

**February 22, 2024**

The Eastman City Council met in a called meeting on the above date at 5:00 p.m. The following members were present: Sebrina Williams, Graham Snyder, Jermayne Hamilton, Debra Sheffield, and Mark Peacock. Others present were City Attorney Rita Llop, Attorney Chris Gordon, City Manager Spencer Barron, Police Chief Billy Cooper, Fire Chief Scotty Whitten, Assistant Fire Chief Johnny Howell, City Clerk April Sheffield, Administrative Assistant Dayna Winslette, Officers Josh Roberson and Nick Hulette, and Department Heads Wynnon Pittman and Paul McCranie. Present from the community were Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Mark and Blake Studstill, and Ed McRae from FireLine.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

Invocation was given by Councilor Hamilton.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**With no changes being needed, on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Hamilton, the agenda was approved unanimously.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**On a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the council unanimously voted to go into executive session in order to discuss legal and property matters. (Council exits.) (Council reenters.) On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Hamilton, the council unanimously voted to enter back into regular session.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**FIRE TRUCK:**

Fire Chief Whitten brought in Ed McRae from FireLine Inc., to discuss the financing options through them on the purchase of a fire truck. The amount of the truck is \$455,451. The leasing option is for 10 years @ an interest rate of 5.95% and an annual payment of \$60,172.24. There is no penalty for early payoff. It is a 2-year turnaround period for getting the truck. This truck was ordered last May and is expected to arrive in May 2025. The first payment will not be expected until then, but they will need the commitment to buy in order to lock in the current price. City Manager Barron says they have looked into other funding sources and right now, FireLine has the best options. Depending upon how the other big projects turn out, there may be enough in SPLOST or ARPA to pay it off early. But for right now, he recommends financing it. Chief Whitten said that GMA could possibly have a lower interest rate by the time it came to start paying for the truck. **On a motion from Councilor Hamilton and seconded by Councilor Williams, it was unanimously approved to purchase the fire truck.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**LAPTOP GRANT:**

The police department put in a grant in May of last year with the Chief's Association for laptops and printers and all of that to put in the cars. This will allow them to do the reports in the vehicles and also issue citations from the printer. Everything will be mobile, and they will be able to run GCIC on their computers. The PD was awarded the grant a week or so ago in the amount of \$35,000 through the Governor's Highway Safety grant. The quote is for \$58,389. The grant will cover a good portion of that, and the city will be expected to pay \$23,389. City Manager Barron says there is enough SPLOST money to cover that. There is a 3-year mail in warranty included. The company is someone the PD currently deals with and is more local than having to go out of state.

Susan Coffee asks how they will run inside the cars. Chief Cooper responded by saying that they will run off of an AC adapter. The cars will not have to be kept running. Each laptop has a battery backup that can maintain the power while the car is off.

**On a motion from Councilor Hamilton and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, it was unanimously approved to move forward with the purchase of the laptops.**

**DCEDA APPLICATIONS:**

Currently, there is an opening on the Dodge County Eastman Development Authority. City Manager asks permission to advertise for 2 weeks to receive applications. **A unanimous vote was taken to proceed on a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Hamilton.**

**TAX SALE:**

The city normally has a sale every other year. We are on schedule to have one this year. Currently, there is \$96,831.77 in unrecovered property taxes. **A unanimous vote was taken to move forward with the sale on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Hamilton.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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CHAIRMAN

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CITY CLERK