

March 14, 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, Attorney Rita Llop, Engineer Jesse Bearden, City Clerk April Sheffield, Police Chief Becky Sheffield, Fire Chief Scotty Whitten, and County Manager Conner Bearden. Present from the community were Mitchell and Susan Coffee, John Battle, Mike and Sharon Cobb Flanagan, and Ken Rogers.

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 item on the agenda is to approve the agenda and I think we have an addition to add to it.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes. If y'all would let me, I would like to get permission for bidding out a small dump truck. The one that we have got is in dire straits and broke down again today. That would be #8 under new business, a light duty dump truck. At least get some prices and compare it to what the repair costs would be.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council, do y'all need to add anything? If not, then I need a motion to amend the agenda and let the City Manager bid out for a light duty dump truck and along with that motion, after you amend it, a motion to approve it as it stands.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Got a motion from Councilman Mullis to add #8, Bid out for a light duty dump truck and approve the amended agenda as it stands. 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 February 28, 2022, regular meeting. I think all of y'all have got those in your packets last week. Council, do y'all have any questions about them? If not, I need a motion to approve them.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilman Mullis to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022, meeting. 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:**MONTHLY FIRE DEPT REPORT:**

CHIEF SCOTTY WHITTEN: For the month of February, we had a total of 38 calls. 2 structure fires, 1 in and 1 out. Electrical 2. Brush fires 11. Vehicle fires 1. Gas leak/spill 1. With medical calls, we ran a total of 5. Vehicle rescues 8. Electrical alarm, a total of 5. And lift assist 3.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I got a question for you. Tell me what y'all were doing down there today, cause I know I am going to get that questioned asked.

CHIEF WHITTEN: Today we did what is a yearly thing. It is called pump testing. We have a company that will come in and will pressure test all of our apparatuses. In conjunction, we teamed up with the county and they had theirs also tested today. That is one thing that we have to get done each year. It is an ISO requirement.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: Now I know. Thank you.

CHIEF WHITTEN: We will be busy for the next month or two.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Anymore questions for the Chief? Thank you, Sir.

MONTHLY POLICE DEPT REPORT:

CHIEF BECKY SHEFFIELD: For the month of February, we used 910 gallons of gas, answered 952 calls, and worked 27 wrecks.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Anybody have any questions for the Chief? Thank you, ma'am.

APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to approve the monthly bills for February 28, 2022 – March 14, 2022. Y'all got those in your packets last week also. Council, do y'all have any questions about them? If not, I need a motion to approve the bills.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I've got a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Seconded by Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show hands. Motion carried unanimous.

KEN ROGERS, DODGE ARTS GUILD:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is Ken Rogers with the Dodge Arts Guild.

KEN ROGERS: The Arts Guild of Dodge County is holding its annual fundraiser concert at the Outdoor Theater on May 7th. So, we are asking that the street in front of the outdoor theater be closed from 4PM until 11PM for the duration of this event.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright, this is May 7th? And I think I saw somewhere that you are looking at what, 4 – 11 or something?

KEN ROGERS: Yes, 4PM to 11. We are going to have a couple of more concerts in the spring and in the fall as well. But I will come back and request those dates when we have them down. One of them is the Allman Brothers Tribute Band for those of you that like them.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: They are going to be here?

KEN ROGERS: Well, it's not the real Allman Brothers.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Just have to make that clear, right?

KEN ROGERS: It will be indicated on the ticket.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I was thinking that Greg Allman was going to be sitting in the back. Haha.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Y'all don't underestimate the Chamber of Commerce and the Arts Guild. They have pulled off some amazing things.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any other questions about this event? With that said, I reckon we need a motion to approve to let the Arts Guild close down the street from 4PM to 11PM in front of the Outdoor Theater on May 7th.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. 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. I like that the theater is getting used.

SCHEDULE WORK SESSION WITH THE COUNTY:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to schedule a work session a work session with the county. This is something that we have been talking about I know for the last few years and stuff. In a short synopsis and summary, due to unpopular belief of sort of everybody in the city and county and everybody. There is the city, there is the county, we have got a Development Authority, we've got a Downtown Development Authority, we've got a Leave it Better, we've got the Chamber. There is all of these different groups and it seems like everybody is doing their own thing and nobody knows what really nobody is doing. In an effort to what we are really looking and would like to do is with the city and county, if we meet once a quarter or something. It would be like a work session. There will be nothing voted on. It will be just discussion and what's going on. The county may be doing something that we can help with, or we may be doing something that the county can help with. Hopefully, when it is all said and done, the whole purpose of it, is all of these groups and different silos will all be working together. And I use this example, I told Conner that back a few months ago on Facebook, Cochran had put up the picture on the side of a building. And Milton Johnson was like, 'Alright Eastman, when are y'all going to get started and do y'all one?' You look through the feeds there and there are 3 different groups in town working on one. So okay, this one is having a fundraiser to do one, and this one is having a fundraiser. It's like everybody is doing their own thing and nobody knows nothing. If we are all working together, it's probably a better chance that things can happen and move forward and probably move a lot quicker. So, that is the purpose of this. It's to start, the dialogue. Just get together and have a meal. I told Spence and them, the city ain't going to sit at one table and the county at another table. If we have to put place cards, we are going to mix everybody up. It's for fellowship and talk about what is going on. What we would like and future plans of things and goals. Hopefully this will turn out to be a good thing. Hopefully, it will do nothing but get bigger and bigger and bigger. So, that is the purpose of what the work session with the county is. I think we have come up with March 29th.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, 6:00 PM here at City Hall.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Which will be Tuesday, March 29th at 6PM. We will eat, we will discuss and meet, and it won't be a long and drawn-out thing. If it is a couple of hours, that is great. Hopefully, it will get us all working together, and granted, I think the city and county is probably worked better together in the last few years than they ever have. We are off to a good start. That's what it is all about. Council, I think we have all talked about this. All of y'all are good with March 29, at 6:00, here at City Hall. Alright, well then, I need a motion then to schedule the work session with the county on March 29th, that Tuesday night at 6:00 PM.

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: Second from Councilman Woodard, all in favor show hands. Motion approved unanimously. We are set, Conner.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Conner, are you going to run the notice in the paper on it?

COUNTY MANAGER BEARDEN: I will get it to Cindy tomorrow morning.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Of course, with a work session, this is an open meeting. Folks can come. Like I said, the whole purpose of it is for everybody to work together and let's move forward.

JAMES AVENUE AIR RELEASE VALVE PROJECT:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next is the James Avenue air release valve project.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: I thought that my administrative assistant was going to take care of it.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: It would be shorter.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: I am not exactly sure what to say. We had no bids. But we do have quotes. So, tell me what I am supposed to say.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: The quotes are Jesse approved. You have a copy of your quotes in front of you. We have 1 quote to replace them with Pyles Plumbing. There are 3 air release valve costs. There are 2 from Inman and I think Jesse wanted the cheaper one from Inman which was \$17,600 for the air release valves. \$6,800 for replacing them and the appurtenances are cheaper from Macon Supply which we do a lot of business with Macon Supply anyway. He needs approval on those 3 to continue with the project.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright. Pyles is strictly the labor?

ENGINEER BEARDEN: Yes, Pyles is the labor for \$6,800. I apologize, and this is on me because it just came to me. I do not have a price for a vacuum truck. I have got to have a vacuum truck because any time that you are on a sanitary sewer force main, if it burps, there could be a small spill. I would have to have a truck there to vacuum it up. So, I do not have a price for that. But back to the original. Pyles would replace them for \$6800. Inman & Associates had the exact model of the air release valve that we need. 8 of them is \$17,600. We had 3 prices for the air release valves. The \$17,600 is what I wanted. Macon Supply bid \$20,000 and Dixie bid \$30,500. Then Macon Supply bid \$3000 for the new straps, ball valves, nipples, and all of the appurtenances that I need to replace these valves. So, Macon Supply was \$3,040. I apologized that is just slipped my mind about needing the vacuum truck.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: So, this is a 3-part bid. We have got to have the labor, we've got to have 8 of them #98955's, and then the \$3,000 down at the bottom down there?

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: And then the cost of the vacuum truck.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: If we need to wait until the next meeting, I can have that.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: They can include just the cost of it in the motion.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And just let him negotiate it out. Rita are you okay with that. (Rita nods) Then y'all can just make that part of the motion.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: So, all of the labor, those 8 valves at \$17,600, and the appurtenances or appliances that go with them, that is \$27,440.57. And then plus a vacuum truck.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: Appliances work just fine. And with lifting up from the depth of some of those manholes, I would really like to get a real vacuum truck, not just any old sewer truck.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Well, we could probably go ahead a make a motion tonight to approve these. Now let me ask the million-dollar question, do they have this stuff? (Jesse nods yes) We ain't got to wait 6 months?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Keep your fingers crossed.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: Most of the valves are not in Atlanta, but they are close. Some of them had them in Birmingham and some of them had them in Houston, Texas, and another was someplace in Colorado. Fortunately, these valves are manufactured in the United States.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: So, I need a motion to approve the \$27,440.57 to get the valves, the appliances and the labor. And you are going to work on the truck to be on standby in case something happens. I will entertain a motion to approve all of that.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Got a motion from Councilman Mullis. Council, do any of y'all have any other questions for Mr. Jesse? If not, then I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor, show hands. Motion carried unanimous.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: Now, before we go any further, what we are going to do is let whichever one he can get the cheapest be the one that we go with?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: The most responsive to the needs are by him. You are talking about the suction truck, correct?

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: Was that in the motion too?

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: Yes, it was.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: The closest suction truck is in Wilkinson County around the kaolin mines. Those suction trucks are a rare bird. They are far and few between. With just getting one, if I have got a commitment, I am going to get him.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: Ok, I was just making sure.

3RD AVENUE PROJECT:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the bids for the 3rd Avenue project.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: So, we had one bid. Graham & Studstill. It was a lump sum bid. Of course, that is the repair with hot patch. Of course, I met with Blake. I had spec'd 19mm super-pave. And right now, we are at the mercy of whatever the plant is making. He has said that some of his patches have been 19 and some of them have been 12. I am happy with 12mm super-pave. Both are a hot mix patch, just like they use to pave roads. There is that and the repair. We went through the DOT specifications of the repair for the 3 patches that he is going to have to do. Of course, we are doing away with the existing 45° parking stalls and go back with the 12 30° parking stalls. The bid was \$8,250.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any questions? If not, then I will entertain a motion to approve the Graham & Studstill bid for \$8,250 for the 3rd Avenue project.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Second.

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

LIGHT DUTY DUMP TRUCK:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda will be to allow the city manager to bid out for a light duty dump truck.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir, our poor dump truck died in the middle of the road today. We were able to get it back to the shop, but the engine, the transmission, and the hydraulics are shot in it. We need to make a decision. Either put money into trying to repair it or buy another one. I would like permission to go ahead and bid out for one so I would know what they are running for and what I could get one for before making that decision.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright council, do y'all have any other questions? If not, I need a motion to allow the city manager to bid out for a light duty dump truck.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Second.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Second from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor, show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

CITY MANAGER HAS NOTHING TO REPORT:

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

COUNTY MANAGER BEARDEN: I would just like to thank y'all for allowing us to use your city water and the hydrant system to pressure test the fire trucks in the county. We do greatly appreciate that. I think that is a great collaboration and through this meeting that Buddy alluded to, I think we will have even more. Thank y'all again.

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK