

August 26, 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, Debra Sheffield, and Mark Peacock. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, City Clerk April Sheffield, City Attorney Rita Llop, Assistant City Manager Dayna Winslette, City Inspector Jack White, and Water Supervisor Wynnon Pittman. Other department members present included Police Chief Billy Cooper and Assistant Chief Wesley Dyal, Interim Fire Chief Derl Maxwell, and fire fighters Jacoree Wilcox and Colt Rogers. Audience members included EM Harrington III, Martin Kehayes, Ellery & Loraine Aguayo, Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Benny Pirkle, Brian Dennis, and Kim Spencer.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

Invocation was given by Councilor Peacock.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams, the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the regular meeting of August 12, 2024, were presented and approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Peacock.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

GOODY'S BUILDING:

Manager Barron has received a few offers to buy the Goody's building. **Attorney Llop says that it is necessary to advertise for bids again for a minimum of 15 days.** This should allow time for everyone interested to be able to submit a bid. It was decided to run the notice for all 3 weeks in the paper. **Due date is scheduled for September 20, 2024. This was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.**

Audience member Brian Dennis asks if there is a minimum bid and what the zoning of the property is. Councilor Snyder says he would rather not say. It would be best to just present your bid and see what happens. Councilor Peacock looks up the zoning and says according to the map, it is a B-2 zone. Dennis asks again if there is a minimum starting bid. Attorney Llop stated that she did not include a minimum bid qualification in the advertisement.

Audience member Loraine Aguayo asks if there was an appraised value for the property. Barron doesn't want to comment on what figure they would like to receive. Clerk Sheffield stated that anyone can see what the city paid for the property and what it is appraised for by looking on QPublic.

LEAVE IT BETTER ALLEY:

Wynnon Pittman came forward to explain. A bid was advertised to locate all infrastructure and move it out of the alley. No bids were received. Georgia Rural Water came down with their ground penetrating radar and walked the alley with Wynnon and his team. They were unable to locate everything. They gave an estimate of half a million dollars to even get this project started. Wynnon asked the council to just put this project on hold for right now. Manager Barron agrees. No one seemed even interested in doing the work. The project is above the city's ability to handle. Perhaps something between the property owners and the DDA to maybe remove the asphalt and seed it with grass to grant a little easier access. **Councilor Snyder asked for a motion to table the project. Councilor Peacock provided that motion along with Councilor Sheffield seconding. All approved.**

NEW BUSINESS:**MONTHLY BILLS:**

On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and a second from Councilor Williams, the monthly bills for August 12 - 26, 2024, were approved.

SCHEDULE A WORK SESSION:

It was decided that another work session was needed to discuss the budget. The city clerk recommended to have one this week in order to stay on schedule and be able to advertise next week.

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams, it was unanimously approved to have a work session on Thursday, August 29 at 5 PM.

RESCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 9 COUNCIL MEETING:

Because of scheduling conflict with a conference, the city clerk recommended rescheduling the first regular scheduled meeting until Thursday of the same week.

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the September 9 regular meeting was rescheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 6 PM.

SCHEDULE MILLAGE RATE HEARINGS:

Since it is necessary to schedule 3 hearings in order to adopt the 2024 millage rate, Clerk Sheffield has worked out a schedule that meets all requirements. **The three hearings would be held on September 12 @ 11 AM, September 12 @ 5 PM, and the final one on September 23 @ 6 PM.** On a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Peacock, the proposed schedule was unanimously approved.

SCHEDULE BUDGET HEARING:

The adoption of the 2025 requires a hearing. Clerk Sheffield suggests to have that meeting on September 12 at 5 PM also. This was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL AND PERSONNEL MATTERS:

On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams, all members voted to enter into executive session in order to discuss legal and personnel matters.

All four members and the city attorney left the room to enter into executive session. Some time later they reconvened in the council room.

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams, it was unanimously approved to enter back into regular session.

No more action was taken.

CITY MANAGER REPORT HAD NOTHING TO REPORT**NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL****ADJOURNMENT:**

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK