

December 11, 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, Police Chief Billy Cooper, Fire Chief Scotty Whitten, City Clerk April Sheffield, and City Inspector Jack White. Present from the community were Graham Snyder, Debra Sheffield, John Battle, Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Jesse Bearden, Conner Bearden, Sharon Cobb and Mike Flanagan, Carl Evans, Ken Rogers, Kelvin Patel, and EM Harrington III.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pittman.

The invocation was given by Councilor Hamilton.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Welcome everyone here tonight and welcome everyone tuning in on Facebook. The first item on the agenda is to approve the agenda and I know we've got one change and that will be #2 State Road Annexation Ordinance.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And we also need to add #6 DDA Appropriation.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right, we are going to remove #2, the State Road Annexation Ordinance and we will add a #6 down under new business, DDA Appropriations. Council, anything else y'all see or want to add or take away? If not, **I need a motion to amend the agenda to remove #2 under Unfinished Business, State Road Annexation Ordinance and under New Business ad #6 DDA Appropriations.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. **And with this motion that it will also be to approve the amended agenda.** So, still have your motion?

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Yeah, you still got my motion.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right, I need a second.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: First item is to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2023, regular meeting.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: OK, got a motion from Councilman Mullis. Council, y'all got those in your packets and all. Do y'all have any questions or concerns about them? If not, I need a second to approve it. **COUNCILOR WOODARD:** Second.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

APPROVE 2024 BUDGET:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Under Unfinished Business, the first item is approve the 2024 Budget.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I need a motion to approve.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right. Have a motion from Councilman Mullis to approve the 2024 Budget. I need a second.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: **Second.**

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

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRE REPORTS:

FIRE CHIEF WHITTEN: For the month of November, we ran a total of 69 calls, 46 inside the city, 23 outside the city. We had three structure fires. Three stove fires. One dryer fire, one space heater fire. Five brush fires. Vehicle fires were two. Natural gas leaks, one. Medical calls is 18. Rescue 19. Electrical alarms, three. Nine lift assists. Life Flight, two and smoke check, two.

POLICE REPORTS:

POLICE CHIEF COOPER: For the month of November we had 632 answered calls. Used 875 gallons of gas. Worked 22 traffic accidents. We made 115 total arrests. The breakdown of the calls is in your packet.

APPROVE THIRD LIQUOR STORE APPLICATION:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is approve the third liquor store application.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Yes, MCKPK LLC has applied for an application and is going to be located at 110 Ward Street. It has met all of the criteria as far as distances. Chief Whitten and I have gone and checked the building out. The building is in good standards and ready to go. A little modifications that they're going to do and once that's complete, we will sign off on it as far as any structural issues. And then they will be ready to move forward.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: With that said, then Council, do y'all have any questions for Jack? Alright, I'll entertain a motion then to approve the third liquor store for MCKPK LLC.

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 with 4 yes and one no.**

APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is approve the monthly bills for November 28th through December 11th. I think y'all got those in your packets. Have any questions about them? **I need a motion to approve the monthly bills.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: **So moved.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: 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.**

KEN ROGERS, DODGE ARTS GUILD:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is Mr. Ken Rogers with the Dodge Arts Guild.

KEN ROGERS: On behalf of the Arts Guild of Dodge County, we would like to request that the city place updated bid notices for a new awning for the Magnolia Theater, a new sign, and new lighting for outdoors. We had previously posted one back in 2022, but we really didn't know what we wanted or what would be best there. So, we got the specifications, and you may have received it in your packet. Do you have any questions?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Just a reminder, we do own that facility. We've already put a roof on it and put new air conditioners in it. And this has been the plan as recently as what? Last year or year before last?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, y'all have any other questions? This is to put out bid proposals on it?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes Sir. For an awning and for a sign.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: And that awning looks like 8 foot off the wall. You stand up and won't get soaking wet. Good deal. All right, Council, if y'all don't have any questions **then I'll entertain a motion to approve to put out new bill proposals with the specs and all for the awning, the signage, and lighting for the Magnolia theater building.**

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

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

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: That was a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands.

Motion carried unanimous.

KEN ROGERS: Thank you.

DDA APPROPRIATIONS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is DDA Appropriations.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, we received a request from the DDA for \$7,000 to fund the Holly Jolly Hometown Christmas Festival. That's going to be this weekend. It's going to be an ice-skating rink in front of Goody's. I talked to Paula a little while ago at the Chamber. The last numbers I've heard are if the city puts in seven, the county is going to put in seven, the Chamber about 4,000, and then the DDA 1,500. And that should cover the event.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, you all have any questions? If not, **I need a motion to approve the \$7,000 for the DDA's Appropriations for the downtown event coming this weekend.**

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

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I'd also like to add that we're going to make sure the city's insurance policy is paid up before this many people start trying to ice skate in front of Goody's.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Nothing for me other than to invite everybody downtown for the first time in Eastman's history. We're going to see how it goes. There's also going to be axe throwing on Main Street. Can't imagine how that will go. But it's going to be a great time. We're looking forward to it and really, we invite everybody to come out. And we appreciate everybody that has contributed to it.

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

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PUBLIC COMMENTS:

CONNER BEARDEN: I want to thank the city police. They did a fantastic job directing traffic for the parade. I think it was a success and as a participant, I think it was handled very well. I do want to commend the city and the police department for their effort.

VIA FACEBOOK:

CHARLOTTE HOPKINS: Merry Christmas and thank you for all the work that you do.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK