

February 14, 2022

The Eastman City Council met in a regular scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Buddy Pittman, Raymond Mullis, Sebrina Williams, Jermaine Hamilton, and Ronnie Woodard. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, Attorney Rita Llop, Inspector Jesse Bearden, City Clerk April Sheffield, Police Chief Becky Sheffield, and Fire Chief Scotty Whitten. Present from the community were Mitchell and Susan Coffee, Tom Peacock, John Battle, Ken and Deb Hall, Tim and Paula McCain, and Henry Whitfield from MGSU.

All attendees practiced social distancing guidelines due to COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was streamed via Facebook Live, and the public was provided an opportunity to submit questions and/or comments via Facebook Live.

The meeting was called to order by Council Member Pittman.

Invocation was given by Council Member Hamilton.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE AGENDA:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: First item on the agenda is to approve the agenda. Anything else to add to it?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: No Sir.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright, I need a motion to approve the agenda as it stands.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: **So moved.**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a motion to approve the agenda. Council, any questions or want to add anything? If not, I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: **Second.**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Got a second from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor show of hands? Motion carried unanimous.

APPROVE MINUTES:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2022, regular meeting. I need a motion to approve them.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: **So moved.**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a motion to approve the minutes. Council, do y'all have any questions or saw anything that needed looking at or something? Anything? If not, I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD: **Second.**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show of hands? Motion carried unanimous.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

MONTHLY FIRE DEPT REPORT:

CHIEF SCOTTY WHITTEN: For the month of January, January was a busy month for us to start the year off, we had 6 structure fires, 1 rekindle, 2 stove fires, 1 electrical, 1 space heater, 3 brush fires, 1 dumpster, 1 gas spill. With medical calls we had 6, vehicle rescues 6, mutual aid 1, electrical alarm 6 and lift assist 2. Power lines down 2 and public service 2.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: That is a lot of structure fires this month.

CHIEF WHITTEN: We had 8 all last year and we have already had about that many in January of this year. I would also like to say one thing. Thank you to Spence. I was asked to come out to the high school this past Tuesday for Black History Month. He came and gave me some support. I was asked to speak on behalf of Black History and the city. Thank you.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Glad to be there. You did a great job too by the way.

MONTHLY POLICE DEPT REPORT:

CHIEF BECKY SHEFFIELD: For the month of January, we used 1,070 gallons of gas, answered 935 calls, and worked 25 wrecks. And if you will notice on the council report for the number of cases that we've had, I did go and add it this time. We had 58 written warnings besides the tickets, and we are going to start putting that on there, how many warnings we had too.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Do we have any questions for Chief Sheffield? Thank you, ma'am.

APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to approve the monthly bills for January 28, 2022 – February 14, 2022. Those are included in your packets. I need a motion to approve the monthly bills.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I've got a motion to approve the monthly bills. Council, do y'all have any questions about any of them. If not, I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Seconded by Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show hands. Motion carried unanimous.

HENRY WHITFIELD, MGSU:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is Mr. Henry Whitfield with Middle Georgia State University.

Mr. HENRY WHITFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate you allowing me to be here today. Members of the City Council, it is good to be with you again. It has been a while since I have been here. We have had our situation with COVID last year and the year before. Trying to cope with that. We have done some work from home, and I have done some work from home. So, I am glad to be back and moving full speed ahead. I feel it is time for me to show up and give you an update on what is happening at Middle Georgia State University. And that is what I wanted to do. First thing in your package, as you will see I put a package in front of each of your seats. The first thing on there is a map. I didn't want to assume that you knew where we were and that you know what those buildings are, but that is the map of our university. You will see that we have a control tower there too. From the left-hand side, you will see our maintenance facilities there on the left. You will see that the administration building is right on through and then you will see the control tower. We are pleased that we have done so well here. And just so you'll know, its not just a campus, but it is now 5 or actually 6 campuses that we have for Middle Georgia State University. Those campuses are Macon, Warner Robins, Cochran, Eastman, Dublin, and we also have our online campus. We include that as being part of our campuses. We have actually 6 campuses, including that online one, which is called "Online Direct." Our record enrollment for the university was fall semester for 2019. Then we had over 8,400 students, I am saying for the University. That is all 5 campuses and our online campus. Since that time unfortunately, our enrollment has declined at the other campuses, not here but at our other campuses. We are not saying that it is all because of COVID, but if you look at it nationwide, we have had over 750,000 students in the United

States that did not return to campus due when COVID hit. That is ¼ of a million students not returning to their normal classes when fall semesters started. That affected us as well. We have a plan in place so that this fall, Fall of 2022, we can get back up to that record number. And our goal is to increase that number by at least one student. So, we hope to have 8,405 in school this fall. You may have heard that on January 10th, the first of the year, Governor Kemp announced that there is going to be \$900,000 in new funding. That is for Middle Georgia State University. If you have read about what we are doing on our Dublin Campus, we are going to make that the healthcare hub. And that is going to be for our healthcare degree hub. That \$900,000 will assist us in the expansion of our Dublin Campus. That project has been in progress since late 2020, when we received \$4.8 million in state bond funding. It was to expand space, equipment, and faculty at our Dublin Campus. In late January, President Christopher Blake had his State of the University address. That was on YouTube and if you would like to see that, just go to our website and do a search for "President's State of the University Address." You can see that it is about 20 minutes, you can see the details and among the highlights he mentioned was COVID, what we have done with COVID, where we are now with COVID, and what our plans are. We had our folks that were involved in it, our leadership were involved. And working with the students, we have had a self-reported situation, so when somebody has been diagnosed with COVID, it is actually up to that student, faculty, or staff member to self-report. We actually had some drive-through COVID situations set up, so the folks can come through and get their vaccinations. Now we are actually having our vaccination's location there in Cochran for our folks. That is not through us, it is through the healthcare systems and is done through the Health Department. The Payton Anderson Center, it's on our Macon Campus, was completed, and you can drive through. I would encourage you to go by our campus there in Macon and take a look at it. If you are going out west of Macon on Eisenhower Parkway just outside of 475, that has totally changed the look of that area out there. Trees have been cleared, we now have a roundabout up there, we have our new enrollment center, there's a new sign out there. We have flowers that have been planted. This spring, in another couple of months or so, I encourage you to ride by and see those beautiful colors out there. We thank our facilities group, and we thank those involved for helping us to make that happen. Again, it was our city council and city government combined there in Macon-Bibb County that helped us get some of that done, the Department of Transportation helped us get some of that done, so the government was very helpful with that. We have recently celebrated the success of our historic fundraising campaign. That fundraising campaign was, "Building a Legacy of Greatness." We had set an \$11 million fundraising campaign and we actually were pleased in November to announce that we had exceeded that, and we actually reached \$11.6 million in our campaign. Those dollars are used to help purchase aircraft here, as well as on our Macon Campus, but this is the hub. I want to stress that. The Eastman campus is our hub for aviation. Those dollars will help benefit our students, as our new vice-president for our foundation and the vice-president for advancement explained in a meeting recently, that when we raise money, it not only helps our students, but it also helps relieve the debt for those students and those parents. When a student has to get a student loan, that goes on not just for their generation, but sometimes 2 or 3 generations when they are trying to pay those dollars back. By having scholarships, and you can certainly go to our scholarship page, students have the availability to apply for scholarships. It won't pay for your whole tuition, but it will pay with some of those scholarships. There is a wide variety of scholarships on our websites. If you know any students or have children or grandchildren that may be in school, ask them to go take a look at that as the deadline is drawing pretty close. We also received some public funding, millions of dollars as a matter of fact, to transfer our Dublin center into a healthcare degree program hub. We have renovated Roberts Library and Dillard Hall on our Cochran campus. If you haven't been there, come by and let me know and I will be glad to show you around. They were 2 facilities and we renovated both of them. Those two projects were over \$12 million. We renovated Roberts Library and we now have our school of computing there. A

total renovation for all three floors of that and it is a beautiful building now. And in Dillard Hall, which is our health and sciences program, we have renovated that, and we have our respiratory therapist assistants' program in there, as well as our occupational therapy assistants' program. Good things are happening there. In December, we had our commencement exercises, and I am pleased to report that we had a record number of graduates back in the fall. It was over 800 graduates that have come through our program. Within those graduates, we have over 550 that received our baccalaureate degree program. We are also pleased to announce that we have had over 110 with a master's degree program. At our Warner Robins campus, we have information technology degrees for students that are dually enrolled. They are taking classes to build their career in Project Synergy, which is in partnership with Robins Air Force base, the 402 Software Engineering group, and with Houston County Schools. We are very pleased that we have now been designated as a level 5 institution. What that means is that a Level 5 gives us the opportunity to grant Doctoral degrees. So, now you can go to school without even going on campus. You can actually get your Doctoral degree in IT, Information Technology School of Computing, and your degree completely online. Not only your masters, but also in our IT program, you can get that without ever having to attend class, which is great. All that through IT classes, through online courses and in the comfort of your own home. You can work after hours, before hours, on weekends, and just make that happen. The good thing about being a Level 5 Doctoral institution is that we were a Level 3 and we completely jumped over Level 4 and were approved to go straight to Level 5 for those doctoral degree programs. In some of the brochures that I passed out; I didn't mean to overload you with information. Hopefully, in your spare time, you will have an opportunity to look at some of the brochures that I provided for you, and you will see the information about our schools and about the tuition. But as far as our tuition, we are still the best value in the State of Georgia University System. You can get an education and a financial value for our students and parents. It is a great opportunity for our in-state, undergraduate, tuition, and mandatory fees being only \$4,742 a year. And the university average is almost \$7,000 a year at \$6,895 a year. We are not the cheapest, but we are a good value, the best value through all of the university systems. Now let me talk specifically about our School of Aviation. We have got a flyer that talks about that, it is printed on there, one specifically for our school, what we have done, and the recognition that we have received. I want to make sure that you hear this: since 2014, we have grown from 320 students to 1,176 students. That is a tremendous growth in just a few short years. We have nearly 700 students who are in our flight program. With the pilot shortage that we are experiencing now, the FAA has required our students to have only 1,000 hours of flight time versus the normal 1,500 hours that is required for flight time. What that means for our students, that means that they can get out and start seeking that career earlier. They can actually become pilots hopefully earlier. They can become trainers and do their training here. That is what a lot of our students like to do is to become a flight instructor, stay here and build their hours, and then go and look for one of those regional airlines and have a career plan there ahead of them. That means that they can enter their career in a more timely fashion, by saving 500 hours' worth of flight time and expense associated with that. In October of last year, we hosted our annual legislative reception, and some of you were there for that. Thanks for that and we appreciate you being there. We continue to receive recognition from the state government and also our University System of Georgia. At the meeting we had, we had our Chancellor, the acting Chancellor for the University System of Georgia was with us. We also had some members of the Board of Regents that were with us. And several of our local and state elected officials. I appreciate you all being there and supporting us. In December, again back to our commencement exercises, we had the pilot, who is Capt. Patrick Burns, Vice-president of Flight Operations and assistant chief pilot for Delta Airlines, presented the program that day and gave a talk. It was an inspiring talk for our students. I appreciate y'all allowing me the time today to be with you, and I hope I have given you an update. If you have any questions, please give me a call and I will be

glad to address questions, go to our website if you want to look at what we are doing at our school and our growth. This is our hub for our aviation, we have a campus in Macon, but this is the hub right here in Eastman. I invite you to come see us. If you would like to come see us just let me know, or Aiden Clark who is our dean, and we will be glad to host a session for you out there, come see our campus, see what we have, not just see it but experience what we have here in Eastman. I want to thank you all for your continued support for Middle Georgia State University. I know when I have been here in the past asking for support for air shows, and it takes a lot of work to put on an air show. You have all been very good about doing that and supporting us. So, I want to thank you all as city council members, thank the City of Eastman for being there and supporting us, thank you for being a good neighbor, and we thank you for your continued support not only for our school, but for our students, our staff, and for our faculty. I want to thank each and every one of you for the support you have given. I thank you for allowing me to have time on your agenda for the city.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I have got two questions for you. What is the expectancy of how many students you will have by this time next year? I keep hearing that it is going to double.

HENRY WHITFIELD: I don't know about doubling, but we can say that overall, looking at what our attendance is scheduled to be for the fall, we are ahead of what we were this time last year, so if that continues, that is a great opportunity for us. The limitations that we see as far as having students is if they are in the flight program, trying to find those flight instructors to teach those students how to fly those planes out there. And finding them qualified.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I have one more question. How is your housing going?

HENRY WHITFIELD: Our housing here is we have 140 beds, and that's maxed out almost every semester. What we are doing is we are now having those shuttle services that we have had for probably the last 2-3 years. We have got 5 shuttles round trip every day, starting at 6:00 from our Cochran campus.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: More housing here in Eastman would be beneficial, wouldn't it?

HENRY WHITFIELD: I can't comment on that in terms of what we would do, in terms of beneficial. Obviously, you would think it would be. But from our perspective, as long as we have the beds and as long as we have the housing facilities in Cochran, we will continue to make that.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So, y'all have enough to make it?

HENRY WHITFIELD: We have enough in Cochran and in Eastman. As far as when we reach the peak in Eastman, they can catch the shuttle service, or they can drive themselves. If someone private wants to do that, that is completely up to them, as far as any kind of private operations like apartments. That is outside of my area and terms.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: Okay. You answered my question. I appreciate you.

HENRY WHITFIELD: Yes sir. You are welcome. Do y'all have any other questions?

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any questions? Thank you. It is good to see you again.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: We appreciate you and your presentation.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: Don't stay away so long next time.

HENRY WHITFIELD: I know, it's been a while. Thanks for letting me come back.

SENIOR CITIZENS:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda, is the senior citizens center. Mr. Ken Hall is coming forward to speak on that.

KEN HALL: Hello everybody. I thank the council for letting me address you tonight. My name is Ken Hall, and I am one of 9 members on the Dodge County Council on Aging. What we normally call the senior Citizens Center, but its official name is the Council on Aging located close to the 911 center. I am here to issue the request of y'all to support us and support us financially if you can. We do a lot for our

community, I wanted to tell y'all a little bit about what we do. We support the senior citizens of this county and the community. We have 25-30 regular members, sometimes it is up to 70 people come. With COVID lately, it has been not as much, but we are seeing a rebound. We provide a lot of services for our seniors, and to me our seniors are some of the most unfunded segments of our society, so we struggle a lot. We are a volunteer organization, all the people that work there and help the center are volunteers. We rely heavily on donations and contributions to the center. We provide and do training for crafts, and artwork for the seniors. We have a lot of guest speakers come in, a lot of health professionals come in, and address the seniors and talk about stuff that applies to them. A lot of our enforcement agencies come in and give lectures to the senior citizens about how to avoid scams and how to protect yourself from crimes, that kind of stuff. So, it is a good educational tool for our seniors. We are trying to purchase some laptops and a large screen tv to put in the center. A lot of these seniors don't have that internet access. They are not very technically literate, so we are looking to purchase some laptops and train them and show them how to access the computer. That is one of the things that I wanted to address you here tonight. We are looking for the funding of around \$3,500. The last couple of years we haven't had any funding. It has been a struggle to keep the doors open. I think that we provide a great, valuable resource to this community. A lot of the seniors are alone, they are widows or widowers, and this is a great place for them to come and socialize and be with more of their age group. It provides a good social environment for them. Thank you for letting me address you. I think we do a great deal to this community. I invite you to come and visit, I think it would be an eye-opening experience to see what goes on there. I think it is a great asset to the community.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: What are your hours of operation?

KEN HALL: We are normally open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 9-5. It is open to all in our county. We have people that travel from the furthest parts of the county. You have to be able to travel. We don't have any and can't provide any transportation, so you have to be able to get yourself there or have someone bring you to the center.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: In the future, we would like to look at partnering with the county. They operate a transit service. So, if we have elderly people that can't arrange their own transportation, we may be able to, or the center may be able to subsidize that transportation cost in some way with the county's help.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Thank you, sir.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: The question at hand is, you want \$3,500. I told you, we are going to move on pretty quick. Council, do y'all have any other questions? If not, I will entertain a motion to give the Senior Citizens Center, the Eastman-Dodge Council on Aging, \$3,500.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I am on the board, so I am going to abstain from voting on this.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I would like to point out that they provide a substantial service to citizens that City Hall does not provide directly. So, without them, it wouldn't be provided.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: I like the fact that you are training. training is a big thing. Especially with the new age today. We definitely don't want to senior citizens to get lost with the new technology and different things like that with the internet you say, with the purchase of laptops and different things. That is a substantial public benefit to our senior citizens, I believe, and different programs that y'all may add as well in 2022. With that being said, I would like to second it.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: You have to make the motion.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: I would like to make the motion for Mr. Hall to receive his \$3,500 to train the citizens and give them a place where they are wanted and to keep hope alive in Eastman, Georgia.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I have a motion to provide \$3,500 to the senior citizens center. Council, do y'all have any other questions. If not, I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Second from Councilman Woodard, all in favor show hands. Motion carried unanimous, or 4 for 4.

KEN HALL: I would like to thank the council. And again, I would like to invite you to come by and just visit with us and see what services we provide to the community.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I would like to say something before you go. You talk about them coming by, they have a dinner up there the 4th Thursday and all of y'all are welcome to come to the dinner.

KEN HALL: Very welcome. We have a large crowd on the 4th Thursday of the month so feel free to step in and visit with us. Thank y'all.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: Thank you, Ken.

WHOLESALE BUILDERS CONTRACT:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Wholesale Builders Contract.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir, we have discussed this before. With the CDBG project in the Cottondale neighborhood, we have been in need of a place to store the pipes and materials. Mr. Jesse Bearden and the owners of the Builders Supply negotiated us a rent of exactly \$250 a month beginning October 1, 2021, and we ask the council to approve that, and it continue on. Jesse, if there anything else that you would like to add to that?

CITY INSPECTOR BEARDEN: Just because of the magnitude of the amount of pipes and hydrants and valves and fittings, we just did not have any place to put it. The church did not have an area large enough to put it. We thought about using the church. It just came down to we have a \$1 million project, and we don't have a place to store the materials. They needed it close to the site. I actually went to Jerry when he was still the owner of Wholesale, and worked out a deal with him, and when he worked out his sale with the current gentlemen, Jerry was good enough to say that he had given his word to help us out with that. So, out of the kindness of their hearts, I feel like, Kennon and Jason agreed to let us continue on with this. We have drug our feet with getting the official contract done, but they have held up their end. We have had pipe on that yard since August of last year. So, it behooves all of us. The Builder's Supply is locked up at night when they leave, and on weekends. So, it keeps \$400K worth of pipes and hydrants and valves safe so I feel like it is a win-win for both the city and for Wholesale Builders Supply.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright. Anything else?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: No sir, we just ask the council to approve it please.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Any questions from the council? If not, I need a motion to approve the Wholesale Builders Contract for \$250 a month for storage for all of the pipe and equipment and meters and valves and everything else that goes in with that project.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Got a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Second from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor, show hands. Motion carried unanimous.

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Arbor Day Proclamation.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Do you want to say anything about it Paula?

PAULA MCCAIN: We are having a proclamation on the 18th at the Chamber, at 10:00. So, the public is invited. I have ordered seedlings, dogwood seedlings.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: You know that there is a fungus in dogwood trees.

PAULA MCCAIN: Well, everybody said they wanted dogwoods this year.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I am wondering if this is going to carry over into the seedlings. I've got 7 that I need.

PAULA MCCAIN: Well, they are already ordered and paid for. I think they are all prone to it after a period of time, the dogwood trees. Ask Mrs. Rita, she was one of the ones that wanted dogwoods.

CITY ATTORNEY LLOP: I lost a lot of them at the office.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: How many are we going to be able to get?

PAULA MCCAIN: I've got 50 seedlings. So first come, first serve. So, anything else?

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: No, I think that is it. Would y'all like for me to read this proclamation? We have read it every year. Mr. J. Sterling Morton, he hasn't changed a lick. So, with that said, I will entertain a motion to approve the arbor day proclamation and it will be February 18th at 10:00 down at the Chamber. If you want a dogwood seedlings..

PAULA MCCAIN: Anti fungus?

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Anti fungus. Then come on and be the first to be down there.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I am taking your word at that. **So moved.**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I have a motion to approve the proclamation. I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Got a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor, show of hands.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I have been getting trees down there every year, and I have had no problem with them living. I got red tips last year, wasn't it? I've got two of the prettiest ones you want to look at.

PAULA MCCAIN: The crepe myrtles?

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: Yeah, the crepe myrtles. They look good. So, I advise y'all, if y'all want some trees you need to get them.

LEONARD FLOYD PROCLAMATION:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is a Super Bowl Champion Leonard Floyd Proclamation. I think Mrs. Sebrina has the original one here. He is supposed to be at the high school the 22nd. We will read the proclamation here tonight, but we will read it at the school and give him a key to the city just to show him our appreciation that a hometown boy has done good.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Isn't there a sign up, Mr. Scotty. Where is the sign at, again?

FIRE CHIEF WHITTEN: Right there in the curb at Chic-King.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: In the island near Chic-King.

CHIEF SHEFFIELD: Right there across from Domino's.

SUSAN COFFEE: Where they put the Christmas tree.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Mrs. Sebrina, if you want to read it.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: *Proclamation is read and will become part of the minutes.*

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: With that being said, I will entertain a motion to approve the Leonard Floyd proclamation.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: **I make a motion to approve the Leonard Floyd proclamation.**

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Got a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor, show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

MECHANICAL CONVECTION OVEN @ TREATMENT PLANT:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the mechanical convection oven at the treatment plant.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir, we have had a critical piece of machinery go down at the wastewater treatment plant. We received two quotes on it from Matt McDaniel. He has gone out and researched it and tried to locate a replacement. One from USA Bluebook is \$2,750 and again this is for a mechanical convection oven. Another from Fischer Scientific for \$3,820.58. From what Matt has told me, I know it is a very critical piece of equipment. It is essential to what we were doing at the wastewater treatment plant, and he asked if it is possible that the council go ahead and approve him purchasing the one from USA Bluebook for \$2849.22.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: He has got to have that.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: He does, desperately.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright council. Do y'all have any more questions for Spence about that? With that being said, I entertain a motion to approve the purchase of a mechanical convection oven for the treatment plant.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Second from Councilman Woodard. That is for the one from USA Bluebook for \$2849.22. All in favor, show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

AQUA TAP, WATER DEPT:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the aqua tap for the water department.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes sir, in the previous council meeting, we discussed Mr. Royce Williams was needing a kit to be able to tap 2-inch water pipes. It was not an emergency, so we were able to put it out to bid. We received no responses on the bid. We still need the equipment, so we have gone out and obtained prices from Macon Supply, Southern Safety Supply, and Fasteners Plus. The most expensive quote was Fasteners Plus at \$3,225, Southern Safety was \$3,186, and then Macon Supply was \$2,950. And speaking with Mr. Royce, he is familiar with Macon Supply and has purchased from them in the past. And I ask that the Council would approve him to purchase directly from Macon Supply at \$2,950.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright, Council do y'all have any other questions? And all of these were the same Aqua Tap Pro 2?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes Sir, for the same kit and the same device.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: So, we are comparing apples to apples. With that being said, I need a motion to accept the purchase of the Aqua Tap Pro 2 cutter from Macon Supply at a cost of \$2,950.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Got a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

FIREWORKS:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is fireworks.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: It is getting that time of the year where we need to go ahead and lock in our spot with the fireworks company for the July 4th celebration. I believe Scotty and April have negotiated a little bit with Dave Batten and he has come back with a quote of \$12,200. That is the same cost as last

year. We would ask the council to consider that. I think in the past that the council has paid for that and then Mr. Raymond would go out and solicit donations to try to cover that cost.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: Yes. You know I always get it. And it is better to save money and go ahead and pay them now than it is to wait until down the road when we have to pay them more.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Or potentially lose our slot.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: As we do every year, I need a motion to go ahead and purchase the fireworks at a cost of \$12,200. And we will move forward and send that and go ahead and get our place in line and get our show ordered and then Mr. Raymond will do his thing.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I make that motion, that we go ahead and get it in line.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I have a motion. Council, do y'all have any questions? If not, I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous. So, I reckon with that being said, there will be a firework show this July 4th.

PURCHASE 3 TRUCKS:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to purchase 3 trucks.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: As I made the council aware in the previous week, I believe that the last time most of us talked, I believe we had 3 vehicles in the shop. A 1997 Ranger, and two 2006 F-150s. This afternoon, we lost the limb truck. The engine is locked up in it, but we don't know the extent of the damage. So, we have actually got 4 vehicles in the shop now. Our fleet, as you know, ranges all the way back to a 1994 vehicle with 225,000 miles on it. We are getting to the point where I hate to do it but I have got to ask you for some vehicles possibly. We are going to be walking if we don't do something here. We have gone out and talked with Brannen Motor Company. They have got 1 vehicle on the lot right now, an F-150, and they are able to get 2 more. They have agreed to give us the state quoted price of \$33,400 for each vehicle. Again, that is the state contract price is how he explained it to me. If we were not to purchase these and place an order, which is normally how to do it, his best estimate is 6-7 months right now to get replacement vehicles. These vehicles are not white, I believe they are silver. Again, at this point, we are not really worried about the color of the car. We just need something that will run. I would ask the council to consider letting me go ahead and buy those 3 pickup trucks for city vehicles at \$33,400. And then start planning on the fleet replacement after that.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Where would this come out of?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: If y'all would okay it, I would like to take 1 out of SPLOST and 2 out of Short-Lived. We have plenty of money in both. I think we can cover it out of Short-Lived and SPLOST if that is okay. If you prefer it all out of SPLOST, I would be glad to take it from there. Both funds are fully funded, so we could handle it.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council, are there any other questions?

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: The truck that is broke down now, what kind of truck is it?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: The most recent one this afternoon was our limb truck. And I am sure you are all getting the calls just like we are, about the problems with the limbs piling up. So, that was the only functional dump truck that the city owned and now it's down.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: The 3 trucks that we are replacing, can we use them? Are they any good, the ones they are driving?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: My plans are that as we replace them, the ones that are highway worthy, and don't require a lot of money or cost to repair them. We don't want to put \$10,000 in a \$500 vehicle obviously. But the ones that we can pass down, that's what we will do. Stuff that needs to be on the

front lines, we will handle that. The non-critical, non-emergency stuff, we pass down to the other departments.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council if y'all don't have any other questions, before Spence calls for all of our trucks, I need a motion to go ahead and approve the purchase of three F-150 Fords from Brannen Motor Company at the state contract price of \$33,400.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD: Second.

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

PURSUE USDA MONEY FOR TRUCKS:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to tie in with this. Cause this of vehicles right here is shot out and I reckon we are going to have to get some kind of limb truck and all too. I guess we need to move ahead and get with USDA and see about getting some kind of grant money and then look to purchase another 4, 5, or 6 vehicles. Which like I said, it will be the end of the year before we get them anyway.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, y'all have had great success in previous years in setting the police department up on a rotation like that. I think Becky is pleased now. I think we pretty much got a full Explorer fleet. The goal is to do that with street and water as well. Set them up on a planned rotation, that way we can budget for new vehicles and budget for replacement vehicles as they age out. If y'all will authorize it, we will start in those negotiations with USDA.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: And of course, as usual, when we get to that point, we will come back together before council, and we will approve and all that. So, I need a motion, basically for Spence and April to start just pursuing and get with USDA and pursuing future grants and possible fleet replacement on vehicles.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a motion to move forward with that. I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Second.

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

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Thank y'all.

PLANNING & ZONING:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is planning & zoning. Nash Enterprises and Leave It Better, Inc. with a variance for a mural at 106 Main Street.

TOM PEACOCK: I am Tom Peacock with Leave It Better, Inc. We have submitted an application for a sign and for a sign variance to cover a mural that we want to put up at the corner of Main Street and Fifth Avenue, kind of across from the train depot. Pretty much that wall there. We have been through the sign, and we have been through the variance hearings. We are hoping to get by with approval from you tonight so we can. We have scheduled the artist to come in and paint this, I think it's on the 5th of March or at least that 1st weekend and week of March. I guess you have all seen the copy of the proposed sign or mural.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I worked there 10 years and I think it is a wonderful thing myself. My wife worked there 15 years. Stuckey's pecan logs and all of that is history. The Stuckey's started it and all that. And now, she has opened up a store or plant in Wadley or maybe Wrens. Yeah, it's Wrens.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright, well P & Z has approved it. It comes to us for final approval. I will entertain a motion to move forward with the Leave It Better group and the Stuckey mural on the side of the Nash and Associates building.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I make a motion to approve the mural for Stuckey's to go on the wall.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright, got a motion to approve the variance. I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD: **Second.**

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

TOM PEACOCK: Thank you very much.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I have asked Mr. Jesse Bearden if he will come up and give us an update on some projects.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: Y'all have got some other pictures in front of you that kind of probably look confusing. Legion Drive has gotten to be a bad problem. The beavers are on the Harrell property and caused a lot of flooding. It caused a lot of problems in our drainage ditches. To give you a little history: Back in the day, you could take a tributary and clean it out. But in 1973, they passed the Clean Water Act. It started protecting tributaries like the ones that run through our city and many other municipalities. It was slow to gain momentum, but the State of Georgia and the Core of Engineers takes jurisdiction over clean water. These tributaries that we have contribute to the clean water of the state. Not to bring up any bad pasts. When the gymnasium at the Club was being built, they encroached on the stream behind the park and the residents of Park Drive. The city had to pay a fine remove the infraction. So, we are having to walk and to tread lightly on these tributaries now. It's not that we can go and take an excavator and clean out a bunch of ditches. The Core of Engineers start out at \$100,000, no \$10,000 a day fine of punitive damages, and the same per day for criminal damages for impacting streams. We are treading lightly. All of this being said, it is taking time to work through and get the easement from the Harrell's, to get a permit from the Core of Engineers, for us to remove some sediment out of that tributary. That is basically a condition caused by some beavers. Cause beavers built the damn, ponded some water, water couldn't flow, and sediment in the water fell out. Basically, it is blocking our drainage of half of the town. When the process of, I have got the survey. Spence had called Hofstadter and Associates. They did some surveying for us there. I've got some surveys and I have added to that survey and hopefully next meeting we will have a bid to get that sediment removed. With that all being said, so Hofstadter, of course when a site is flooded, it is hard to do an adequate or true picture of what is there. So, you use worst case scenario. That is all you can do in a situation like that, with the site being flooded. So basically, they went downstream to what is on Congo Lane Extension, see that it is working, so they were going to bring it up to Legion Drive at a price of over \$400,000. Of course, most of y'all know me and I am cheap. I ain't going to spend a half of a million dollars on a city street. What these pictures are, there are 2 alternatives. Instead of tearing all of that out, because that has worked for years and years historically until the beaver problem. So, I have almost got all of the water off. I am going to have to go a little farther and get more sediment out of this tributary. Then we are going to put a camera up these pipes and see what condition these pipes are in. I am scared that it is not going to be pretty. But there are 2 different pictures there. One of them is a plastic polymer, called cured in place plastic polymer. Basically, what it is, is an empty balloon, a tubular balloon, that is ran into those pipes and blown up with steam and it cures in place, and it heals the pipe, and the pipe is functioning again. The second picture is, they make a cementitious liquid, and that is a gentleman that has the machine. And the machine is run up into this pipe and it basically spins. We have just had that done on the 5 manholes on 9th Avenue to stop all of the water infiltration in those.

Basically, it coats those pipes with this cementitious coating inside that pipe. If our pipes are halfway still together, we won't have to cut out that road. We can cut out the section that we need to repave. We can do it one lane at a time. So, we would not have to close Legion Drive. My estimate on doing this method instead of putting in a box culvert, which there is nothing wrong with that. That would be great but over \$450,000. My estimate is we can be done far under the \$200,000 range. I am hoping closer to the \$100,000 range. But it depends on the condition of the pipe. I still have 12 inches of water in those pipes. I get that water out and I can put a camera up those pipes and then we can see what we can do. It is the same issue at Wood Valley. The biggest issue at Wood Valley is when those pipes were put in, and I can only go by Emory Peacock told me, but he said those pipes were put in in the last 15 years. Do you know Mitchell or Susan?

SUSAN COFFEE: Well, we had that big flood situation, that really extreme waterfall that just washed it out. And now it is washed out again.

CHIEF WHITTEN: 2016

ENGINEER BEARDEN: Right, but it hasn't washed the pipes out again. So, what happened with all of the debris, and this goes back to not being able to maintain a watershed or stream channel. The last time that I know that that stream was even cleaned was in the middle 90s when Mr. Jameson did it.

MITCHELL COFFEE: That was right after we moved there and that was roughly 18-20 years ago.

SUSAN COFFEE: It was when they did the pump station because he went down on our side of the road for a distance and then the state has been back in there to try and correct some of the drainage from up the hill and they have thrown all of the water onto our property, and it is about a 5 feet deep wash there now.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: Well anyway, with all of that excessive and high intense rainfall and the age, when those pipes were put in, and I don't know who did it, so I am not trying to place blame on someone, just stating a fact. The pipes were too long, and they were in the ditch. Those pipes were damaged with the debris going through them. So back last year, when we had those high intense rainfalls, we basically had about 4 pipes that were probably only carrying about 10% of its full load. That area stays so flooded. Of course, we just couldn't get in there to do any work. Once I got the water down, we hired Conrad Bennett and I was going to get him to basically reshape the pipes but the easiest thing to do and the most economical thing to do was to cut those pipes off. Since we have cut them, now they have full capacity, and they are not damaged on the outside. But they have also got some age on them and because of just the velocity of the water, and it's metal pipe and not concrete pipe, I would like to do the same thing. But on those pipes, I would like to do the cementitious, because they are metal pipe. Cementitious works real good on metal pipe. A brand-new metal pipe has a 30-year life span and if we use that cementitious process to go through on that job, those pipes could be there another 50 years. Of course, the price is going to be a little higher because we are looking at 42-inch pipes on Legion Drive and 4-5-foot pipe on Wood Valley. But it will still be in the same ballpark range. Somewhere between mid \$100,000. Replacing them at the price it is right now for pipe, we would be probably looking at \$300,000. Plus, disruption of the road and pavement and the pavement is in good shape. Those are the projects that we have got going. The weather has been good to me even with the couple of rains that has held me up. But we are getting water off of them.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: A headwall in Wood Valley too.

ENGINEER BEARDEN: Yes, I got a friend of mine coming Friday. There are several options there. We can put a headwall in, which is normal, you've seen the concrete headwall. But with that slope on that ditch, we might can save some money and make a concrete revetment, or basically a veneer, on that. We can put some Geotech style fabric down to stop any further erosion. These come in big squares of block, and they have steel cables running through them to block them together. They can undulate. We can put those down and stop that erosion, maybe at a cheaper price than a headwall. The good thing

about these articulating concrete pads is if you have to do any maintenance, they are removable. A headwall is there. You either tear it out and put it back or use that idea. I've got another good friend of mine, an engineer, that will come down and give me a little advice on that. But during the flood of '94, when I was up in Macon, and Perry, and Montezuma, we used that product a lot after the flood of '94. In a lot of places, it is still there. You can also still see it in Warner Robins, those have held up real well. We can save some money there. I don't want to sound too cheap but there is other alternatives that the Cadillac sometimes. Sometimes a Volkswagen does just as well.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council, do y'all have any other questions? Good job, thank you Sir. Any other pressing matters?

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: We thank y'all for coming out. It has been an interesting weekend with the Super Bowl. Go Rams. If you weren't a Ram fan, I hope you are now. When Leonard Floyd comes, we are going to be at the high school on February 22. Y'all just come out and support him. It is very rare that we have a guy from Dodge County to exceed at the level that Leonard Floyd has succeeded. We had a couple of kids go to a couple of universities and D1 schools. But there is nothing like winning the Super Bowl. I hope to see y'all's faces there. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I would just like to thank Spence and April for what they have done for Leonard Floyd. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I will say that this has been a longer meeting than we usually have, but it has been one of the most productive meetings we have had in a long time. We do appreciate y'all being out here tonight.

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK