

July 10, 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: Raymond Mullis, Buddy Pittman, Sebrina Williams, Jermayne Hamilton, and Ronnie Woodard. Others present were Attorney Rita Llop, Police Chief Billy Cooper, Fire Chief Scotty Whitten, City Manager Spencer Barron, City Inspector Jack White, and City Clerk April Sheffield. Present from the community were Susan Coffee, Martin Kehayes, EM Harrington III, Jimmy Burney, and Caleb Christian.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pittman.

The invocation was given by Councilor Hamilton.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: First order of business is to approve the agenda. I think we've got 1 addition to add to it.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes. A request from Lakeside Church for street closure on August 12th I believe.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: From 2:00 to 9:00 from the edge of the amphitheater beside Timeless Grace down to the other end of the street, OK. Council, do you have any other questions? We will add that to the agenda, as #5 Lakeside Church, August 12th, street closure. Any other additions or deletions? If not, **I need a motion to approve the amended agenda, adding Lakeside Church with street closure downtown. And also in that motion, if it's approved, to approve the amended agenda as it stands.**

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: So moved.

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

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Second.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is approve the Minutes of the June 29, 2023, regular meeting. You all got those in your packets of over the weekend. Do you'll have any questions about the minutes? If not, **I'll entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2023, regular meeting.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

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

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Second.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRE REPORTS:

CHIEF WHITTEN: For the month of June, we ran a total of 57 calls, 31 inside the city, 26 outside. We had two structure fires. One stove fire. Brush fire, we had four. Vehicle fire, we had two. Natural gas leaks 2. Medical calls, 12. Vehicle rescue 9. Alarms 8. Lift assists 7. And trees and power lines 8.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council have any questions for Chief Whitten? If not, y'all had a hot one last week.

CHIEF WHITTEN: Yes, I also want to make a statement about that. As y'all know, Chic King went up in flames. And you know it was a tough fire to fight. But I want to just thank the following agencies that came out to assist us. Dodge CI, Dodge County Fire, McRae Fire. City street and water departments. Wilcox CI, Telfair CI. I also want to thank Dogwood Gardens for the donations they made. Domino's, Dodge County EMS, and Jack White also for coming out and assisting us on that. Oh, one more, Eastman PD also.

POLICE REPORTS:

CHIEF COOPER: For the June report, we answered 696 calls, using 928 gallons of gas, 12 traffic accidents, patrolled 10,630 miles.

WATER METER PRICES:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is water meter prices. And I think we have been given a list of those for our review. Y'all look over them. If you have got any questions, call Spence and see what your thoughts are on them. And all we'll get back to you at another meeting on those.

APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to approve the monthly bills for June 29 - July 10. Y'all all got those in your packets. Do you have any questions about those? If not, **I'll entertain a motion then to approve the monthly bills from June 30 - July 10th.**

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.

LAKESIDE CHURCH STREET CLOSURE:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Mr. Burney, if you would come forward about the Lakeside Church.

JIMMY BURNEY: Good evening. Lakeside would like to close the street down on Main Street between the amphitheater all the way down to the end of the street where the railroad station is. And we're having a night of worship on August the 12th. It'll be from 2:00 to 9:00. And we were requesting that we close the street down there because we'll have food truck vendors, and they want them to set up and have a place to be.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Council, y'all have any other questions for Mr. Burney. If not, **I'll entertain a motion to close Main Street down from the Timeless Grace edge and Amphitheatre down to the other end of the street from 2:00 to 9:00 for Lakeside Church's night of worship.**

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

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

COUNCILOR WOODARD: Second.

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I just wanted to echo what Scotty had said. Last week was a busy week to say the least. Between the high school, the hospital, the gas main break, Chic King, all the threat calls called in. But we got to see the best of what the city and county and these other jurisdictions can do

when they all pull together. So, thank y'all for what you do to support this team and we hope we made everybody proud of what we got done last week.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: I was going to say the same thing. Thank you, Dodge County, Sheriff's Office, Police Department, Fire Department. Y'all did a great job. I never thought such chaos could happen within a week behind each other, but it did, and y'all handled it well. So we thank you.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And also the GBI was involved. Thank you to Lindsey and her agents. Yeah, she sent a whole contingent of agents out to help us, so we greatly appreciate her doing that.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Tuesday night we had the fireworks. And I want to thank the Police Department, the Fire Department, and anybody else that had anything to do with it. I want to thank y'all because I think it was a real success.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Thank you for doing what you do to have them.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

SUSAN COFFEE: I just want to thank all those folks too for settling down the chaos. But when you get to, don't take this as a criticism, but I wanted to make you aware of when the PD diverted all the traffic down Plaza Drive. We need some poor soul that could stand there and direct traffic because it was a mess. Between what was going South down 117, and coming down Plaza Drive, and impatient people and whatever. God forbid, I don't want this to happen again. But when those sections get closed down, Plaza Drive takes a hit. It didn't bother us. We locked down and everybody had a good time, so you know, but you could see it and hear it. The horns and whatever. But thanks. I think the whole community did a great job.

POLICE CHIEF COOPER: I just want to make a comment. With the help of Dayna over here at City Hall, the Police Department finally has a Facebook page. So, if people will like and follow. We are going to try to keep it updated. Anything big that happens, or if we have any kind of public events, we will put stuff on there.

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

Council Chairman

City Clerk