

September 25, 2023

The Eastman City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present: Buddy Pittman, Sebrina Williams, Jermaine Hamilton, and Ronnie Woodard. Councilor Raymond Mullis participated by telephone. Others present were City Attorney Rita Llop, City Manager Spencer Barron, Police Chief Billy Cooper, City Clerk April Sheffield, and City Inspector Jack White. DDA members Andrea McCranie and Roy Grenade were in attendance. DDA member Ron Daniels participated by phone. Present from the community were Charlotte Coffee, Benny Pirkle, Carl Evans, Mike and Sharon Flanagan, Graham Snyder, Mark Peacock, EM Harrington III, Ron Whittington, and the Lanci family.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pittman.

The invocation was given by Councilor Mullis.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: The first item on the agenda is to approve the agenda and I think we have a couple of items to add to it.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, we need to add the Ron Daniels with the Downtown Development Authority and Mr. Ron Whittington would be the next one with a street closure request. Ron Daniels will be a call in. He's out of town. And also Mr. Raymond Mullis is at home recuperating from COVID, if anyone asks.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right, Council, y'all have anything else you want to add or anything. OK. **I need a motion then to add Ron Daniels calling into the agenda and add Mr. Ron Whittington on for downtown street closure.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.

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

RON DANIELS, DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

DDA MEMBER RON DANIELS: Well, good evening. I apologize I wasn't able to be there in person, but the Eastman Downtown Development Authority would like to propose to the City Council to do a one for one swap of the DDA's property, commonly referred to as the Wholesale Builders property, in its entirety in exchange for the property that was recently surveyed, that includes the bus station, the city barn and the building that's currently being used for dojo, which I think is approximately 82 tenths of an acre combined. And I'm happy to answer any questions that the Council has about the proposal or take any concerns back to the DDA.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, do you all have any questions for Mr. Ron or the DDA? Ron, nobody has any questions at this time, and I think this property we've looked at it and walked it a few months ago and waiting on the survey so. At this time what do we want to do?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Consider it and hopefully let them know something by the next City Council meeting or y'all discuss it among yourselves or schedule a work session. I mean, there's several options here for you. This is him introducing that, officially, that the DDA has approved it on their side and they're willing to move forward if y'all are.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right. Ron, did you hear all of that?

DDA MEMBER RON DANIELS: I did and that is an accurate reflection that Dr. Barron stated. We don't necessarily expect the answer from y'all tonight, but we have voted to go forward with it. And to officially convey it to y'all. And now you know, and the other movement has got to be done on your side.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: We will take you this and hopefully we will see about it the next meeting in about two weeks, and we'll be able to give y'all a response on it. If you're good with that?

DDA MEMBER RON DANIELS: On behalf of the DDA, we are good with that.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Thank you so much and we will let you go and get back to what you were doing, and we will move on, and we will be in touch with you, Ron. Thank you.

DDA MEMBER RON DANIELS: Thank y'all. Y'all have a good evening.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to reschedule the meeting. Let me back up a little bit. **I will entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28th and September 11th regular meetings.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: And y'all got those in your packets and all over the weekend. Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Y'all have any questions or anything about them? If not, I need a second. **COUNCILOR WOODARD:** Second.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I've got two seconds. Everybody's ready. Councilmen Woodard and Hamilton second. All right, all in favor show of hands. **Motion carried unanimous.**

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

RESCHEDULE MEETING:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right, now that y'all have had a little time to think about it, we'll reschedule the October 9th meeting due to the Columbus Day holiday. That's also Thanksgiving Day in Canada. And I think normally, well I know we have a Development Authority meeting that Tuesday. Which I think normally when we do them, we move them to Thursday.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Same time Thursday?

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: Remember that you scheduled a meeting to pass the tax millage rate on that Tuesday, October 10th. So you are already going to have a meeting then.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: OK. Well, we'll have it the 10th then. I'll just leave the Development Authority meeting a little early. How about that? Y'all good with that? Well, we're already having a meeting on the 10th anyway, that Tuesday evening. Y'all good with doing it then? All right. **Well, we'll just move the meeting from the 9th to Tuesday the 10th at 6:00. I'll need a motion to approve that.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilor Hamilton. I need a second.

COUNCILOR WOODARD: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show of hands? **Motion carried unanimous.**

APPROVE GEFA MODIFICATIONS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to approve the GEFA modifications for CW2021005.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, Sir. This is the agreement with GEFA. That was where we essentially borrowed the money to do the I & I repairs in Jessup Heights. We bid it out but when the bids came back, it was going to take more money than we had. So we have reduced the scope of the project. We've submitted that back through EPD and GEFA and these will be the modifications to that document. Again, this is the Jessup Heights I & I project.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: And after reading this, they are good with these modifications? We just have to sign off on them.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: After an affirmative vote from the Council, you'll sign off on it.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right. Council, do you all have any questions for Spence about these? If not, then I **need a motion to approve the GEFA modifications for the sewer project over in Jessup Heights.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilor Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.

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

ALCOHOL ORDINANCE REVISION:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right, next is on the agenda is the first reading of the revised alcohol ordinance.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, Sir. After the work session, I believe the consensus was that we would change the distance between the liquor store package store and the residence from property line to property line. We were going to change it to front door to front door. We're also going to put in the amended ordinance that it had to be in what we would consider a commercial district like a B1, B2, maybe even an Industrial, but it could not be in a Professional district and all that is spelled out in the amended ordinance.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And we did so after receiving several complaints that the previous one was so restrictive. It was hindering capitalism.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right, council, do y'all have any more other questions? We had a pretty lengthy work session meeting on this the other day. If not, **then I will entertain a motion for the first reading of the revised alcohol ordinance.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a motion from Councilman Mullis and need a second.

COUNCILOR WOODARD: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show hands or say aye. **(Three members raised their hands.)**

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: I am abstaining from this one.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Raymond, you good with it?

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Yeah, yeah, I'm good with it.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right. **So that's the first reading of the revised alcohol ordinance.**

INDUSTRIAL PARK LIFT STATION:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next is permission to bid Industrial Park lift station repairs.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, Sir. Our Industrial Park lift station is failing. Numerous problems with it. Leaks, electrical issues, that's several decades old. I've talked to Matt McDaniel. I've talked to Terry. They both agree it's time to go ahead and repair it and upgrade it. So we're asking for permission to have Hofstadter and Associates to design and eventually bid out those repairs to the Industrial Park Lift Station.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right, Council, y'all have any other questions?

COUNCILOR MULLIS: This is all them pictures we got right?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, Sir. The pictures showing the leakages and the pictures showing the short and faults and the fuse boxes. It's just coming apart. And we've got standing sewage in the bottom of it. So it's time to go ahead and just rebuild it from the ground up essentially. Or that's my opinion. We'll wait and see what the engineers tell us.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: It's looking a little rough. All right. Oh. With that, y'all have no other questions. I **need a motion then to give Spence then permission to get with Hofstadter and them to bid out the lift station repair/rebuild for the Industrial Park Lift Station.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a second from Councilor Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. **Motion carried unanimous.**

MONTHLY BILLS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next is approve the monthly bills for September 12th through September 25th. I think y'all all got those in your packets over the weekend. Have any questions about them? OK, if no questions, **then I'll entertain a motion to approve the monthly bills for September 12th through September 25th.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.

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

PRETRIAL INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION PROGRAM:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next is on the agenda is to approve the pretrial intervention and diversion program.

POLICE CHIEF COOPER: Good evening. All right, Rita drafted this up. She could probably answer this better than me, but basically the judge and the solicitor wanted to get something enacted, which is this diversion program. Basically, what it would do is if you got somebody for a minor offense, it can't be anything that has a sentence imposed that can't be, you know, messed with. So like a DUI or something wouldn't qualify for this. You could put them in a diversion program if they don't have any kind of history and you're trying to help this person, like take the example of a college student out there at the flight school or something. You wanting to help them? Put them in this diversion program. If they do good in the diversion program, they don't get in trouble. Then they'll graduate from that diversion program, and it won't go on their criminal history. And that's pretty much the gist of it, you're just trying to help somebody. They still will have some fines and fees that they would have to pay for that program, but it does save it from going on their record. It would be limited to its use. They would have to qualify for it.

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

COUNCILOR MULLIS: As for me, I love it. I've been reading over that thing, and we've been needing something like this in Eastman for a long time. One question, it says here I was reading that they would do community service. Could they do that with the city?

CHIEF COOPER: They could, in fact, we use people doing community service at the PD quite often. We actually had them out today cleaning the Police Department, washing police cars and one of the fire trucks.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: OK, sounds good to me.

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

ATTORNEY LLOP: It is good. It will streamline the process and quickly get to a resolution.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right Council, y'all have no other questions. **I need a motion, then, to approve this pretrial intervention and diversion program for the Police Department and Municipal Court.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Second.

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

CHIEF COOPER: Thank you.

ANNEXATION OF ALL UNINCORPORATED ISLANDS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is annexation of all unincorporated islands. Properties within the city limits receiving city services and not paying city taxes/fees.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes Sir. As you all know, we're constantly receiving complaints from some people claiming that they pay taxes and this one doesn't pay taxes, or this property is in the city and this property is not. So what we're asking for here on #7 is permission to identify and annex any of what we call or what the state calls unincorporated islands. That would be areas that have not been brought into the city but that are completely surrounded by the city. We believe we've identified at least six. But if y'all give permission, me, Rita, and I'm going to get with Conner at the county, and the Regional Commission, and we're going to try to confirm this and identify any others to bring them in.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, y'all have any questions? I know we have been talking about this for a while and it's time. **So I'll entertain a motion to approve for the annexation of all unincorporated islands being properties within the city limits receiving city services and not paying city taxes and fees.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: OK, now I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Second.

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

ATTORNEY LLOP: We will be putting together identification and the legal descriptions and everything that we'll get.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Right. We have to put the owners on notice. Of course, the county as well. And there's a whole arbitration process that can involve. But this is the first step if y'all agree. **COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** That carried unanimous. So y'all get started on that then.

IDENTIFY AND MAP ALL PROPERTIES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE RECEIVING CITY SERVICES:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to identify and map all properties inside and outside the city limits receiving services including properties paying and not paying city taxes and fees. **CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, Sir. So this is similar to #7, but it's a different category. So we have identified several homes, residences and other businesses outside the city limits that are getting sewer and water. We're not sure how that came about in decades past, but again, with the help of the Regional Commission, we're

going to identify all of that, categorize it, and map it out. So we've got it going forward and make some future decisions.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any questions? I asked about 35 this afternoon, and still didn't make a decision. If there are no questions, then **I'll entertain a motion for #8 to identify and map all these properties inside and outside the city limits receiving city services, including properties paying and not paying city taxes/fees.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a motion from Councilman Mullis, and I need a second.

COUNCILOR WOODARD: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show of hands. **Motion carried unanimous.**

IDENTIFY AND MAP ALL STREETS, ROADS, AND RIGHT OF WAYS CONTAINING INFRASTRUCTURE:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: And #9 is to identify and map all properties, streets, roads and right of ways containing city infrastructure i.e. water, sewer, fire hydrants, located inside and outside of the city limits.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: So this is the third part of that category. This would be like county roads with city fire hydrants on them or something along those lines. Or county roads with right of ways that have city sewer lines on them. We honestly don't know where all of those are and what they are. So again, this will be a process to map all that out, to identify it and move forward.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: So we know what's what and where it's at.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And again, it's going to cost money. But if y'all are OK with it, we're going to negotiate that out with the Regional Commission.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, y'all have any questions concerning #9? If not, **I need a motion then to identify and map all properties, streets, roads and right of ways containing city infrastructure, water, sewer and fire hydrants located inside and outside of the city limits.**

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilman Hamilton. I need a second.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.

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

RON WHITTINGTON, SURE FOUNDATION, STREET CLOSURE:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is Mr. Ron Whittington.

RON WHITTINGTON: So what we're asking is every year around the fall time, last year I think we done it November 12th, but this year we've been looking at the schedule of everything that has been going on in the community and we've seen an open Saturday, November 4th. And last year, what we done from Sure Foundation is we joined the community together, got different people to join in and we offered up a kind of like a fall festival for the kids to come. But what we've done that was different than most is we have the fire department that brings in a fire truck, the Police Department brings in a couple of police cars. We put out a bunch of bounce houses and different games and stuff. We offer it free to the kids. Last year we done it in our parking lot, and we had about 300 to 400 kids and I had a lot of concern because we were able to map off the parking lot, but with that amount of kids, that road on Griffin is very busy. And so I really wanted to try to get it from that location and possibly put it on Main Street this year and have opportunities for other businesses and other churches and stuff to get involved to where we could set up with different booths and just kind of reach the community. This is not something just for Sure Foundation to get noticed. This is something for the whole community. We just want to give back and. As a kid, you have this dream to want to go and play in the sirens of a police car and cut on the lights and the sit in there and then interact with our police officers and our fire department. They got to do that last year. And even to get out there, some of my guys and knowing their background, they were able to get out there and play corn hole with the GBI and play corn hole with the police and it was just really cool fun for the community. And so I'm just asking if we can close off the street, November 4th. I've spoken to everybody involved and everybody seems to think that that's a good date. And so I just wanted to kind of come and see if that's a possibility.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: What are the times?

RON WHITTINGTON: We want to do it from 9:00 in the morning till 5:00 in the afternoon.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Where exactly are you wanting it to be?

RON WHITTINGTON: Usually we do it. I know normally I do it right in front of the movie theater and stuff.

INSPECTOR WHITE: I just know that there are some businesses that are still open on Saturday morning.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: What about to about the Goody's parking lot? That way we aren't shutting off Timeless Grace.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We could definitely consider that.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: We were sitting here having a little sidebar. What about the Goody's parking lot?

RON WHITTINGTON: I mean I don't have any problem with that.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Would that be big enough? And the only reason I ask that is because of Timeless grace. They are open probably till about 12:00 on Saturday.

RON WHITTINGTON: I mean if we need to move our time, I'm fine with moving times. The biggest thing is I don't know how many people would want to come and put out a booth. And like last year, we had five bounce houses and I mean our parking lot was slam full. And then even having the fire truck there and also

having the police cars, it was pretty packed in that little area. And our parking lot is a little bit bigger than the Goody's parking lot.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: What if we block that side of the road off too? Are there any businesses there? Well there's one, that Soos Fashion.

INSPECTOR WHITE: If we wait until after 12, we can block that whole section between 4th and 5th. That would give them that whole section.

RON WHITTINGTON: I am fine with that.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Will y'all have time to set up and still get going you think?

RON WHITTINGTON: I believe so. We just might have to make it a little bit later in the afternoon instead of stopping at 5. Maybe stop at 6, 6:30, 7, somewhere around in there and that would give us enough time to do it. Because we're not going to do any kind of music or anything of that nature. Like I said, the biggest thing will be blowing up the bounce houses and giving enough time for the fire department and everybody to bring their cars. I mean. I don't think that'll be a problem.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: If you're good with that, yeah, that that would be, then like you said, you can stay until 6 or 7 o'clock. That would be fine.

RON WHITTINGTON: Ok.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright. Council, do y'all have any more questions for Ron? If not, **I'll entertain a motion to approve closing Main Street, that section of Main Street down on November 4th from say 12 to 7:00.** Are you good with 12 to 7? All right, council.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: **So moved.**

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

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: **Second.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. **Motion carried unanimous.** November the 4th, Sir.

PLANNING AND ZONING RECOMMENDATION:

ROY GRENADE (TWO GUYS AND A GAL, INC) @ 215, 219, & 229 KING STREET:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is a planning and zoning recommendation for Roy Grenade at 215, 219, and 229 King St. Rezoning from R2 to a P for a restaurant, parking lot, and venue. **INSPECTOR WHITE:** Yes, Sir. Mr. Grenade had come to us requesting the change back to the previous P. So from a R2 back to a P. It was a P at one time, and it got changed over to an R2 because the apartments that were built on it. They are wanting to move his restaurant around. They have got a parking lot. It'll be right across the street from the new park that's coming. I think it will be very beneficial for everyone with the restaurant back there and the park, so forth and so on.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And P&Z has approved it.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Yes, P & Z has approved all of it. We've been through the formal hearings, the whole process. So now it is in y'all's hands.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: And everything is in order?

INSPECTOR WHITE: Yes, Sir.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right. Council, do y'all have any other questions? If not, then **I'll entertain a motion to approve the P&Z recommendation for Roy Grenade at 215, 219, and 229 King Street for rezoning from an R2 zone to a P zone for a restaurant, parking lot, and venue.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: **So moved.**

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

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: **Second.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. **Motion carried unanimous.** Roy, you are good to go.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Nothing major for me. But I would like to remind everyone, if you see a water leak around town, please take just a second and call City Hall. We are logging those and trying to work through them as quick as we can. We made pretty good progress the last two or three weeks, but we still have a few pop up from day-to-day. So it makes our job a lot simpler if you'll report them to City Hall when you see them. Thank you.

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:**PUBLIC COMMENTS:****LIQUOR STORE APPLICATION PROCESS:**

DESPINA LANCI: Good afternoon. Thank you for opening this up so we can all have a chance to talk about it. I have a question about the application for the distilled spirits. My family is interested in getting an application and we have already filed for one, but I'm curious to see why are we? Or why is the Council interested in now reposting this in the paper? Since it was already posted and had plenty of time to run in the paper the first go around. I don't understand the necessity of it going twice. And I don't have an issue with it except that we've already had a tentative approval for our liquor license. And we have already established a location for it and are hoping that we can start to renovate and start to build. And I think this is just going to delay the process further. So, just a question because I'm not familiar with why we're posting it again.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: My understanding is the Council feels it's fair to do that as nobody applied during the previous round of advertisements. And y'all stop me if I get this wrong but rather than just go with the first one that comes in, they want to advertise for a while and then see. And I certainly understand the point you are making.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: But in bottom line, since basically we're changing the rules from the first go round. Because there were, there were people that came, and we do the same thing now. It's like we'll be glad to work with you to see if you say we're looking at this location, will this work, will this not. And with the old restriction, with the property line to property line and then from business to residential. And when we first started, we are new at this. We've never done this. This was a new thing for us. So we came up with an ordinance and tried to make it as fair and as good as we could. And we figured we probably gonna run into some things because we had never done this before. And then we about choked everybody off. Eastman is, it's like church, school, house, church, school, house, church, school, house. And the restrictions were like I said, one area was like this far too close. And if you could have went down the hill about 3 1/2 foot, it would have worked, but the property line didn't. It went down the hill to the side wall. In the process of the work session the other day, we came up since we're changing the rules of the game now, that it would behoove us since we're starting back over again with that section, that we start back over with the process that we had four months ago, five months ago, however long it was when we got it approved. There were people, like I said, that tried, that wanted to and all, but nothing would work. And now that we've changed it around, that's the reason. It's nothing against you all, and it's not trying to.

DESPINA LANCI: Well, the only concern we have, Councilman Pittman, is that we have already signed a purchase and sale agreement. We are not going to lease an area. We are actually going to make an investment and we are going to purchase a building. And so because of that, obviously we're concerned that should this open up further and then other people come on and then it becomes a lottery again, we will lose our position and thus our investment in Eastman. So that's our concern. So I would like to suggest, if possible, would it be acceptable to the Council members to whatever applications you have thus far, grant those licenses? You still have two more to open up to a lottery should anyone else come afterwards. So that we can proceed with our investment in our infrastructure. What we're trying to do.

MAX LANCI: And to figure that, I will mention that there are people that have come but no one has put an application in. They've all talked about having a conversation with you, but haven't put any, any boots on the ground or have staked a position in Eastman. We have. That's one. Another thing is the precedence. There's no precedence here that you've ever done ads for anything that you've changed. Now while all of a sudden now that you're changing this. We were in the working session where you've admitted in the Council meeting that there's never been a time of any ordinance change, to put a newspaper ad in there. All of a sudden you decide that this is something that needs to be done. Kind of trying to understand why as a resident, also of Eastman. We are residents here. There has never been any precedence any time and it's been documented in your work meetings that it's not been listed before. You've had changes before in any ordinance you've had. You've never put anything in newspaper, but this particular one you are. If the ad was over, why are you still taking applications if there is a problem? We've been tentatively approved. But we've done everything else. We've run all the way up to the state. So we've done everything we can until we found out what happened today. So now we have to backtrack a little, which is kind of unnerving for us.

DESPINA LANCI: We just ask that you take into consideration that the license that you've already temporarily or preliminarily approved for us to continue. And if you do post it and it goes out and you have more candidates, then can you draw from those? Since we were pretty much in the first batch, I would say. Would you consider that?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I am going to look down there at Rita.

ATTORNEY LLOP: We just had the first reading of an ordinance that includes the notice and the opening up of the of the application process period through November 1. Completed applications have to be received by then. It also includes changes to if four are not received, there will be no random drawing. They will be approved. And then thereafter, any completed application received will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. As noted by Buddy, we have changed the rules of the game. The rules of the of the application process, what's required, where it's authorized, where locations are authorized. So, as a matter of due process and fair play, those are going to be advertised. I don't know that it's actually accurate that no ordinance amendment has ever been published.

MAX LANCI: That's actually accurate. You mentioned it yourself in the work meeting. OK, well, I'm just going by what your legal standing is.

ATTORNEY LLOP: I don't know that any change in ordinance has never been published or how it was published. But it is a significant change, so it's up to y'all whether you publish it or not. We had discussed having it published along with the notice that applications will be received through November 1. Want to consider that? That's up to y'all. It's not an item on the agenda, but it's up to y'all.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, what about y'all?

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Well, ever since the alcohol ordinance has been established, I have been against it. However, that is a great point. I like the approach that the young lady is saying. I do like the approach. You know, but as far as making a decision tonight or giving you specific answers, I don't think we can quite do that tonight. But we hear what you're saying. We're taking notes, Ms. Sheffield is taking notes. My secretary, we all taking notes about it. And your approach is well received.

MAX LANCI: We appreciate it.

DESPINA LANCI: Thank you very much.

MAX LANCI: Thank you. That's all that we can ask.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Thank you.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Thank you.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And we do thank you for making an investment in Eastman. We genuinely, truly appreciate that.

PROPOSED NORTH LAKES ANNEXATION:

MIKE FLANAGAN: So this is in reference to the meeting that's scheduled for September 28th, the consideration of annexation of Dogwood Drive. I obtained a copy from the office today of the actual resolution. I have a couple of questions about the resolution. The resolution specifically calls out Jerry T Bland and Apartments at North Lake LLC. Are they, is that LLC still interested in this annexation into the city? Given what we've heard unofficially, do you know if they're still interested in it, or does that have to go back to Mr. Bland to determine?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I reckon it is still going forward, unless y'all heard anything.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: He hasn't called and told us to pull. Or he hadn't told me to pull it. Let me say that.

MIKE FLANAGAN: OK, so you're saying that this is still this part of the resolution. This is still accurate.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Has he told you officially to pull it?

ATTORNEY LLOP: No.

MIKE FLANAGAN: OK. So then I have two questions for you from the actual resolution of language that's in here. The property is not now contiguous to existing corporate limits, but this includes Dogwood Drive hereafter the road and the right of way of said road, and the City of Eastman periodically maintained said road and the city provides city services. Two questions. When has the city periodically maintained the road, and can we get dates for that when that it actually occurred? Because at the county level, there's no knowledge that that's occurred. And the second thing is what services are provided to Dogwood Drive today by the city? Which is stated in here.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I think there are fire hydrants are terminus of it. Aren't they?

MIKE FLANAGAN: OK, so there's a contract that you have with the county with a 5-mile radius providing fire services into the county. That road is within that five-mile radius and the county pays you for those services with the contract that has been signed. So those services are, that's not accurate that you're providing. You are being paid to provide those services. It's not a service that you're providing in any way that is free to the residents. We are paying for it out of our taxes currently to provide those services.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I don't know that we get any county money for fire services. I'm not aware of it if we do. April, do you?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: No, we don't. That was part of the Service Delivery Strategy. That's not. The county doesn't pay us to provide that fire service.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Every county resident pays county taxes, and every city resident pays in addition to that.

MIKE FLANAGAN: City taxes? So that is something to be determined.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Yeah, you won't find any money transpired. That's the Service Delivery Strategy.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We will definitely research it.

MIKE FLANAGAN: Right. So it appears that you're creating another island. Thereby trying to bring in Dogwood, which is not contiguous with anything else that's a city.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I believe Lamont's in the city.

ATTORNEY LLOP: It's contiguous to that.

MIKE FLANAGAN: Yeah, but Lamont is an island currently.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: No.

MIKE FLANAGAN: Yeah, he is. What's he connect to?
(Spence and Mike take time to look at the zoning map)

MIKE FLANAGAN: Ongoing question, what is the need for Dogwood, that the city has?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Do you want to answer that for the Development Authority? Or do you want to refer it to Robert?

MIKE FLANAGAN: Well, now the Development Authority is not a part of this resolution. If you're going to extend this to somebody other than Bland Apartments at North Lakes LLC, then the resolution would have to be rewritten and restated and brought back forward again.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: If that's accurate, then that's what we'll do.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: And Mike, some of that's future planning, I mean I know.

MIKE FLANAGAN: Well, future plan is fine, but I mean it's not here.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: OK, but if we annexed the road in. Well, I reckon I will ask the same question you're asking, but backwards to you. Why is it such a big deal if we annex it? Because I'm trying to tell you for future growth and development. We're trying to get from. You know, we get beat up over potholes and this and that because sewage lines run right down the middle of the streets. Water lines run under the roads. There's future. There's going to be houses built out there. Currently, this annexation is still on the table and so we're still planning moving through with it. But even though it's a different developer now, if they ever want sewage or water and all ran to it, if we have that street there instead of running through all those folks' backyards and sort of like we are right now with that big line going from the school we've got. It's running through this yard, this house, underneath the house and everything else. And that's the purpose. Take the Development Authority out of it. Right there where those apartments are at, because this originally started with the first fellow wanting to buy them and within the next two or three years building anywhere from fifty, seventy-five, a hundred more. And so the purpose of that street is that line is out there going to that school. We can come off that line and come straight over here to the property without going through the Williams' yard or the one that Lamont lives in on this corner with all the other houses and all.

MIKE FLANAGAN: And you could come straight down Orphans Cemetery in the right of way there, which is already being used. You can come straight down that and go right into the apartment complex just as easy as you could with going down Dogwood. And then there's no reason to come back and annex anything into or from Dogwood. And if you're talking about future, if you're talking about the Development Authority activity or anything else, you're still going to have to restate this resolution and bring it back again. And I'm going to request that, strongly request, that you consider taking this resolution to annex Dogwood, as stated, off of the table for discussion on Thursday at 5:00. And if you're wishing to restate the purpose for this and come back with the purpose that makes you know, it's clear to all of us who live in North Lakes. Then we would be much more likely not to be objecting to this as it is stated currently in the current resolution. And I would look to you guys to decide if that's the proper way to proceed, given the way it's been advertised at this point.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: The first thing is Jerry's got to withdraw. If that is what he wants to do.

MIKE FLANAGAN: Jerry's got to come back and withdraw. Yeah. And I don't know. I'm not privy to anything other than random rumors. The same as you guys are.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I am in the same boat.

MIKE FLANAGAN: Yeah. I understand that. So that's the question. Does he still need it? Is he still wanting it? Is it still something he needs in order to be able to sell that property, which was what he was doing in the first place. And that's straight from Jerry. So at any rate.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: That's what he told you?

MIKE FLANAGAN: Yeah.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Okay, I mean I hadn't heard that.

MIKE FLANAGAN: But any rate, so that's what he was trying to do was to try to sell the property. But any rate, so it's up to you guys. But I'm requesting that this resolution be restated if you're trying to tie it to any future activity and/or Development Authority activity or any other activity other than as stated. But somebody needs to get ahold of Mr. Bland and figure out what he's doing, I guess.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Or he needs to get ahold of us one.

MIKE FLANAGAN: One of the two. Because if you were to approve it and then he was to back out, then what would that entail that that point?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I have no idea.

MIKE FLANAGAN: I don't either. So I'm asking the questions. Thank you for your indulgence.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Yes, Sir. Thank you.

CARL EVANS: Question Buddy. You said a new development. What's the new development?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Well, we just annexed that property where they were talking about building the houses and all out there. So, I mean, they're going to need water and sewage. That's the development I'm talking about.

CARL EVANS: Did we ever get a flood plan for that runoff. That was to be done and approved before you allowed any building out there.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: There ain't no building occurring.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: They are not building anything right now.

CARL EVANS: You just said there was a development out there. All I seen was a guy out there hauling dirt. I don't know if that's a development or not.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: It was annexed for plans for development. Now, if it changes, we have nothing to do with that.

CARL EVANS: That man died that done that, right?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Well, he was in partners with Paul. But Paul was with that before Mr. Bloodworth got in with it. He got in afterwards. But if they do now or not, I mean and that's the same as with Jerry. Right now his annexation plans are on the table to move forward and if I mean if he decides, you know, he's got a little bit longer to withdraw that application and stuff, but that's up to him. That's not, you know, it's not for us to do.

CARL EVANS: The only one I seen out there was Patrick's guy moving dirt and that's why I was questioning that.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right. Thank you, Sir.

GEFA CONTRACT MODIFICATIONS:

GRAHAM SNYDER: Questions in regards to the Jesse Heights sewer. You said you narrowed the scope of that. Can you provide details as to what the narrowing of the scope actually is?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Fewer feet of pipe, but I can get you the details tomorrow. It's about that thick. I haven't got it memorized. I'm sorry.

GRAHAM SNYDER: Okay. I just didn't know what the actual narrowing of the scope was.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yeah, I think we were a little overly ambitious in the repairs we thought we'd be able to do for the amount of money we had. So, but I haven't got it memorized. I'm sorry.

GRAHAM SNYDER: It's alright.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK