

August 12, 2024

The Eastman City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present: Sebrina Williams, Graham Snyder, and Debra Sheffield. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, City Clerk April Sheffield, City Attorney Rita Llop, City Inspector Jack White, and Assistant Manager Dayna Winslette. Other department heads in attendance were acting Fire Chief Derl Maxwell, Police Chief Billy Cooper, Wastewater Operator Matt McDaniel, Water Supervisor Wynnon Pittman, and Street Supervisor Brandon Brisco. Audience members included Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan, EM Harrington III, Loraine and Ellery Aguayo, Jake Patrick Dever, Mitchell and Susan Coffee, Benny Pirkle, Sonia Olmeda, John Battle, and Mr. S. Brown.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

Invocation was given by City Manager Barron.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was amended to add a #9, the second reading of the Johnson annexation. The motion was made by Councilor Williams, seconded by Councilor Sheffield, and approved by all. Then, on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams, the amended agenda was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the July 22, 2024, regular meeting and the minutes of the July 25 & 29, 2024, special called meetings were unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

MONTHLY FIRE REPORTS:

Lieutenant Maxwell presented the calls for the month of July. A total of 133 calls were ran with 94 inside the city and 39 outside of the city. For fire calls, there was 1 structure fire outside the city, 1 brush fire outside the city, 1 vehicle fire inside the city and 1 unauthorized burning inside the city. For hazardous conditions calls there were 2 natural gas leaks inside the city and 1 outside the city. There were 4 calls about trees in the roadway outside the city. Rescue calls were as follows: a total of 65 medical calls with 56 inside the city and 9 outside, 21 lift assists with EMS with 14 inside and 7 outside, 3 calls were cancelled in route, and 10 vehicle accidents with 7 inside the city and 3 outside. As far as public service there were 14 fire alarms with 5 inside and 9 outside. Two smoke removals with 1 in and 1 out. Two investigate smokes with 1 in and 1 out. One landing zone call inside the city and 3 public services inside the city. The was also 1 call to help block the roadway for the city workers.

MONTHLY POLICE REPORTS:

Chief Cooper presented the stats for the month of July. They used 1,170 gallons of gas, answered 726 calls, worked 22 traffic accidents, patrolled 12,306 miles, collected \$20,057.70 in bonds/fines, and made 253 arrests/citations.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**BUILDING INSPECTION/CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Jack White presented the stats for the month of July. He collected \$428 in building permits, \$100 in electrical inspections, and \$50 in sign permitting. It was one of the slower months, but he has been coordinating with the Department of Corrections in getting the park project at the Club up and going. He already has a dumpster placed there and a left scheduled for when they begin the work. They are scheduled to begin August 19 and possibly work up to 4 months.

WASTEWATER/WATER SUPPLY:

Matt McDaniel presented the information for the month of July. Water pumped from the wells was 40,205,000 gallons which is an average of 1.297 MGD. Water usage at the treatment plant was 413,000 gallons. Treated water from the plant that was released into Sugar Creek was 13,250,000 gallons which is an average of 0.427 MGD. Some of the main things going on at the plant include finally getting the new HVAC unit replaced and installed. Terry's project, the Industrial Park Lift Station, is probably a quarter of the way through. Between the weather and other issues that have come up, not sure what the time frame on finishing is. There was an issue with the belt press and an obsolete part. Luckily, Matt was able to find one at a decent price and Rodney was able to wire it up and save money on an electrician. The Chas Mar pump has been ordered and hopefully delivered in October. John Battle approached the council about those customers outside the city and are not on sewage. What does it cost the city? What would be the issue on getting them onto sewage? Manager Barron says that it is a long-term goal. Many questions need answering. Where is the sewage run? Are new lift stations required? How will the city pay for it?

WATER DISTRIBUTION:

Wynnon Pittman delivered the report for July. There are 3,181 meters in the system with 2,500 – 2,600 billed last month. There are still 337 meters still not in the city. M&E has finished replacing all meters with a total of 2,734 meters replaced. The project is done and has come in under budget. There were 2 new meters placed and 4 pulled. The water department has answered 201 work orders this month with 7 leaks repaired, 34 detected, 26 service lines repaired, 3 major main breaks, 114 cut-ons and 123 cut-offs. They marked 50 locates, mulched the area of 14th Avenue and North Street. They cleaned 10 storm drains on 14th Avenue between Main Street and Chester Hwy. They used 754 gallons of gas. They cleaned 8 sewer lines out. He has 97 meters left to identify for the lead and copper inventory. This is due by October 16. As far as the I&I Project, Popco has laid 1000 feet of pipe and 4 manholes on Pine Drive. They are through with Pine Drive except replacing the driveways and such starting tomorrow. Once finishing on 11th Avenue they plan to move to the 9th Avenue lift station and working their way through Jessup Heights. The airport apartment project appears to be moving forward as they started bringing in dirt this month. Wynnon wanted to publicly thank Graham and Studstill for their help repairing a leaking valve that they had installed last year in front of the old KFC.

STREET DEPARTMENT:

Brandon Brisco was present for this report. A grand total of 1,426.5 hours were used on different projects this month. 37 on animal calls, 258 on curbs and gutters, 54 on ditches, 23 on tree limb cutting, 2 days on potholes, 55.5 on trash pick-up, and 645 on mowing grass. They spent 189 hours helping in the office and other departments. 165 hours were spent on the limb truck picking up. He brought in another Bridges guy to help since he is down 2 guys right now.

APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:

The monthly bills for June 23 – August 9, 2024, were unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams.

MARK THORNE, WATER CUSTOMER:

Mr. Thorne did not show up at the meeting to voice his concerns.

BIDS FOR 14TH AVENUE CULVERT REPAIR:

Two bids were received. Popco was \$98,447.85 and Graham & Studstill was \$98,845.00. The budget set aside by GDOT for this project is \$46,755.22. After discussion with engineer, GDOT, and current employees, it is recommended that the council reject all bids and do the project in-house. Wynnon has all confidence that he and his team can perform this project under budget and in less than a week. **Council unanimously voted to reject all bids and continue this project in-house on a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.**

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH DODGE COUNTY RE CONGO LANE & CONGO LANE CONNECTOR:

There was an annexation request on Congo Lane. Dodge County objected because of the cost of maintaining the roads. Attorney Llop drafted an intergovernmental agreement with the county for the city to obtain possession of all of Congo Lane and its Connector. The county met and approved the agreement earlier today. A plat and mapping of the roads are anticipated within the next 6 months. Both will be filed in the office of the clerk. **The IGA was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

SCHEDULE WORK SESSION:

On a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, it was unanimously approved to meet on Tuesday, July 20, 2024, at 12:00 PM. The purpose of the work session is the first stage of discussion for the 2025 budget and going over current and future projects along with any grants we are involved in.

2ND READING OF JOHNSON ANNEXATION:

This is the second reading for the Johnson annexation ordinance. The address for the property is 120 Congo Lane. Map and parcel being 048A 021. **The annexation was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSES:**EASTMAN BAKE SHOP, ELLERY & LORAIN AGUAYO @ 208 MAIN STREET:**

The request is to serve beer and wine. Appropriate fees and paperwork have been submitted. Inspector has verified all footage rules. **The Eastman Bake Shop alcohol license was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.**

HOT DIGGITY DOGS, LLC, RONAL BACELO @ 225 MAIN STREET:

This request is to serve beer and wine. All appropriate fees and paperwork have been submitted. Inspector White has also verified all footage requirements. **The Hot Diggity Dogs alcohol license was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

REFUSE, JAKE DEVER @ 541 PINE HAVEN DRIVE:

This request is for a home occupation license to paint, clean, and renew outdoor areas. Mr. Dever is a student at the University and loves giving back to the community such as the rec center, etc. He plans on contacting local business owners, etc. to offer his services. He says he will not be asking for a lot of additional money to help pay for supplies. He likes to paint lines and other things, pressure wash, or other small-scale projects. **This request was approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Barron issues a reminder that the city is now taking credit cards in the office and online. He requested that everyone look on the city's social media and vote for Leave it Better on the Kuboda grant opportunity that they have applied for. This will definitely help the city and Leave it Better in their park initiative.

COMMENTS: Susan Coffee reminded everyone that Leave it Better is in competition with a project at UGA and currently were ahead. However, UGA sent out a notice to all 200K+ alumni email trying to get them on board. You can vote every day with every email that you have got. Loraine Aguayo let everyone know that you don't just have to live in Georgia to vote. You can vote from everywhere.

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion from Councilor Williams, a second from Councilor Sheffield, and a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK