

**May 30, 2024**

The Eastman City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present: Sebrina Williams, Graham Snyder, Debra Sheffield, and Mark Peacock. Others present were City Clerk April Sheffield, City Attorney Rita Llop, City Inspector Jack White, and Police Chief Billy Cooper. Audience members included EM Harrington III, Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Sharon Cobb Flanagan, JR Howell, Michelle Mullis, and Benny Pirkle.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

Invocation was given by Councilor Peacock.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Several changes were needed to be made to the agenda. Strike #2-Mark Doss, and #5-Ordinance for Sand Berms. Additions were an Executive Session for Legal matters, #8-5110 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, and #9-TIA and LRA bid approvals.

**On a motion from Councilor Peacock, a second from Councilor Sheffield, and a unanimous vote, the agenda was amended for the requested changes. On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams, the amended agenda was unanimously approved.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**The minutes for the May 13, 2024, regular meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Williams and a second from Councilor Sheffield.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, it was unanimously voted to move into executive session to discuss legal matters. (Members entered into executive session.) (Members entered back into council chambers.)**

**On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, it was unanimously approved to come out of executive session and back into regular meeting.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**FINAL READING OF THE CODE VIOLATION ORDINANCE:**

Attorney Llop said this ordinance has been pending for the last two weeks and is now ready to be passed and become law.

**On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams, the amended code violation ordinance was passed unanimously.**

**FINAL READING OF THE WATER ORDINANCE AMENDMENT:**

Attorney Llop feels that this a clearer statement of the city's policy and put into an ordinance.

**The amendment to the water ordinance was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.**

**FINAL READING OF THE CITY MANAGER PURCHASING AGREEMENT:**

This is a section of the ordinance that will change the city manager's spending limit without prior council approval from \$2500 to \$10,000. This will match what the county manager is able to spend also.

**On a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second by Councilor Sheffield, it was unanimously approved to approve the increase in the city manager's purchase limit referred to in the city ordinances.**

**NEW BUSINESS:****MONTHLY BILLS:**

The bills for May 14 - 29, 2024, were unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams.

**MARQUAL JAMES, DODGE AVENUE ANNEXATION:**

Mr. James has petitioned the city for annexation of his property located at 5400 Dodge Avenue. This annexation will come in with an ordinance and tonight will be the first reading. A letter will be sent to the county for their approval, and then the city will have the second reading.

**On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams, it was unanimously approved to move forward with the annexation request.**

**DODGE COUNTY HOSPITAL ANNEXATION REQUEST:**

The DCH Authority through its Chairman, has asked to annex the hospital and its encompassing 10 acres into the city. An ordinance has been prepared and this is the first reading. After the vote, it will also go before the county for approval and then back to the city for final passing.

**On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams, it was unanimously voted to proceed with annexing the hospital into the city.**

**REPAIR CITY BUILDINGS:**

Because of the new Blight Ordinance that was recently passed, Inspector White feels that the city needs to step up to address and repair some of its own buildings that are in need of repair. Jack does not have a cost estimate at this point but would like to start assessing the buildings. The city needs to set a precedence.

**On a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Williams, the council unanimously voted to let Inspector White to proceed with fixing up some of the city's property.**

**GOODY'S BUILDING:**

The council has had many discussions about the Goody's building. When it was first purchased, it was the idea at the time to build a new city hall and relocate it to that property. Because of the current economic times, this does not look to be the best use of the property right now. It is suggested to pass a resolution and start the bid process to sale the property.

**On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, it was unanimously approved to move forward with advertising for the sale of the Goody's building.**

**5110 2<sup>nd</sup> AVENUE:**

The city has pending litigation to gain possession of that property. There is an offer on the table to resolve this where the city can get immediate possession of the building. Accepting this will end the litigation and no further claims can be made against the city. Attorney Llop recommends moving forward.

**It was unanimously approved to finalize and accept the agreement with Mr. Barnett on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

**TIA AND LRA BID APPROVALS:**

Hayes Hofstadter was present today at the bid opening for both projects. There was only one bidder for both projects. Hofstadter and Associates recommended to move forward with the current bidder on both projects. The LRA would be for 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Dorough Street to Page Street. The TIA 2 is Band 1 that covers most of Morgan Creek, Industrial Park, and some of Evergreen Circle. TIA comes from TPLOST money and GDOT.

With a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Sheffield, there was a unanimous vote to proceed with Scrugg's and their bid of \$138,900 for the LRA project.

With a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Williams, there was a unanimous vote to proceed with Scrugg's and their bid of \$749,951.31 to do the TIA project.

**PLANNING AND ZONING RECOMMENDATION:**

**WILLIAM T HOWELL FOR DODGE ADVERTISING, LLC @ 5014 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE:**

Michelle Mullis presented the request for a variance at the property in order to install a 12' x 16' LED billboard. The sign will be like the one at the Circle K on Oak Street. The difference is they want their sign to be landscape and not portrait. It will be in the lot beside the old Popeye's. Planning and Zoning has already approved the variance. Inspector White says that everything is in order.

**On a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Sheffield, the sign variance was approved unanimously.**

**CITY MANAGER (CLERK) HAD NOTHING TO REPORT**

**OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:**

Councilor Williams just wants to remind everyone about the Motown concert at the Magnolia Theater this coming Saturday night. Doors open at 6 and show starts at 7.

Councilor Snyder asks everyone to keep City Manager Barron and his family in their prayers. His father passed away earlier this week.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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CHAIRMAN

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CITY CLERK