### November 13, 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, Raymond Mullis, Jermayne Hamilton, and Ronnie Woodard. Others present were City Attorney Rita Llop, City Manager Spencer Barron, Fire Lieutenant Derl Maxwell, Assistant Police Chief Wesley Dyal & Investigator Josh Roberson, City Clerk April Sheffield, Administrative Assistant Dayna Winslette, City Inspector Jack White, and P&Z member Jerry Steverson. Present from the community were Graham Snyder, Mark Peacock, John Battle, Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Jesse Bearden, and Mike Grenade of the Christian Life Center. Representing Your Choice Healthcare were Lynn Brown, Sherwin and Sheila Anderson, and Julie Horne. Ashley Woodard and Clay Kirkley were present to represent Capstone and Artiffany Stanley was present from GMA.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pittman.

The invocation was given by Councilor Hamilton.

Pledge of Allegiance.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** The first item on the agenda is to approve the agenda and I think we've got an addition or two.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, we need to add #11, the Lions Club Christmas parade request. **COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** All right, sure, it's December 9th at 6:00? Hopefully.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We believe it's December 9th.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right. Anything else to add or take off?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: No, Sir. That's it.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** All right. Council, I need a motion to amend the agenda to add #11, the Lions Club Christmas parade and also within that motion to approve the amended agenda as it stands. COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.

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

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2023, regular meeting. Council, do y'all have any questions or anything about those? If not, **I'll entertain a motion to approve the minutes.** 

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.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

# APPROVE CAPSTONE RENEWAL:

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is first under unfinished business is to approve Capstone renewal and I think Clay is back there. I think we have Miss Ashley here too. Y'all want to come forward and anything else you want to say?

ASHLEY WOODARD: Unless you have questions?

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

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Nope.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** With that said, and I think we've been talking with y'all in the last week or so about changes. Did y'all get that?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We did, \$150,000. Yes, Sir.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: No, the 60, the no wait period.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** No, we haven't resolved that yet. We're still working on it, but we got the \$150,000 taken off, so. 50% there, but we'd still recommend staying with Capstone to resolve the personnel handbook issues.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Alright, and I know Council, last year we had the surplus and we used \$100,000 of it to knock the total cost down. This year, our surplus is up to almost \$250,000. So in keeping with the same, keep that \$100,000 for next year's surplus and we'll use \$150,000 and that will lower the cost by \$150,000. And y'all correct me if I'm saying that wrong.

**ASHLEY WOODARD:** No, you are fine. That's right.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** All righty. And that will also help with next year's budget and cost runs and all. With all of that being said, **I'll entertain a motion to move forward with Capstone as the city's insurance provider.** And to put \$150,000 out of surplus towards the total cost of the premiums. COUNCILOR **MULLIS: So moved.** 

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis and 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.** Thank y'all. Keep up the good work.

## **UNFINISHED PLANNING & ZONING RECOMMENDATION:**

## YOUR CHOICE HEALTHCARE @ 820 2<sup>ND</sup> AVENUE:

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda under unfinished business is planning and zoning recommendation. Your Choice Healthcare at 820 Second Avenue. A special use permit for a modular office building.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, Sir. We have a recommendation on the table from P&Z to approve a special use permit for the Your Choice Healthcare building. We reviewed the relevant code sections and the building inspector responsibilities. Jack, do you want to address any of that?

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** By our city code, everything that they are asking for is permissible. We can move forward with it. I mean, we brought it to y'all so we would have public outcry at the P&Z meeting before it came to y'all. It came to y'all with a little bit of controversy. You all tabled it for further advisement. Now we're just at a point to move forward.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** And you have been with Ms. Lynn about what all she's going to do with it, to it, and around it, and under it?

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** Yes, she had presented y'all with a list of everything that she has planned to do. I mean, everything is within city guidelines as far as her moving forward.

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

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON:** I want to say this. For future references, I think it's a great idea to have this for the healthcare and for her to expand her business and actually provide, you know, more jobs for healthcare workers. However, in the near future, I would like for us to get approval, you know, from the Council, from everybody before, we have an establishment. You know, that was just my only thing about that. It's a great idea. I love it. I support it 100%. But before we actually put a building out on land, our land in the city, or whatever it is, then I want us to all be on accord first.

### CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes Sir.

**LYNN BROWN:** I would like to say something to that. The hospital gave me about two to three weeks, or I would have to pay \$350.00 a day storage fee there because they had to get it removed. That's why it was moved. And when I came and presented the idea about it and said shouldn't have any issues, and they told me to just put it there and do not do anything with it. It has not been done anything until we get approved. But, if you guys approve tonight, I will be on it tomorrow.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any other? If not, then I will entertain the motion to move forward with Your Choice Healthcare at 820 Second Avenue for a special use permit for modular office building.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Well, I want to see you go ahead and get started. I make a motion we approve. COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a motion on the floor to approve. I need a second.

### COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.

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

LYNN BROWN: Thank y'all.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### FIRE REPORTS:

**FIRE LIEUTENANT DERL MAXWELL**: We had a total of 40 calls, 31 inside the city, 9 outside the city. They consisted of inside the city, one electrical, one natural gas, five medical calls, 9 rescue calls, six alarm systems, five lift assists with EMS, 2 life flights, one public service for a total of 31. The outsides were one brush fire, 3 rescues, 2 alarm systems and two lift assists, which gives you a total of 40.

### **POLICE REPORTS:**

**ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF DYAL:** Total gallons of gas used 1,023. Number of calls answered 676. Traffic accidents were 29. Total mileage was 11,687. Total cash bonds and fines collected was \$14,871.45.

### ARTIFFANY STANLEY, SAFETY GRANT CHECK:

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is Miss Artiffany Stanley with GMA. And I think she has a package for us.

**ARTIFFANY STANLEY:** I do. I come bearing gifts. Alright, good afternoon, Chairman and Council. I'm here to present you tonight with a Safety and Liability Grant check that the city applied for and was awarded based off your participation in GMA's Workers Comp and Property and Liability Programs. The city did have to apply for this grant and be approved and meet certain specifications in order to be approved for this grant. They will use the funds to purchase different equipment for, I think for the Police Department and also provide training and just really address any, you know, liability issues that the city may be exposed to. So the check is in the amount of \$10,400. And we like to congratulate you on receiving this grant award. Congratulations.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright. Yes, thank you. Thank you.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** And also, I especially want to thank Dayna for her hard work on this project. She did a great job on it. Thank you very much.

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON:** Yeah, thank you.

### MIKE GRENADE, DODGE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION:

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is Mr. Mike Grenade, with the Dodge Baptist Association. **CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, Sir. After Justin Haley closed his operation with the food program, we've

been searching for our solution to continue. At least the backpack portion of that and the schools. We feel it is needed. The Dodge Baptist Association has graciously offered to step up and continue that program for us, and I'd recommend if y'all consider doing that, possibly turning over the amount of money left in that account that y'all had voted for giving to Mr. Justin Haley, and that amount was? **COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** \$7,273.26.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** To assist the Baptist Association as they carry on the backpack program as long as they can. Mike, if there's anything you want to add to that or clarify please come up. **MIKE GRENADE:** You know, we have the Christian Life Center which is under the umbrella of the Dodge County Baptist Association, and that's where our 501©3 comes in. It's because we're under that umbrella under the Baptist. But the Christian life center is a community ministry. It is for everybody. It's not just the Baptist churches. It's for everybody in our community. We serve every denomination within our community. And whenever they closed or Justin informed the city that they was closing, and a lot of the volunteers who do that backpack food thing for the kids at the school. I think they serve about 170 children every week. They carry a bag of lunch bag home with them. And so they came to us and asked us would we continue that. And so the Lord laid this in our hands. And so when he put it there, we ought to do something about it. And so we have agreed to do that. We've already filed. Even though we are a member of the Middle Georgia Food Bank, that's where the food comes from. You pay \$0.19 a pound for that food. Whatever you order, it's 19 cents a pound and the food that goes in these backpacks is different than what we normally use for our food ministry we have. So you buy it separately. So we had to file another form to become approved to be able to get the backpack food through another program they have. So that's totally separate from our other food ministry. And so this money, if y'all approve this, that's what that money would be used for, just for the backpacks. It will not support the Food Bank at the Christian Life Center. Thankfully through the churches and through the sales in that mission store and the gifts that people give us, the Lord blesses us tremendously there, so we're able to provide food there. We've already spent about \$8,000 this year for our food bank there in the Christian Life Center and we're able to continue that on. So any money that you give, or any money that you approve would be used just for the backpacks. It will not be to supply the food bank at the Christian Life Center. And we've already put an application in, it's just a matter of them approving it. For a temporary place, so this will be at the Methodist Church. They've approved to use part of their social hall for this ministry. And the volunteers are going to continue to do the same thing they've been doing. We will help in providing the transportation if needed. We'll go pick it up and bring it and deliver it back to Eastman and then it'll be unloaded there. We are in hopes maybe after the first year we got a possibility of another building. We are working on that, and I feel like that's going to come together. So after January, we'll probably have more of a permanent place for this ministry and so they can continue to do what they've been doing. Thankfully, we got good volunteers, good community, and people working together and so we can continue to help these children. They're taking this food home on Friday. And then on Mondays, they bring their backpack back. It's filled up again that week and then they can pick it up again that next Friday. Any questions? Thank y'all.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Council, y'all have anything? Y'all keep up the good work. Thank you, Sir. All right. With that and y'all have no other questions or anything, I'll entertain a motion to approve the remainder of the Dodge County Food Bank money that we have pledged for them, \$7,273.26, to the Dodge Baptist Association to carry on with the backpack program.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: So moved.

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

COUNCILOR WOODARD: Second.

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

### **APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is approve the monthly bills for October 23rd through November the 13th. Council, y'all got those in your packets. Do y'all have any questions about them? If not, I need a motion then to approve the monthly bills for October 24th through November 13th. COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second. **COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.** 

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

### **GEFA RESOLUTION FOR LEAD AND COPPER INVENTORY:**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the GEFA resolution for lead and copper inventory. **CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, so the city is required to complete a total inventory of all lead and copper lines by 2024. It's going to be a pretty expensive endeavor. Fortunately, the city's engineer, Mr. Hayes Hofstadter and his staff have succeeded in getting us \$209,800 dollars through GEFA, and a 100% principal forgiveness loan. Now why they called it loan instead of grant? I'm not sure, but we've got it in writing that it's 100% principal forgiveness. So, it won't cost the city anything to accept it, and it will go a long ways towards funding the cost for this lead service line. The first step will be passing a resolution stating that. **COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** That's what this is right here. And this will be the first reading here?

ATTORNEY LLOP: You can make a motion to adopt the resolution.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** OK. Council, do you have any other questions for Spence?

**COUNCILOR WILLIAMS:** It has to be done by 2024?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We've got to have it done, is it October 2024? Does that sound right? So we're trying to tie it into the meter replacement project, but contracting problems, labor shortages. We're just not sure exactly how we're going to get it all accomplished, but this money will go towards helping it. **COUNCILOR MULLIS:** It will.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** All right. Any other questions? If not, **then I need a motion to adopt the GEFA resolution for lead and copper inventory loan for \$209,800.** 

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Second.

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

### **ANNEXATION:**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is annexation.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes. So this has been a long-term project and again this will be one of the first steps on the way of trying to plan Eastman's future growth and prevent some of the problems we've been dealing with over the last several years. Our goal with this is to annex the city limits down several state roads and state highways. It will help clear up jurisdictional issues with the police. Provide more area for traffic enforcement and we think just be a general improvement to the city. Again, GDOT will be maintaining these roads, so there should be very little added expense to this If you approve it. The sections of that we are asking to annex in include Georgia State Road 117 beginning at 87 and proceeding North, then terminating at mile marker 22 on State Road 117. Again, 87 beginning at its intersection with Hwy. 117 proceeding North on 87, then terminating at the intersection of State Road 87 and the Georgia State Road 87 Connector. That's that new station that connects the Cochran Highway to the 341 Bypass. The third one will be that section of Georgia State Road 27, beginning at the intersection of Georgia State Road

27 and Mondi Way. This will be the little road that pulls into Mondi over the railroad tracks. We would extend the city limits down to there, proceeding North to the intersection of US 23, 341, and 27 and terminating there. And that's at that triangle just South of the motel on the bypass. The reason we're stopping it there is there's still an issue of creating an island with some property that is between that point and Pine Ridge Rd. So we've got to try to negotiate and resolve that. But then we pick back up at Pine Ridge Rd. and run North to again the Georgia Highway 87 Connector, and that's phrased as that section of Georgia State Road 27, beginning at the intersection of State Road 27 and Pine Ridge Road, proceeding North on State Road 27, then terminating at the intersection of Georgia State Road 27, Georgia Highway 87 Connectors. These annexations shall include the right of ways on both sides of the roads, and that's so that if we run anymore sewer and water down there, we'll get out this practice of putting our water and sewer lines on property that we can't access. It's caused some problems. The Council will consider the ordinance at its next regularly scheduled meeting, November 27th and December 11th. It will be available for public inspection at City Hall. And we also asked for permission to have the metes and bounds prepared if GDOT requests it, or to meet whatever obligations GDOT is requesting regarding the metes and bounds.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Council, y'all have any questions or anything? All right, if not, I am going to ask for two separate motions. The first motion will be that the ordinance be of record for public inspection and advertisement, and we have to advertise it for three weeks, which will be November 15th, 22nd, and 29th. We will have the first reading at the next meeting on November 27th. And with that being said, for the first motion, I need a motion for that.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I make a motion to approve that.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** All right. I have a motion from Councilman Mullis, and 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. And for motion #2, two is to authorize City Manager Barron to order a survey for metes and bounds description if it's required by GDOT.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I'll make a motion to approve.

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

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.

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

### **INTRODUCE 2024 BUDGET & SET PUBLIC HEARING:**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to introduce the 2024 budget and set public hearing. **CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Any suggestion?

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** We introduce it today. We'll put it in the paper Wednesday and the public hearing we can do right before our meeting on the 27th. And then we would pass it at the first meeting in December.

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** That'll be the same day? We'll come in early? CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: Yes, we can do it at 5:30 or 5:45, whichever.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** So we'll advertise the public hearing, and have it?

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** We will advertise the budget in the public hearing in the paper Wednesday.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: And then have the public hearing November 27th?

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** Yes. And pass it on December 11th. That will meet all of our requirements as far as days in between.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Alright. Y'all good with that? And I think this is what this big old packet here is. Y'all carry it home and look over it 10 more times. With that, **then I need a motion to introduce the 2024** 

budget tonight and advertise it in the paper Wednesday, and we'll have the public hearing November 27th at 5:30 PM. And we'll adopt it at the December 11th meeting.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I'll make a motion to approve that.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. 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.

# CHRISTMAS BONUS/LUNCH:

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the Christmas bonus/lunch and I think April has done talked to them about December the 14th. We're looking at that date, which is on the Thursday. Do you all have any questions about that or anything? If not, y'all good with December 14? And my guess would still be around 12:00-ish.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Here at City Hall, yeah.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right. I need a motion then to approve the Christmas bonus/lunch on December 14th at 12:00 PM.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Is that including the bonus?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Yes.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I make a motion to approve.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** I have a motion from Councilman Mullis to approve. 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.** 

## **GOLF CART PURCHASE FOR WATER DEPARTMENT:**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is wanting to bid it out for the purchase of a golf cart for the water department.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, Sir. Paul McCranie has requested that. So I'd ask if Council would consider putting out bids for one gas golf cart and let's see what they're running.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Council, y'all have any questions about that? I'll entertain a motion to approve bidding out for the purchase of one gas golf cart for the water department.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Have a 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.

## LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARADE:

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the Lions Club Christmas parade.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, Sir. We've got a request from the Eastman Lions Club. If the Council would please approve a parade permit for December 9th, 2023. After dark. It's going to be a night parade. **COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Whether they want it or not?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** No, I actually saw that they're asking everyone to decorate with lights. It's always been a real great event and I can't speak for the police, but I don't think we've ever had any serious issues with that.

**ASSISTANT CHIEF DYAL:** No, we haven't. **COUNCILOR MULLIS:** What's the date on that?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: December 9th.

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** It's the second Saturday of December.

ASSISTANT DAYNA WINSLETTE: It says that it will begin at 6:30.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** 6:30. Alright. Council, I'll entertain a motion then to approve the parade permit for the Lions Club Christmas parade on December 9th at 6:30 PM.

# COUNCILOR MULLIS: Make a motion to approve.

**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.

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** OK, let me just say one thing and I'll be quiet. Please, please stop putting wipes down the toilets into the sewer system. It is just causing massive problems. Our system cannot handle it. I think we've got some houses that we've been to four or five times in a month. So please, just nothing but toilet tissue down the toilets.

**COUNCILOR WILLIAMS:** We need a public service announcement.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I know. Before it's over with, I'm gonna get one of those signs on and just walk up and down the street. You know, please don't do this because really, I don't know what the solution is going to be. At some point, we're going to the same house six or seven times for the same problem. And we know it's them because we see what comes out when we flush the line. Now some cities institute fines after about the third or fourth time. Some cities just stopped going after the third or fourth time, and they have to hire a plumber.

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** Well, that's something maybe we need to look into.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** And that's what I was going towards. Y'all be thinking about that. I mean, that is definitely something that's costing. It's an unfair burden on those taxpayers that are not causing the problem. Let me say that much.

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** And it's taking up man hours.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** A lot of man hours and we don't have that many people to start with. So all right, I've talked too long. I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** No, carry on. All right. Thank you, Sir.

## **OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:**

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON**: Well, I want to thank everybody for a Georgia win.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Absolutely. GO DAWGS!

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON:** And Mr. Scotty. We had a lot of gator meat out there, so it was great. And Mr. Scotty, you know, great event, great tailgate event. We truly had fellowship and fun out there. So looking forward to another one, possibly in the near future. Thank you to everybody else that participated in the city, and we had surrounding counties that participated as well, and we didn't have any incidents. So that's a plus. Also, congratulations to the new Councilmen that's going to be coming on in the first of the year. We look forward to working with you.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**CLAY KIRKLEY**: I know we said thank you. But I want to expand that a little bit to say we appreciate y'all letting us be your benefits consultant for another year. I know a few years ago when we brought the plan before y'all, it was an elephant that we were going to have to try to eat one bite at a time. And extremely complicated. It was big and we made a lot of promises about that, and we asked you to trust that we would

make good on those promises. And I think the Lord has blessed us and the city both. The plan is working. I think it's working very well. You can look at the financial piece. You know, we put about 250 back in the budget and it looks like if we stay on track and then in the spring, we'll add another 250 to that. So what you're taking out to use your surplus now we're going to put it right back in in the spring. I think we're on track to have another good year next year and just want to say thank you. We appreciate it. **COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Sounds great. Thank you, Sir.

### ADJOURNMENT:

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

CHAIRMAN

**CITY CLERK**