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

SECOND READING OF ALCOHOL ORDINANCE:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: First item under Unfinished Business is the second reading of the alcohol ordinance for the City of Eastman. Are we good?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: We're good to go.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I do think we have one councilman that's going to abstain from the process. *(Councilor Hamilton exited the council room while the discussion and voting took place by the other members.)*

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, okay, and as with the last meeting, I ain't going to read all 35 pages. I'm sure they've been read a lot of times, so **I will entertain a motion to approve the second reading of the Alcohol Ordinance for the city.**

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 *(with a vote of four)*. **With that being said, the Alcohol Ordinance is in effect.**

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We're going to run an ad in the legal organ, the Dodge County News, I believe for 30 days accepting applications, so you'll be able to turn in your application starting tomorrow.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Now, correct me if I'm wrong, but I've been telling folks you've got to get clearance from the state, plus...

CITY MANAGER BARRON: There's 30-something pages of rules associated with this, so I would encourage everyone to get a copy of them and read them. Have your attorney read them. Call us with questions. This is not something to rush into.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Does that answer your questions? Alright, sir. Alcohol Ordinance is adopted and passed. *(Councilor Hamilton re-entered the room.)*

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRE REPORTS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: With that being said, next on the agenda is, under New Business is fire reports. Chief Whitten.

FIRE CHIEF WHITTEN: For the month of March, we ran a total of 58 total calls. 42 inside the city. 16 outside the city. Structure calls, we had one. Stove fires, one. Electrical, three. Brush fires, four. LP gas leaks, one. Medical calls, eight. Vehicle rescues, 17. Electrical alarm calls, six. Lift assists, five. Check smoke, four. Powerlines and trees, six. Public service, two.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, y'all have any questions for the chief? If not, thank you, sir.

POLICE REPORTS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the monthly police report. Chief Cooper.

POLICE CHIEF COOPER: For the month of March, we answered 1,376 calls. Used 963 gallons of fuel. Had 33 traffic accidents. Patrolled 11,575 miles.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Y'all have any questions for the chief? Alright, thank you, sir. Y'all have been busy.

APPROVE CDBG RESOLUTION:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, next on the agenda is approve CDBG resolution.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir, we've been working with the Regional Commission. We'd like permission or would like the Council to authorize a resolution for an application for a million-dollar CDBG grant to assist with funding costs associated with the rehab of water and sewer infrastructure in the Bacon Heights area.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, I'll entertain a motion to approve the CDBG resolution.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I 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.**

APPROVE CDBG MATCH AMOUNT:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is approve CDBG match amount.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Again, after speaking with the Regional Commission, our engineers and looking at our current city finances, the recommendation is for the city to offer up to \$300,000 in match money for the Community Development Block Grant. \$300,000 is their recommendation. It's a lot of money. The money is available in SPLOST, and it would increase our chances of obtaining the million-dollar grant.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any questions for Spence?

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Go for it.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, if not, I'll entertain a motion to approve the CDBG match amount of up to \$300,000.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. 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.**

APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is approve the monthly bills for March 28th through April 10th. I think you all got those in your packets over the weekend. Y'all have any questions about them? If not, I'll entertain a motion to approve the monthly bills for March 28th through April 10th.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: 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.**

WATER DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is Water Department equipment, and you're going to talk to us about that?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir, Paul McCranie, who is the head of our Water Department, is in desperate need of a device called a Receiver, a Utility Locator, Transmitter, Adapter, Charger and Battery, and from what he's explained to me, this would assist us in locating the hidden lines, so that we won't have to cut all the way across College Street like we had to do last week. We're using a device that's very old and outdated, and it's not very good at locating things. So, Paul has asked that y'all would consider buying a new and upgraded device, and he's obtained two quotes. One is from Vacutech for

\$5,640, and then another is from Consolidated Pipe for \$4,600. He's requesting that you buy the cheaper of the two, the Subsurface PLVF10 for \$4,600 from Consolidated Pipe and Supply.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Now that one...

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Includes all of this...

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Has got everything that's in this one?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Based on my understanding, yes sir.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Okay, it's \$1,000 less. Alright.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Sounds like a good deal to me.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, y'all have any questions for Spence? If not, **I'll entertain a motion to approve the purchase of the Subsurface PLVF10-R from Consolidated Pipe and Supply Company.**

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.**

E/D DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR ANNEXATION:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Dodge County-Eastman Development Authority request for annexation.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir, Mr. Robert Pruitt has submitted a request from the Development Authority for us to annex into the city approximately 7.35 acres of land. This is the wooded area adjacent to Aremac on Airport Road, described as Parcel 060 024A. Parcel 060 024A. 7.35 acres approximately.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any questions? And now, I reckon, I'll just ask it out publicly since I asked you this earlier. We are in the process of redoing the ordinance so that when these come in, we can approve them, but this is going to have to come in under the old way because we still gotta go through Planning and Zoning with that ordinance we did last meeting. So, this will come in under the old way?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir, and like always, it will go to the County for their feedback too.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, so, with that being said and no other questions, I need, **I'll entertain a motion to approve the request for annexation from the Dodge County-Eastman Development Authority.**

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.** I reckon the first thing is we go to the County, and then it goes to P&Z?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir. They have 30 days at the County, and then we advance it if they don't object.

APPRAISAL OF CITY PROPERTY:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, next on the agenda is appraisal of city property.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir, we have the boundaries marked of the property across from City Hall here on 2nd Avenue. Mr. Ronnie, would you like to make the motion?

COUNCILOR WOODARD: **Yes, I'd like to make a motion that we seek out and secure an appraisal, up-to-date appraisal on this property.**

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And that will include the old bus depot, the current shop, basically everything there except Dodge Fitness.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, **I have a motion on the floor to get an appraisal of city property.**

Council, y'all have any other questions? If not then, I need a second.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Second. Oh, I'm sorry.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Oh, that's fine.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I've got a second by Councilwoman Williams. Brother Mullis tried to get in on it.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I just turned 74, and you know, some things just run together.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: It's okay.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: With a motion and a second, all in favor, show of hands. **Motion carried unanimous.** Is there someone in particular to do the appraisal?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I'll be honest, in my tenure as City Manager, I have yet to actually have to get an appraisal, so my understanding is we don't have to bid out professional services. We don't have an attorney to advise us, so why don't y'all let me consult with the City Attorney and confirm all that, and we'll go from there.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Or either, I'll just do what y'all tell me.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: You'd probably be wrong.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: How about getting with our lawyer?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I thought that might be the way to go.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I think it will.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: You'd probably be wrong if you do what we tell you.

ALCOHOL LICENSE:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is alcohol license for MODI1967 LLC at 1527 College Street. Hemantkumar Modi with beer and wine package sales.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: I'll abstain from this one.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Okay, and the record will reflect Councilman Hamilton abstained on this one.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Also, I didn't go vocal on the first one, so could you document that as well?

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT WINSLETTE: I've got it.

(Councilman Hamilton leaves room again.)

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Uh, the application's in order. All occupational taxes, fees and assorted paperwork's prepared and in accordance with the ordinance.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Is that at old Tim's?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Okay. Alright, Council, do y'all have any other questions? If not, **I'll entertain a motion to approve the beer and wine license for MODI1967 LLC.**

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. *(With a vote of four. And Councilman Hamilton re-enters the room.)*

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the City Manager's report.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Nothing from me, other than I wanted to remind everyone that we were having the Downtown Walk, I believe it is Thursday. I was trying to look that up, but I think it's 5. Yep, Thursday the 13th, 5 or 5:30. Does anybody have that pulled up? We'll check. 5-7 is one possibility, so come out and celebrate with us and the Chamber of Commerce and anybody you can bring with you Thursday afternoon. It will be a lovely evening on Main Street, and that's all for me.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Work session for tank disclosure and...

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I agree. Let's set up, go ahead and set it.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Property...

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yep, the problem is going be that we may not have the annexation in hand until... Would you want to go ahead and set it and see if we can get the appraisal anyway?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: No, I'm talking about this here.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Work session for... I was just thinking we might want the appraisal before we set the work session, but we don't have to.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Well, we can talk about, are we separating this out?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Ok, let's set a work session.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Are we separating that little building out? So, are we gonna have a square there, or is this gonna take?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I'm good with it. Let's set it.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Y'all want to have a little work session to talk about these water tank maintenance quotes and this city property drawing and how we are going to cut it out and stuff?

COUNCILOR MULLIS: You need a motion on that?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Yeah, let's figure when we wanna have it. Now, it's probably the sooner the better since then we can move forward some at the next meeting. So if today's the 10th, we don't want to do it the 13th because that's the Art Walk.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Not unless we can do it before 3.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: How about next Monday evening at about 5:00?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Works for me.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: It shouldn't take, I mean, I would say 30 minutes to an hour at the most.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: What day?

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: What day you said?

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: The 17th.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: That's the 17th, next Monday.

COUNCILOR WOODARD: Here?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Yep, here at 5:00. Basically, from 5-6, and there'll be two things on it, the city property division and...

CITY MANAGER BARRON: The water towers.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Water tank maintenance.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Is this where they're gonna go inside and clean these water tanks and all like they did several years ago?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Clean 'em. Paint 'em. See, they've done it for like the last ten years, and it was \$40,000 a year. This one's \$1,117,000.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Good gosh. Anybody do water tanks out there?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Jack raised his hand.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: For some of these prices, I'd be willing to learn. Wouldn't you?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, now **we'll entertain a motion to have a work session Monday the 17th of April from 5-6 PM.**

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: **So moved.**

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

COUNCILOR MULLIS: **Second.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a second from Councilman Mullis. All in favor, show of hands. Motion carried unanimous. And would you please send us that all familiar text?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: A reminder? Yes sir.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: On Monday.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We can handle that.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Jermayne, you have anything?

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Yes, the 13th, what time will that start again?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I believe it's 5. I was trying to pull it up on Facebook.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT WINSLETTE: Yeah, the Art Walk is from 5-7.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: 5-7, okay. Thank you.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Anything else, sir?

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: No, no sir.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Mr. Ronnie, you have anything?

COUNCILOR WOODARD: No sir.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Ms. Sebrina, you have anything?

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: No sir.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Mr. Raymond, you have anything?

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Yeah, I just want to make sure about the garbage pick-ups fixing to start, right?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir, and there should have been a schedule in everybody's water bill. We also have it on the website, and if you're having any trouble, call us at City Hall and we'll answer any questions.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I have to read this and see when mine's going to be picked up. Okay. That's all.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, I'm good. Next will be any public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

SHARON COBB FLANAGAN: I just want to make sure you know you're invited to attend the Broadband Listening Session tomorrow from 11 to 1. I don't think you have to be there the whole time, and the purpose of that is for the Georgia Technology Authority, who they are coming here to do this. They want to hear about what our broadband needs are. And I know there's interest within the city limits for broadband.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Most definitely.

SHARON COBB FLANAGAN: And so, what's motivated this to have them come to Eastman is the federal government's about to give more money to the state, and the state's going to make decisions on how to allocate that money out to the counties. And even though Ocmulgee EMC is currently working on the broadband, that's just for the Ocmulgee EMC customers only. It's not the Georgia Power or other customers, and the goal is to get this countywide. If you're satisfied with how your internet access is now, then fine, but if you're not and you think it's going to impact businesses at the Industrial Park or at the airport or on Main Street or, you know, a house with two or three kids trying to do their homework at the same time and you think you're currently postured to be able to handle streaming TV and all that stuff – I can't even tell you what all it is – then you don't need to go. But if you think it's important to be postured for that, especially for building business and for the future, I encourage you to go. It's called a Listening Session, but it's not for you to sit in the audience and listen to them. They're coming here to hear what our goals, our desires are, and they need to hear it from the leaders. So, I just want to remind you. 11-1, there will be some food there.

The second thing is, and I can't, I'm drawing a blank on the date. Oh, May 6th. Paint Amnesty, one day, and what that is we're doing paint recycling, so if you have paint cans, old paint, that kind of thing lying around and you want to get rid of it, you can bring it to the Courthouse, the old Courthouse grounds, where there's going to be recycling of paint. There's other recycling activities coming up, but I'll let you know about those later. Thanks.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: What date is that?

SHARON COBB FLANAGAN: The paint recycling is May 6th. I think that's a Saturday.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT WINSLETTE: Yes.

SHARON COBB FLANAGAN: Yeah, May 6th, and I believe it's 9-3. There'll be hot dogs there.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: That's what I'm talking about.

SHARON COBB FLANAGAN: And there will be awards given out for the high school students, the top three that were selected from the voting process for their artwork.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, thank you, ma'am.

SHARON COBB FLANAGAN: Thank you.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Yes ma'am. Any other public comments? If not, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

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

CHAIRMAN

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT