

October 16, 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, Mark Peacock, and Debra Sheffield by telephone. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, City Clerk April Sheffield, City Attorney Rita Llop, City Inspector Jack White, Assistant Manager Dayna Winslette, acting Fire Chief Derl Maxwell, and Police Chief Billy Cooper. Other department heads and employees in attendance were Matt McDaniel, Wynnon Pittman, Brandon Brisco, and Robert Lee. Audience members included Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Reverend Rick Hamilton, Raymond Mullis, Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Chuck Simpson, and Gary and Sue Wesely.

Councilor Snyder called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
Invocation was given by Reverend Rick Hamilton.
Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and a motion from Councilor Williams, the agenda was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On a motion from Councilor Williams and a second from Councilor Peacock, the minutes of the September 23, 2024, meeting were unanimously approved.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

MONTHLY POLICE REPORT:

Chief Cooper presented the September 2024 report. They answered 805 calls and worked 18 traffic accidents, patrolled 11,008 miles, and used 929 gallons of gas. They collected \$28,125.37 in cash bonds and fines and had 198 arrests or citations.

MONTHLY BUILDING INSPECTOR/CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Jack White presented his report for September. \$595 was collected in permits with \$390 in building permits, a \$50 electrical permit, one \$150 zoning application and a \$5 solicitation permit.

As far as the work at the Club goes, the Department of Corrections is back working. Hoping to move forward rapidly even though they anticipate one more setback.

With blighted properties, the next goal is to revisit those that have already received letters. It will be time to start issuing citations. Those we have not been able to make contact with, we will bring in Ms. Rita for any legal issues.

MONTHLY WASTEWATER REPORT:

Matt McDaniel reported that 38,365,000 gallons of water pumped from the wells with equals 1.279 MGD. The plant used 432,000 gallons of water for the month of September. There were 20,360,000 gallons of water (0.679 MGD) treated and released from the plant. The top 3-hour consuming projects were lab and sampling, lift station and well repair, and plant operations. Three spills occurred due to the hurricane. Legion Drive was affected by too much rain. Rocky Springs lift station had a spill because the area had a loss of power for most of that day. The Industrial Park lift station also had a spill because of the loss of power for 2-3 days. Councilor Peacock questioned

the need for generators and how soon to purchase. Manager Barron states that the Regional Commission is currently working on a grant to help purchase some, but he is more concerned about getting generators for the wells first. Matt mentions they are focused on bypass pumps for the lift stations. The Legion Drive station is the one that gives them the most problems. That is the reasoning for the I&I project currently happening. The BellSouth lift station is part of that too. Hopefully some of this can be alleviated because we are under direct orders from EPD, and we have borrowed an awful lot of money to do the project. Matt commented that there was an awful lot of rainwater in that lift station when it overflowed. Councilor Snyder asks for any alternatives that we can look into. Matt agrees with Wynnon about the need to camera and smoking some more lines. They need to figure out where the major breaks are because they are probably in ditches, creeks, and places like that. Snyder says it will get put on the agenda once they are through with the I&I project.

MONTHLY WATER DISTRIBUTION REPORT:

Wynnon Pittman presented the September report for the water department. They performed 84 cut-ons and 82 cut-offs. They were sent to check on 25 possible leaks. They repaired 14 service lines and 1 main. Three more meters were found, and GPS located. Sixty locates were responded to. There were 3 issues between Neptune and the meters. Two new meters were set. Ten more items were added to the map building database. As far as sewer, there were 2 taps set and 11 lines cleaned out. Grease has become a big problem in the sewer lines. There are a few businesses in town that need to be contacted concerning their grease traps or lack thereof. There were 5 sewer inspections performed. Twelve manholes were located. There were a total of 314 work orders performed. Used 418 gallons of fuel.

As far as the I&I project, Popco finished up their paving around Pine Drive last Friday. They spent Monday repairing the yards that they had to dig up on Pine, 11th, and 9th. There is one yard near 9th Avenue that is not quite complete due to not being able to match the previous rock. They have now moved to 9th Avenue in the area between Congo Lane and Forest Lake Road. He has tried to notify all responders of them closing that area between 8 and 5 every day. There are some issues of where the plans say to lay the new pipe. They may have to go in the road instead. Nothing extra has come up that requires an increase in billing yet.

Wynnon has come across a gentleman that can help with running a camera through the lines and investigating. He has his contact information but hasn't been able to reach out yet.

The Lead and Copper inventory was submitted before the deadline of October 16. There were only 2 unknowns and 400+ galvanized lines. That is not a threat to anyone, it is just the federal government requiring them to be replaced by 2028. 120Water will help when it comes time to send those letters out to inform the residents.

He has gotten the Airport Authority to agree to pay for the concrete to fix the road if the city will fix the line going from the hydrant across the road to the bathrooms at the airport. He has plans to start that project next week.

MONTHLY STREET REPORT:

Brandon Brisco presented the stats for the street department. They spent 26 hours on animal calls, 26 on curbs and gutters, 24 on ditches, 289 on tree limb cutting, 230 hours mowing grass, 61.5 hours were dedicated to other things, 169 hours on potholes, 9.5 on trash pickup and 173 hours on limb truck pick-up. There were no special events this past month. The night of the hurricane and next day, 5 guys worked a total of 24 hours each and another worked a 16-hour shift. 778 gallons of

fuel was used the month of September. Because of the hurricane, the limb and leaf pickup is a little behind. Brandon hopes to get a backup crew to help him catch up.

MONTHLY FIRE REPORT:

Interim Fire Chief Derl Maxwell presented the breakdown of calls for September 2024. Councilor Snyder commended Derl and his department for all of what got accomplished during the hurricane. They had 2 non-working structure fires in the city and 1 in the county, 1 workable structure fire in the city and 1 in the county, 36 medical related calls in the city and 18 in the county, 9 motor vehicle accidents in the city and 3 in the county, 8 public service calls in the city and 5 in the county. Service calls are fire alarms, smoke scares, and trees down (not including the recent hurricane). There were 2 calls within the city that they were cancelled enroute. Eastman received mutual aid once in the city and gave aid twice in the county. Hurricane Helene occurred this past month. Storm details included 64 total calls of service in 7.5 hours. The number of calls due to flooding, trees down, or lines down, etc. was 55. Seven residential structures and two commercial structures reported damage due to tree and debris. Standby help for the storm included all 9 full-time firefighters, 7 police officers, 7 city workers, and 4 of the administration, including Spence and Graham. Derl thanked them for staying involved with the storm. Derl and 2 other firefighters also took time to go to McRae on the weekend to offer assistance with cutting some trees.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS:

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams, the monthly bills for September 24 – October 16, 2024, were unanimously approved.

RICK HAMILTON, EASTMAN FIRST METHODIST CHURCH:

Reverend Hamilton came to request the closure of the street between the church parking lot and the church from between 6 – 9 pm on Thursday, October 31. Chief Cooper has no problems with it. Councilor Peacock questions the need to ask permission to shut a road down when the church owns property on both sides of the road. Manager Barron believes it is because it is considered a public road or taxpayer venue. He doesn't know if it is the law, but it has been the custom to do so.

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams, the request was unanimously approved.

CLUB RENOVATION PROJECTS:

Jack White comes before the council to ask permission to bid out for air conditioning for the gym at the Club, gutter work for all of the buildings there, and also spray foam insulation for the gym. **On a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Peacock, the request was approved.**

SCHEDULE WORK SESSION:

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams, the council unanimously voted to have a work session on Wednesday, October 23 at 5 PM, in order to discuss ongoing projects.

LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARADE:

David Mazza with the Eastman Lions Club has requested permission for the 2024 Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 14, 2024. The parade would take the usual route beginning in front

of the post office and ending at the old courthouse. The parade would begin at 6:30 PM and is estimated to end around 8:00. Chief Cooper is on board for assisting with the parade. **On a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Williams, the parade request was unanimously approved.**

RAYMOND MULLIS, FOOD BANK:

Raymond Mullis and Chuck Simpson came forward on a 'good will mission'. Simpson says the God has put on their hearts to adopt Dodge County and give hope to the hopeless. Junior and Faye Howell have rented them a building at 1301 Dr MLK Jr Drive for \$1 a month. They have partnered with the Middle Ga Food Bank in Macon. The Food Bank has donated over \$7,000 worth of free equipment to help them get started. There is no church affiliation. The building has been cleaned up and is due for inspection next week. They are planning to bring in 20,000 pounds of food a month to distribute to Dodge County. Their cost will be about \$4,000 a month. The site needs a water meter installed, and the cost is over \$1,000 just so the sink and toilet will have water. They are asking the city to donate the meter so they can spend the money on food instead. Wynnon Pittman comes up and asks, with permission, to buy the meter at cost himself and install it on his own time. Attorney Llop sees no issue with this as it is considered a donation by a private person. **On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams, the council unanimously agreed with this plan.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL & PROPERTY MATTERS:

On a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Peacock, it was unanimously voted to move into executive session. (Council, Manager, and Attorney exit room.) (All re-enter the room.) On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams, it was unanimously approved to enter back into regular session.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Barron reminded everyone of all of the events coming up in the next few weeks. Thursday night will be the Homecoming Pow Wow downtown for the first time. Friday afternoon will be the Homecoming Parade. Saturday will be the Music on Main event downtown all afternoon and through the evening. Next Saturday, October 26, there will be trick-or-treating in Greenwood Heights and also the magic show downtown featuring Evan Dupree. On Halloween, trick-or-treating will be held in the neighborhood by the middle school.

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams, the meeting was adjourned.

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK