

December 13, 2021

The Eastman City Council met in a regular scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present: Raymond Mullis, Buddy Pittman, Sebrina Williams, Ronnie Woodard and Prince Dawson. Others present were: Street Supervisor Brandon Brisco, City Attorney Rita Llop, City Engineer Jesse Bearden, City Manager Spencer Barron, Deputy City Clerk April Sheffield, and Council-elect Jermayne Hamilton. Also from the community were: Susan and Mitchell Coffee, George Smith, John Battle, Tim & Paula McCain, Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Phil Bearden, Dwayne Conley, Hunter Augins, and Tad Coleman.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pittman.

Invocation was given by Chaplain Dawson.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: The first thing item on the agenda is to approve the agenda and I think we have an addition or two.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, we need to amend it and add the Senior Citizens Center request as item #8 please.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright. We need to add a #8 to the agenda for the Senior Citizens Center. Council, so do y'all have anything else to add to it? If not, then I need a motion to amend the agenda and add a #8 for the Senior Citizens Center and in that motion, then approve the amended agenda as it stands.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved on both of them.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilman Mullis to add #8 Senior Citizens Center and approve the amended agenda as it stands. I need a second.

COUNCILOR DAWSON: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a second from Councilman Dawson. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next is to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2021, regular meeting.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: We got a motion to approve the minutes of the November 22 regular meeting. Council, are there any questions about it that y'all saw in your packets? If not, I need a second.

COUNCILOR WOODARD: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor by show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

MONTHLY FIRE & POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I don't see Chief Whitten and I know where Chief Sheffield is. They are not here, so I will give the monthly fire department report. They are tied up on some business or some action right now. Had a total of 31 calls for the month, 14 inside the city and 17 out. One structural fire,

1 stove fire, 5 brush fires, and 3 vehicle fires. 3 gas leaks/spills. Had 5 medical call, had 4 rescue vehicle calls. 1 electronic alarm and 3 lift assists. 1 life flight, 2 check smoke, and 1 machine fire. That is the monthly fire department report. For the monthly police report, they answered 952 calls, 925 gallons of gas was used, and had 31 traffic accidents. That is the main highlights on this. Does anyone have any questions about any of that?

DODGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Dodge Historical Society.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Phil, would you like to come up and speak?

PHIL BEARDEN: Good evening. This is my 3rd public speaking event today. I talked to 285 first graders in Bleckley County this morning and 100 at North Dodge this afternoon. I apologize for not bringing y'all a Willy the Wiredhand coloring book. If I had thought about it, I would have. I am here tonight on behalf of the Dodge Historical Society. I am here for our annual ask. You have been gracious to us over the years to support our organization. This is actually a very mutual thing that we are tasked to keeping up the Eastman House. That is our primary objective in life, to keep the Eastman House up and taken care of, the grounds, the insurance, the power bill, the alarm bill. We take care of the inside. We have had several successful fundraisers over the years that we used on the inside, and we still have a little money to spend on the inside. We look for the city and county to support us as far as taking care of the actual bills that are used for that building. Our other part of the Historical Society is to promote historical education in Dodge County. We do that through a series of meetings. Covid has kind of stopped that for a while. We have had 1 or 2 meetings. We had one meeting this year and none last year. We look forward to getting back to having our 3 to 4 meetings in the fall and 3 to 4 meetings in the spring for educational purposes. Our primary objective, or what we need financial support for, is to take care of these things. We had a little issue at the Eastman House. I went by a couple of weeks ago to turn the water off for the season and found a toilet upstairs that ruptured. So, we have an insurance claim for that. Thank the Lord that we have insurance, which is one of the things that this money will go for. We recently, in our infinite wisdom, decided that we didn't have enough insurance. So, a couple of years ago, we went and called our insurance to tell them that we wanted to up our coverage and that it is really not what we think it should be. The next thing we got from them was a cancel notification. So, we had to bid it out and rebid it out and naturally it had gone up very significantly. But it is some good insurance for us for what that property is. I would ask that if you would continue to support the Dodge Historical Society so the Eastman House can continue to be taken care of for as long as I am around. I apologize for tonight. Several of my cohorts are out of town on other business. It's just me here tonight, but I would appreciate your support. Thank you for all that you have done in the past. Y'all know, if you have been by there, that the Eastman House was painted late year before last through no expense to the City or the County other than what y'all have done or the last previous 18 years. We have saved a little bit of that money and had some fundraisers on our own. They were able to paint that building for approximately \$20,000. That's around \$100 a year for 18 years. But that is the only way we got it done. Are there any questions about the Dodge Historical Society as far as who we are, what we are, and why we are? Again, thank you for your time. Merry Christmas.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: With that being said, does anybody have any other questions or anything? If not, I will entertain a motion to continue supporting the Dodge Historical Society/Eastman House for \$3,500.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I make that motion.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: We have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Any other questions or anything? If none, I need a second?

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a second from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is approve the monthly bills for November 23 – December 13. Y'all got those in your packet earlier. Are there any questions on them? If not, I need a motion to approve the monthly bills.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: We got a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCILOR DAWSON: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: We have a second Councilman Dawson. All in favor by show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

APPROVE BID FOR DEBRIS REMOVAL @ JAMES AVENUE:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to approve the bid for debris removal @ James Avenue.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, we opened bids this Saturday. We received 3 submissions. The first was from Graham & Studstill. They bid \$8,750 for the first, second, third, and fourth disposal, and then a fee of \$5,000 for each additional event for a total of \$35,000 for Graham & Studstill. The second submission was from Conley Construction. The first disposal, second, third, and fourth disposal was \$17,500. He is not charging for any additional event and the total for Conley Construction is \$70,000. The third is from Reg Tomberlin. The first, second, third, and fourth disposal event is for \$12,480, with a price of \$9,950 for each additional event and a total for Reg Tomberlin for \$49,920.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Okay. Dwayne, you are here tonight. Is there anything you would like to say or comment on?

DWAYNE CONLEY: Yeah. Every event that he's done so far, he hasn't finished none of them, on the limbs out there. We get them done in 3 weeks every time we do it. And you know that he is making more money off the city than I am, so I can't do it that cheap.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Question, which I have done asked this, but I will ask it out loud. I know when we bid this process out and everything, we wanted it to be January, February, March as the first disposal. April, May, and June as the second and haul it off. July, August, and September and haul it off. October, November, and December, the end of the year, and empty it again.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We are in the 4th quarter event now. Is that right, Brandon?

BRANDON BRISCO: Yes Sir.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: That is what we show up here and we are showing in the street department.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I reckon the question is, have they been emptying it out like that?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: They have emptied it out, but what Dwayne is saying is that they were slow to get it out sometimes. And they were. But now to their defense, and what they have told me and Dwayne, is that they had some labor issues and getting help. There have been some delays. The 4th quarter, I am holding the check until it is cleaned out. It is not cleaned out right now, but again December is really not over. To be fair. Is that not fair, Dwayne?

DWAYNE CONLEY: Yeah.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Brandon, anything that I am missing there?

BRANDON BRISCO: The only concern that I have is why the sudden great big drop in price? That is a mighty steep drop in price compared to what we have done over the years that I have been here. That would be my concern.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Okay. Now there is last year..

CITY MANAGER BARRON: \$69,000. That's right isn't it, April?

DEPUTY CLERK SHEFFIELD: Doesn't that include the 5th one?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, that includes the \$25,000.

DWAYNE CONLEY: What y'all's paper says is that it is supposed to be gone in 30 days. That ain't happened out there because I have checked on it several times. That's breach of contract.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yeah, I'm not disputing that.

DWAYNE CONLEY: If I do it, I mostly do it by myself. If one man can do it in 3 weeks, his whole crew should be able to do it in 3.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: \$35,000, \$70,000, and \$49,920. That is the 3 choices.

DEPUTY CLERK SHEFFIELD: Last year the bid was \$40,000 and \$44,000.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And the added \$25,000 made it \$69,000. We are not at that point now because we are not going to pay December until December is cleaned. So, whoever gets this contract, whether it is Dwayne or Studstill or Tomberlin, will start with a clean slate.

COUNCILOR DAWSON: My question is, and I heard earlier, that it is going down. Why would it go down so much when you look at the past history? Looking at past history, it's gone up. And also, the additional, meaning each time you go up and over and above what you have already bid, you are adding more to it. I mean you don't mind paying for what you get but you want to be sure that you are comparing apples to apples and not just looking at the low ball. And then ending up not having a low ball. That is a valid concern, actually looking at what is required.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: But do you get what you pay for. To answer that, I would say both Dwayne and Mark Studstill now have at least one year of experience with doing it. So, I guess I can't speak for Studstill and Sons as to why they think they can do it for that price. If you want to table it and ask them to appear before you to answer those questions if you want. I don't want to speak for Dwayne, or Mark, or speak for Reg Tomberlin.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Well, I have been looking at this thing over the last several years. And, I know for a fact that when Dwayne done it, it's the best that it has ever been done. This year, and I have talked to several people, but it's not being done out there what needs to be done.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Okay, well we will carry out whatever the Council's wishes are with a smile on our face.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Any other thoughts? Y'all want to have them come? Do you want to move ahead and vote tonight or to have them come and...

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I am ready to vote tonight.

COUNCILOR WOODARD: How long do we have until the last cleanout is done or through?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Should be the end of the year.

COUNCILOR DAWSON: So, the end of this month?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: So, I reckon the whole object and goal of this was, at the end of December, is to be empty and cleared out again. And then we start over. Whoever gets the bid or contract to do it, at the end of January, February, March it is cleared out. And then April, May, June it gets cleared out again. July, August, September, they clear. Then October, November, December and we have them clear it out and everything. Then next year with whoever gets it again, then they are starting off with a clean slate. Last year, when we did it, it was already a full house at the end of the year.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We don't ever want to get in that position that the yard is so full that we can't move anything from the city into the yard and it cost us \$25,000 just to get the yard cleaned up. That is what we are trying to avoid again by having quarterly cleanups. Brandon, wasn't that about it?

BRANDON BRISCO: That and plus, like I said, our dog shelter is out there, and we don't want to have so much debris out there that if it was to catch afire, that would jeopardize our dogs, or we wouldn't be able to put it out. If it really was to catch afire, you never would be able to put it out. So, with trying to do it on an annual basis, that way we don't have so much stock built up.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: So, you have been out there. Has it been clean or is it a year long drag out or what?

BRANDON BRISCO: It has been a drag out this year. Like I said, I was told, like I said it was not having enough help. Um, there was a couple of things that went wrong this year that caused them not to meet their deadlines. But, like I said, we still have a lot out there. And me personally, I don't know if they are going to be able to get it out in time by the first of the year, to be honest. They may, but it is going to be a lot of working. There is a lot of limbs in there right now.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: That's what we need to know. Alright, I have one that says he is ready to go ahead and make a move. What about everybody else? Are y'all ready to make a move. What are y'all's thoughts?

COUNCILOR WOODARD: The problem that I got is that the amounts are so different than close.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes Sir. We see that too. Again, everybody has got the same form: 4 events and then an additional event. And the only person that thinks they can answer why Reg thinks he can do it for that amount is Reg, the only person for Graham is Mark, and Dwayne is here to answer for his. Anything that I told you would be pure speculation on my part.

COUNCILOR DAWSON: Well, you already know that I have a hesitation on it. And my hesitation is that you already have a contract, and you are telling me what you are going to do in the future but what are you doing now? And then what does the history prove? So, I would be hesitant. Are you going to be able to meet the standards? We gave you a contract and we expect you to deliver to the contract, to meet the deadlines and you did not. So why would I now reward you and give you another contract? I mean it might be good to have another meeting to have them come in and answer.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, Sir. Oh no, I am not suggesting that. I mean literally, this is a decision for this council to make in its best judgment.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Aren't we also saying that like Graham & Studstill is \$35,000 but each additional event.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yeah, if we have a bad hurricane season or a bad storm season, we are on the hook for \$5,000 for each event. So now, Dwayne is saying that he is not going to charge. He may go in the hole if we have 10 storms. He is gambling.

DWAYNE CONLEY: Two other things. When I do it, the city don't have to use their backhoe to push it over. I start and clean from one end of it to the other. Ain't that right Brandon?

BRANDON BRISCO: Right, he doesn't.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Then you got the fellow that you might say \$50,000. But if he has 1 or 2, he's over \$75,000.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: His each additional event is almost \$10,000. It's \$9,950. Who is assuming the most risk? Is it someone like Dwayne where we have an initial greater cost? Now if it is a bad year, now he is going to lose. If we have a good year... There is no right answer. If it is what the council feels and what they want to do this year. No right or wrong to it. It's a gamble for them. It's a gamble for us. Buddy says he is a gambling man, I'm not.

COUNCILOR WOODARD: Is there any chance that we can do this quarterly instead of yearly? You know what I am saying? It is a closer image to what is actually going on if you do it every quarter.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: To do that, and that is certainly, well y'all make the rules and we could do that. But, Rita, we would have to rebid that and go through a quarterly process.

ATTORNEY LLOP: Unless they want to agree to it.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: They may not want to agree to that.

ATTORNEY LLOP: That's a different analysis, I think.

DWAYNE CONLEY: Well, this time would be the 3 times on it. I bid the first time and nobody else bid it. Then the next time, Otis bid, and we had to rebid it over because he bid \$35,000 for the whole year.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: There were some technical defects in the bids, but it was within the legal authority of the Council to reject it without reason if they want to. That is, and the lawyer will correct me if I am wrong. I don't know if the no means that I am wrong?

ATTORNEY LLOP: No, you are right.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Alright, so what do you want to do?

ATTORNEY LLOP: You don't have to take the bid. You can rebid the whole thing, but it has been bid properly.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, as far as I know, all of them bid on the same thing this time. That's why I am giving y'all this form, this way. So, there will be no confusion and no misunderstanding. It's for a yearly contract.

MITCHELL COFFEE: Did they have a way to put per? The bid documents, was it just for the 4 events or did they have a way, the bid documents, to put 5th, 6th, and 7th events?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We had 4 events and then that category is for additional events. If we have a hurricane or tornado. And that is what we are discussing. Some of the guys or bidders, they put a price there, some did not as in the case of Mr. Conley. He just said here is my flat yearly fee. If it's a good year again, he will be alright. If we have a bad storm year, he is going to be in the hole.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Are y'all ready to make a motion?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Nobody ever said that governing was easy, did they?

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I make a motion that we give it to Conley Construction for the fact that he has not given us any additional events, so it could go either way with him which in my guess is pretty good.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, I have a motion on the floor to accept the bid of Conley Construction for \$70,000. Any other comments and questions? If not, I need a second. No?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I think they are discussing it down there.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: I will make a second. I second it.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Got a second from Ms. Sebrina. All in favor of Conley Construction, show of hands. All opposed, show of hands. An abstention. We had 4 yays and 1 abstention. Conley Construction it is.

APPROVE BID FOR DOWNTOWN STRIPING:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to approve the bid for downtown striping.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Our newly formed Downtown Development Authority has hit the road running and they are ready to beautify downtown. One of the first projects that they want to tackle is the parking spaces downtown. They have attempted to get several bids and they were unfortunately only able to get one from Striping by Tim. The amount is \$4,622. One individual just said he was too busy to come and bid on it. One was just not interested in the project, and I couldn't tell you what the other excuses were. This is from Mark Doss from the Downtown Development Authority.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: This is going from 3rd Avenue to 5th Avenue.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, just from 3rd to 5th right now. Now, we can expand it, reduce it, or whatever is the pleasure of the Council.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Are we going to stop or come on down to Mitchell & Susan's building and Sidetrack?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Whatever you want to do. If you want to do the whole downtown and come back with bids, it's whatever you want to do. We can do that and come back in another 2 weeks. I

would rather do both College and Main to be honest with y'all. But, while we are doing it, if we can get an outfit in here to actually do it. That is the problem. You have got to have enough work to make it worth their while for people to move in here. Now Jesse can correct me but from what I have learned following these engineers around, they don't want to pick up and do just small jobs.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I was just wondering. Why would we stop in there and not come down this way?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I understand. It is a request from the DDA.

ATTORNEY LLOP: Was it bid out?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: No, Mark Doss just reached out to stripers on his own on behalf of the DDA. So, we would have to actually run an ad and then hopefully we can maybe get some people from out of town. Someone might be willing to move in here if it is a big enough project.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I mean, I was just saying, I wouldn't just stop it right there. I mean, do back here too. It wouldn't be much. But then the next item on the agenda is going to be the other side of that road. You aren't going to want to stripe it because you are going to tear it all up.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I mean I'm not an engineer, but I say we do the concrete before we do the painting anyway. Jesse, isn't that what you would put?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I mean is this bid just for this side of the street.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yeah.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I mean the painting. Is it just for this side of the railroad tracks or for both?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Both.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: My suggestion would be that until they fix that gutter and stuff down there, I wouldn't paint. But I would go back. I mean College is how far down?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: There is a couple of parallel spaces down by the Mexican restaurant and a couple back up this way. But let's just do it all and be done with it. How long has it been since we have painted downtown parking spaces? When is the next DDA meeting? I will go back to them and talk to them.

DEPUTY CLERK SHEFFIELD: Next Monday.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Can I throw something in here? We are talking about striping. I got one place that is real dangerous for Senior Citizens. What's the name of that road in front of WUFF? Plaza Drive. Plaza Drive has got 1, 2, I think 5 Senior Living facilities on that road. Plus, the hospital is on that road. When I come down it the other day, my wife said that I needed to get them to stripe it. They ain't no striping on that road and that is really dangerous.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We have gotten complaints too on our section of the road going down past the Airport. A lot of people are going out there in the evenings and they can't see because there is no striping on that part that we are responsible for. So, we could put both of those along with this.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I mean it really needs to be done cause all them senior people coming out of there and like me, they can't see them.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: If y'all will let me, I will bid out Plaza Drive, the Airport Rd section that we are responsible for, and both Main Street and College Street. I will come back to you hopefully with multiple bids even if somebody from out of state has to come in.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: There are some bad holes on there too.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: That is something that we have got to look at, is getting some equipment to either start paving. I mean right now we are just filling holes with clay or with sand. We don't even have equipment to pave. There are some of these streets that look like something that you would see in Beirut. It's terrible. And we can't get pavers to come into town unless we have a big job. So, we are going to start bundling some of this together to make it worth their while to come here for a couple of

weeks. Let's handle the striping right now. Can we do that? Jesse, do you have any thoughts on any of that?

ENGINEER BEARDEN: No. But of course, that downtown striping is a whole lot different than when you start striping streets. There is a lot more criteria and a lot different. I mean, marking off parking spots, yeah. I don't know the qualifications, but you start doing thoroughfares, then you are going to have to have licensed people to do that.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: No striping the streets then.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Well, no, but it is like Jesse said, you got big trucks that come in right as you are striping highways.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: I mean, you got to have gap returns. I mean, it's a little more complicated on moving traffic than a parked car. So tonight, I would just deal with, if you want to, deal with the parking and we will talk about striping the streets this week.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Mr. Raymond, are you okay with that?

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Oh yeah, I am okay with it. Well, I just wanted to bring it up and just not leave it behind, forever.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I am with you 100%. Again, that Airport Road, we've got it. And I guess it is the County dumpsters that people from the city are going out there. But yeah, let's bid out downtown and College Street.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, yeah. I will take a motion to advertise to take bids on parking space striping on Main Street and College Street.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: **So moved.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a motion. I need a second.

COUNCILOR WOODARD: **Second.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Got a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor to advertise to take bids. Motion carried unanimous for Main Street and College Street.

APPROVE BID FOR CURBING ON MAIN STREET:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to approve bid for curbing on Main Street.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Jesse, do you want to address that, or do you want me to?

ENGINEER BEARDEN: I can. Well, we have talked about this before. From 4th Avenue to 3rd Avenue, the curb on the backside of Main was basically formed out of asphalt. Well, over the years it has eroded and has been breached. So, I am talking about the block at Coleman Hardware. Dennis Drugs to the burned-out building. It is pretty short sided and kind of steep right there. So, the rock is called ballast stone. It rolls off the railroad slope into the road. And most of that section now is ladies shopping we will say, boutiques and beauty parlors and things like that. So of course, high heels and smaller shoes with gravel has caused some issues lately with ladies tripping and twisting their ankles. Has there been a fall?

DEPUTY CLERK SHEFFIELD: I liked to have done it.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: Well, if there has been a fall, I am not familiar with it. But that asphalt curbing has just deteriorated so bad that it is not holding that rock in place. So, this is approximately 315-320 feet of curb and gutter. So, I mean instead of just putting a curb back, let's make it, cause there is storm drains on that side. So, I have designed it where there will be a curb and gutter. I think it is an 18-inch curb and gutter. Monolithic pour and then that way the water will be drained off the street and the rock will be stopped from rolling into the street and into those parking. But you know there is parallel parking on this side of the street up against the railroad. So, that is what this bid is.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: And we have, well this is the Downtown Development Authority. We have got a quote from CB's Pools and Concrete. It says 350 ft in length, demolishing and disposing of old asphalt curb 18" wide. Replace with 18" wide cast in place concrete with integral gutter. Job quote includes all

demolition, clean-up, materials, labor & barricades and traffic control. The cost is for \$6,100. And we have a quote from Graham & Studstill for \$6,154. That is option 1 which is remove existing asphalt header curb. Theirs is 318 linear feet. Saw cut section of existing asphalt paving approximately 18" wide and remove asphalt. Properly dispose of all removed materials. Install new 18" cast in place concrete curb with integral gutter (edge of gutter shall be saw cut joint noted above and rear of curb shall be toward railroad and provide barrier for rocks). Option 2 is clean and seal sidewalks. That really ain't got anything to do with this.

ATTORNEY LLOP: So, this wasn't bid out by the city?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: No, these were quotes that were obtained by Jesse or by the Development Authority.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: The Development Authority.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: By the Development Authority.

ATTORNEY LLOP: So, the City may bid it out with specifications.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We can reject them and bid it all out.

ATTORNEY LLOP: Not necessarily reject but bid it out with some specifications. One has got very detailed, and one doesn't.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And from now on, just have a standing rule that everything that the DDA does has to be bid out instead of quotes. Or do you want us to bid it out for them? What would you rather do?

ATTORNEY LLOP: Well, they should even bid it out for the city. I mean the funds are coming from the city.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Well, ultimately, we are the money. Do you want to handle that, or do you want Maya to handle it out of DDA? Do you want to be in charge of it?

DEPUTY CLERK SHEFFIELD: If they can write it up, I can run it and do the bid opening.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Alright, we can just handle it out of City Hall then. If that is okay with the Council?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Yeah, cause like I said, this has got some more stuff and details. And we need to bid it anyway. That's the best thing. Alright, instead of approving the bid for these tonight, I will entertain a motion to get the Downtown Development Authority to actually advertise and bid them out with specifications and all so we can make sure that we are comparing apples to apples and that we are getting the same bids.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I'll make that motion.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Council, do y'all have any questions? If not, I need a second.

COUNCILOR DAWSON: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Got a second. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous to get the Downtown Development Authority to actually bid them out. Get with them and tell them. I mean it is good that what they are doing and all, but.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yeah, I am glad that they are eager to do it. They sound as if they have taken an interest. We have just got to work out the kinks now that we have got a fully functioning board that is eager to take on projects. So, that is a good thing. Good problems to have.

SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER REQUEST:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Senior Citizen Center.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I am going to speak for them. I am on the board of the Senior Citizens and people don't know that Senior Citizens is for any elderly person in Eastman and Dodge County. Right now, they are trying to get computers so they can teach the senior people out there to come in and learn how to

do a computer. They have got a bus that they go on to carry senior people out to restaurants and stuff like that. And it's tore up and needs fixing. So, on behalf of Ms. Gladys, she lives out at the river so she couldn't be here tonight. So, I told Spence that I would tell what is going on there.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: The request is for \$3500. The budget will sustain it if the Council chooses to fund it. The funds are available if y'all choose to spend them.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright. Well, we have been helping them in the past too haven't we?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes Sir.

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

COUNCILOR DAWSON: Now, you know I always have a question on that. It goes back to you know that we have a Senior Citizen Center out here by the hospital and we have one over here. Why is one getting support and the other is not?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I believe that one is getting \$2,749. Or we have got that in the budget as Buddy says.

COUNCILOR DAWSON: So, we are supporting both of them?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes Sir. Now if you prefer, we can reduce that \$3500 down to \$2,749. Would that be okay to match both of them?

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I don't have a problem with that.

COUNCILOR DAWSON: I feel that whatever we do for one, we do for the other.

SUSAN COFFEE: Spence, excuse me. Isn't the Housing Authority Senior Center, isn't that federally funded? I don't know anything about the Housing Authority.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: It is.

SUSAN COFFEE: I mean that is the Senior Center that you are talking about Prince. The one across from the hospital?

COUNCILOR DAWSON: Yes.

SUSAN COFFEE: That one is federally funded through the Housing Authority. Y'all may be helping it, but it is also federally funded, I think.

COUNCILOR DAWSON: My question last year was why do we have 2 separate ones?

SUSAN COFFEE: That is mostly aimed at their residents in those senior apartments. I mean other people can come but that is what it's mostly directed to is my understanding.

COUNCILOR DAWSON: I know that they actually have a bus that picks up from out in the community.

SUSAN COFFEE: Well, I stand corrected then.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Those are valid points. We fund 2 historical sites. Peabody and the Eastman House. I can't answer what's right or wrong in that, but I will sign whatever check y'all tell me to and leave it at that.

COUNCILOR DAWSON: Well, you know that I ask this question.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And it is a good point. And with what Mrs. Coffee brought up, maybe they don't need any city money if they have got federal money. But for whatever reason, we have it in the budget and have done so in the past.

DEPUTY CLERK SHEFFIELD: It is listed as Meals on Wheels. It is not listed as the Housing Authority Senior Center.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Well, Ivelyn told me that's what it was. Do you know where it goes? Who manages Meals on Wheels?

DEPUTY CLERK SHEFFIELD: I can ask. The Christian Life Center manages Meals on Wheels.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I don't think we do the other one. That is federal money and all.

COUNCILOR DAWSON: Now last year, it was said that we didn't do the one up there by the hospital.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I stand corrected then. It's the Christian Life Center instead of the other. Jesse what is our roll with the Housing Authority? You go out there and do something for them.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: I do. The City of Eastman is the sponsor for the Housing Authority. We created the Housing Authority in 1952 or 1953. It is evolved and I don't tend to Mrs. Michelle's business whatsoever. But they do get funding through various federal agencies. Maybe we need to get her in here to give us a rendition on everything. But now our responsibility as the City, when they remodeled those apartments, that I provide them the same services I do with any private citizen of the City of Eastman. Electrical inspections, plumbing inspections, construction, structural. So, that is basically my role with them. But as far as the various fundings, I am not sure, but we do have an agreement in the vault, and I think I have got a copy of it in my office, but the reason it is called the Eastman Housing Authority is because the City Council felt the need for adequate housing for the Senior Citizens at the time. So, the City Council created the Eastman Housing Authority. So, they are basically in kind of a way, an arm of the city government.

SHARON COBB FLANAGAN: I was just going to say that there is the Housing Authority and then there is the grant that is used by the Housing Authority because they applied for it to support having a Senior Center in their facility. That grant comes from the Regional Altamaha Commission out of Baxley. So that is really the source of funding the senior center that you are referring to. It is conveniently located there in that Housing Authority building. They are being paid to have it there out of the grant because that is part of what they can get. Because there is a food element involved in that grant, and because of the residents that live close by to that building, it works out well for everybody involved. That is what that one is about. The other Senior Center has, well the actual name of it is something like the Council on Aging. It is different. They have put a new sign up to make that distinction clear. That is kind of like a private thing if you will. Right? It is a 501c3. So those are the differences. There is nothing that says that the Senior Center that is located where it is, has to be located there. That's just that the Housing Authority is the one that takes the initiative to pursue that grant. It makes sense to have it located there. That is what I learned when I looked into it, based on conversations with Baxley.

JOHN BATTLE: And also, that grant does not cover all of the cost for operating that facility. That is why they had to reach out for additional funding from other agencies and other municipalities and the government of the City of Eastman.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: So to make it simple, should we cut out the money to Meals on Wheels and cut out the money to the Senior Citizens Center? Or should we fund both of them.

DEPUTY CLERK SHEFFIELD: I just talked to Ivy and that money does not go to their Meals on Wheels. So, I don't know if that money goes to the hospital to help fund it? I don't know where that money is going without being able to look in General Ledger because I am not familiar with it.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Alright. Well, let's skip that and come back to do you want to fund the Senior Citizens Center by the 911 building? That is the one we are talking about. Or not?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council? Any other comments or thoughts?

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Do we have to do it tonight or can we wait and look at the books? Can we look into where the money is going? We can just table it until next time.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: You don't have to do anything tonight. The budget is not even set until December 27th. That is when you have to vote to approve it. And you don't have to do it. We can leave that in the budget and they can come in here in January and ask for it. Or, we can amend the budget.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Would you put it in the budget if it is just a 1-time thing?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: You can or not. It's what you want to do. You make the rules up in that sense. If you want to give them \$3500 tonight, you can do it. If the Council votes to do it. If you want to not fund that or not fund something else. Or what April just said, they didn't draw down last years. Isn't that what you were saying?

DEPUTY CLERK SHEFFIELD: No, we are showing that we are paying that money every year. I am just not sure who is receiving that money because I am not that familiar with it yet.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: But Mr. Prince said it goes to the Baptist Association?

COUNCILOR DAWSON: The Meals on Wheels comes out of the Christian Life Center.

DEPUTY CLERK SHEFFIELD: Yes, the Christian Life Center handles that. But if this money is truly going to Meals on Wheels, I don't know because I haven't run an invoice to see.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Well, we can sure have those answers for you by the 27th at the next meeting.

COUNCILOR DAWSON: Well, we encountered the same situation last year. Because the lady herself came in last year and made the request. The same question came up. It was about the private center and the other center. We went around the same way. We were discussing that it was federal funds or what was happening. I think we went ahead and voted to go ahead and give them the \$3500. I think I just voted no and everybody else voted to do it. And that is okay with me. I am just saying. My question was why have 2? If that is the way you want to do it, that's fine. But, I just wanted to bring it out and make it known what we were doing. But I won't say anything else.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, now that I am lost as a bedbug. I'm out riding dirt roads. I done seen about 14 rabbits and everything.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: The question is the Senior Citizens Center. Do we want to table that or do we want to vote tonight? That is vote or move on?

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Well, with what I am hearing, I make a motion to table it until the next meeting and you have everything we need to know.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And we will have some iron-clad answers on who is funding Meals on Wheels. Or who is getting paid to do that. And I will let y'all know. It may not even be them.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, y'all are going to have the answers to that. We are taking no action on that.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Just wanted to remind everybody that our Christmas luncheon is Wednesday, December 15th at 12 PM here. We are going to eat very well I hope and fellowship and have a good time. And I would very much like to thank our hardworking street department, Mr. Brandon Brisco and his crew. We had a successful Christmas parade. And I want to thank the Lions Club for putting on a fantastic parade. I have heard nothing but compliments from everybody involved that was out there. So, thank you Brandon and thank the Lions Club for all its members and participants.

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

MITCHELL COFFEE: I would like to make one comment if I could. I thank the Council for getting those old firetrucks out and putting them and displaying them. At night, you don't know how much traffic is going by there and kids going out there and looking at those things. Y'all did a great job. It was a great idea when y'all came up with that idea. I hope next year you can paint and fix them up and have them better.

VIA FACEBOOK:

MARK STUDSTILL: I have a comment.
(a comment was not provided)

ADJOURNMENT:

12-13-21

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

CHAIRMAN

DEPUTY CITY CLERK