

**January 27, 2022**

The Eastman City Council met in a regular scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Buddy Pittman, Raymond Mullis, Sebrina Williams, Jermayne Hamilton, and Ronnie Woodard. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, Inspector Jesse Bearden, City Clerk April Sheffield, Police Chief Becky Sheffield, Maya Clark, Artiffany Stanley from GMA, and DDA members Wynnon Pittman and Andrea McCranie. Present from the community was Tavarius Dupree. Attorney Rita Llop participated by telephone.

All attendees practiced social distancing guidelines due to COVID-19 restrictions. 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 Council Member Pittman.

Invocation was given by Council Member Hamilton.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVE AGENDA:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** First order of business is to approve the agenda. No additions? Council, do y'all have anything that you would like to add to it? If not, I need a motion to approve the agenda as it stands.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis to approve the agenda. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Second.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Got a second from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor show of hands? Motion carried unanimous.

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2022, regular meeting. I will entertain a motion to approve the minutes.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis to approve the minutes. Council, do they all look good to y'all? Did you see anything that needed to be changed or corrected? If not, I've got a motion, I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD: Second.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show of hands? Motion carried unanimous.

**NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ARTIFFANY STANLEY, GMA:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** At this time, we would like to welcome our good friend, Ms. Artiffany Stanley from GMA, who has driven down here to present us with a nice, late Christmas gift.

**ARTIFFANY STANLEY:** Good evening. I am glad to be back again. I was down in December to see Ms. Ivelyn off before she left. Now I come back bearing gifts. I am happy to be here today to present the City of Eastman with a Safety Grant check in the amount of \$5,300. This is to be used towards the

purchase of IT in a Box Service powered by VC3. Last year the City of Eastman applied for this grant, and it was approved for the use of those funds. So, this program will allow the city to back up and secure their data, to modernize their website & also includes cybersecurity and computer maintenance, a 24x7 helpdesk, data backup and disaster recovery, records/document management & email, video archiving, policy & compliance, website design, & vendor management & procurement. To be eligible for the grant, the city had to meet specific requirements associated with safety and loss control efforts. The GMA Safety and Liability Management Grant program was introduced in 2000 and we have been able to provide cities with millions of dollars. So, we do encourage you to continue to apply for the safety grant. You are able to apply for it each year. And I am happy to be able to present it to you today.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Thank you. That deserves a clap for us. It is always a pleasure to receive a safety grant, especially one in the amount \$5,300 so we can continue using our IT system and its setup.

**MOBILE BYPASS PUMP:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is a mobile bypass pump.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** If y'all recall at our last work session, we discussed the need for a mobile bypass pump. We have 11 lift stations and have been struggling with them extensively in the last several months. Jesse is working on an estimate with the exact headspace and gallons per hour and the requirements for these pumps. I would ask permission from the Council, if y'all will OK it, that once he has completed those calculations if we could go ahead and bid it out. We need to purchase one. We are desperately in need of it.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, I believe that we talked about that in our work session. I need a motion to, when Jesse gets all of the specs and know exactly what we are looking for, that they go ahead and advertise for bids for this.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis to approve the bid process for the purchase of a mobile bypass pump. Council, do y'all have any other questions?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Jesse, do you want to explain to them what we are wanting?

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** We have been on the phone with several representatives. The pump that we have from Georgia Rural Water, that they have loaned us for the last several months. Well, I will tell you this: the parts for that pump finally came in today. Terry came by this morning. We have been waiting 2 months for a suction pipe and I gave him some alternatives this morning. Last I talked to him, I think he found it over in Tifton. I can't remember where he said, but I think he was going to get it instead of waiting on them to ship it. Anyway, that's good news. We have 11 pumps in town. Some with 5HP motors, some with 85HP motors. So, when we say we are going to buy a bypass pump, I am in the process of designing what could possibly pump. James Avenue, 1,575 gallons a minute. Cottondale pumps 7 and a half. So, if you buy one that pumps that much, I don't know if it will even lift 5 gallons. So, we are in the process of working on that. Like I said, we have 11 pump stations, and we are in the process of. I've got to have the depth of every one of them and I have got to know what the suction is. Basically, horsepower and pump horsepower are gallons per minute, and I know y'all don't know what head and feet means, but that is how high it lifts and how high it pumps, friction loss in the pipe and every twist and turn in the pipe and what horsepower and pressure that the pump spins at. All eleven has to be evaluated. Hopefully can get that done in the next couple of days. So then by the next meeting, I would like to come back to you with a proposal to tell you exactly what we need.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** If it is okay, could we go ahead and bid out and get prices for what you say. Then come back to them.

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** Oh yes. There's only two. We need an unmanned pump. Because if we don't, there is going to have to be somebody there to watch and somebody is going to have to be put on a

rotation. These pumps are called dry pumps. Basically, they don't have to be primed. When that motor cuts on, and that float lifts up and that wet well is full of effluent. It is just like our pump station. It will automatically cut on with no priming whatsoever. That's not a real common feature. There are only 2 pumps manufactured that's considered a dry pump. So yes, I feel like it is going to be very competitive between the 2.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** We have a motion on the floor to advertise to purchase one when Jesse gets the final specs and what he is going to do. Council, do you have any questions?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Jesse, should we make it 1 to 2 pumps or just 1? What would be the best? I am just trying to save time and save another 2-week bidding process. Up to 2 pumps. Would you amend the motion to let us do that?

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** For these smaller pumps, we just might have to get a small bypass pump.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** One big one and one not so?

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** Because we have 3 very large pump stations. I mean large for even Dublin or Macon. The one out there at the WPA Road takes care of the center where you work. Of course, Legion Drive, that everything from the high school, from the railroad tracks to the Hawkinsville Highway drains to. And then we have James Avenue, where everything on the other side of the railroad tracks drains to, along with the Cotton Mill and all the way down First Avenue that goes to. We have 3 very large pump stations that handle 99%. And then we got like I said, the Cotton Mill, Pearl Bates, AT&T for North Dodge and North Lakes. We have got some that are medium sized, and we have got some real small ones. But yes, it could possibly be two.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Raymond, would like to withdraw your motion to bid for a pump and make it 2 pumps?

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** Yes Sir!

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, we have a motion to approve to get the size of what we need and advertise to purchase 2 mobilized bypass pumps. Any other questions Council? If not, I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** **Second.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor, show of hands. Motion approved.

**WATER DEPARTMENT TAP KIT:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the water department tap kit.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Mr. Royce has asked if the Council would allow us to bid out a new hot tap kit. It is a piece of equipment that allows them to tap into a water line without turning that water line off. We anticipate the cost, according to the ones I've looked at on the internet, are anywhere from \$2500 to \$3500. But we'll try to bid it, and if no one responds to our bid, we will just have to make a selection and purchase it. If that is okay with the Council.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** That is a good deal. I saw it.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, I need a motion to let Spence and them advertise to purchase a tap kit for the water department.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** **So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Got a motion from Councilman Mullis. Any other questions from Council? If none, I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:** **Second.**

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

**APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to approve the monthly bills for January 11 – January 27. I think y'all have those right in front of you. Anybody have any questions about any of them? If not, I need a motion to approve the monthly bills.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion to approve the monthly bills. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Got a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show of hands? Motion carried unanimous.

**FRED'S BUILDING:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda, you all have that packet in front of you. If you remember a month or two ago, we voted to accept a bid from The Trilogy Group for the purchase of the Fred's building contingent upon getting the contract straightened out between the city and the Trilogy Group. And I am happy to say that we have that done and you all have the new one in front of you. So with that being said, I would like to entertain a motion to accept the contract from the Trilogy Group and the purchase price for the Fred's building. If we do that this evening, they will get started with their inspections and all and what they are going to do. And we will look forward to moving closer to closing out on that deal.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I have a motion from Councilman Mullis to accept the Trilogy Group contract and proceed with the closing of the Fred's building. Council, do y'all have any other questions? If not, I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MAP:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda, y'all have it in front of you, is the Downtown Development Authority map. And you know that they have been working the last several weeks or maybe longer on defining the downtown business district. You all have that map in front of you. And we actually have a resolution that council, if you pretty much are designating as the downtown business district. It is pretty much going out to the Cochran Highway to Chas Mar and all of the businesses out there, toward Walmart and all of the businesses out there and encompassing all of the business areas. So, if the Council is good with that and we approve that, this map, and approve the resolution, we can let the Downtown Development Authority move forward with their projects. I think the bottom line is that they are looking to expand the business district so that there is more businesses and stuff that they can help and do stuff for than just what the fine area that it was.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** Can I ask a question? What about the businesses out at South Dodge? Are they going to be brought in? Did y'all think about those?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We have got the Airport, Industrial Park. We also have got I think Morgan Creek. Is that what we are looking at? April and Maya are looking at it. They agree on it. We also have Wynnon and Andrea back there looking. Are y'all satisfied?

**WYNNON PITTMAN:** We have looked over it ourselves and we are well pleased with it.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Are there any other questions? So, with that being said, Rita, are you still there?

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** Yes.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Do we need to do 2 motions or 1 motion to approve the downtown business district and a motion to approve the resolution, or can we tie them both together.

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** You can tie them together because it is all set out in the resolution. And I did the resolution because the Secretary of State requires that as does the Department of Community Affairs. So, they are kind of one and the same. The resolution is the amendment of the downtown district.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any other questions? With that being said, I need a motion to approve the resolution for the Downtown Development Authority expanding the business district.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** **So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD:** **Second.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I have a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show of hands? Motion carried unanimous. Got that approved.

**MONTHLY REPORTS GIVEN FOR STUDY**

**CITY MANAGER HAS NOTHING TO REPORT**

**OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I just want to say that the Council did go to Atlanta for the Cities United Summit this past weekend. We were in training classes until 5:00 Friday, and all-day Saturday, sessions and talking all day Sunday, and then we ended Monday with a legislative breakfast with the legislators, Lieutenant Governor, Governor, Speaker of the House. The Lieutenant Governor came and spoke. As always, it was a good learning experience. Saturday, Mr. Raymond, myself, Spence, and Wynnon with the Downtown Development Authority, we all took a Development Authority class. And that was all day long Saturday. But it was a good class and learned a lot. We look forward to our DDA. And hopefully guide them in the right direction and give them the tools they need to do what they are going to do best for downtown City of Eastman. That's all from me.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** I want to say something. I do appreciate what y'all are doing. I am actually seeing things that the Downtown Development Authority is doing. Y'all want to do it. That is the main thing.

**WYNNON PITTMAN:** Thank y'all for your support.

**NO PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

---

**CHAIRMAN**

---

**CITY CLERK**