

July 24, 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: Jermayne Hamilton, Raymond Mullis, Buddy Pittman, Sebrina Williams, and Ronnie Woodard. Others present were Attorney Rita Llop, Assistant Police Chief Wesley Dyal, Administrative Assistant Dayna Winslette, City Inspector Jack White, and City Clerk April Sheffield. Present from the community were Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Paula McCain, EM Harrington III, and a representative from Trailhead Media.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pittman.

The invocation was given by Chaplain Hamilton.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

APPROVE AGENDA:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right, I'd like to welcome everyone here tonight and welcome everyone tuning in to Facebook. Oh, if you probably noticed, Spence is not here tonight. He is in Athens for his daughter's college orientation. First item on the agenda is to approve the agenda and I know we need to take #1 off. They are having some issues right now, so they're not here. That's the downtown event. We'll take it off. Anything else that we need to add to it? Council, anything else y'all want to add on or take off? All right. If not, **then I need a motion to amend the agenda to remove #1 LeNiece Johnson Downtown Event and we need a motion to approve the amended agenda and with that motion we will approve the agenda as it stands with the amendment.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

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.**

APPROVE MINUTES:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023, regular meeting. I think you all got those last Friday. I hope y'all had a chance to look over them. Any questions or anything about the minutes? If not, **I'll need a motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023, regular meeting.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I 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.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

SUNSET PARK:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: First under unfinished business is Sunset Park. Jermayne, you had got some more playground equipment. I know we were talking about it a while ago. Looking at it.

We don't know if that or this is for sure. Are they doing anything or using that up there? Is anybody doing anything up there?

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: We are trying to wait until the cameras get installed. There has been a little activity going on, but nothing major right now.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: OK. All right, we've got this. Jack, can y'all call tomorrow and see if y'all can get a pretty close rough estimate if that's what that would cost and all? On these three items here? And then when Spence gets back, we can talk with him, and we see what we got and can do. And we go from there. Are y'all good with that?

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: That's total you talking about? To build from ground up. Out the door price?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Yeah, uh huh. All right. Are you good with that? All right. We'll leave that at that, and we will move on.

NEW BUSINESS:

AVIATION DAY FESTIVAL:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: We'll move on to new business which is the requests for related costs for Aviation Day Festival and Fly-In. OK, I think all y'all got that in your packet. Middle Georgia State University and the Heart of Georgia Airport is asking for the city's financial help with some of the costs attached to the Aviation Day festival and fly-in event. They scheduled Commemorative Air Force Air Base to participate. These are World War 2 original military static displays from commemorativeairforce.org. The cost is \$6,000, and the school and Airport Authority are seeking sponsorships. They are asking that the city commit to at least half of that, \$3,000, in the event that they don't get enough funds, and that could be less if they get some.

PAULA MCCAIN: I said zero.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Paula, you're sitting out there. Just throw something out there if I'm saying this wrong. So, it's commit to at least half of that in the event they don't get enough sponsorship for the full \$6,000. Now, the other costs that they're asking that we help with and do are the Porta Potties and the cost of those are \$680, the entertainment and sound systems and all which include two bands, the sound equipment and all is \$1,400. And so that's \$2,080 dollars. And the air base up to \$3,000 which is a total of \$5,150.00. And like I said, that could be less. Or it could be \$2,000. It just depends on the sponsors that they get. So, I told them we would vote on this tonight. If y'all want to see about having this. I remember the last big fly-in they had. It was a heap of folks out there and a big crowd. They're actually looking this time to make it even bigger. I think there is legislators coming down, which is senators, representatives and I reckon all the school big wigs. Do y'all have any questions?

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Now, we have done paid \$2,000 for the banners. Also, does the county pay on this? Or just us?

PAULA MCCAIN: The county is paying some other funds. They're also helping with the transportation and stuff.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: OK.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Any other questions? I know it's a pretty big event. With that being said, I reckon we'll vote. I need a motion to participate in the Fly-in Day with the airport and Middle Georgia State University. Like I said up to \$5,150, but like I said, it could be \$3,000 less.

Like I said, it depends on the sponsors and stuff that they get that would take away from that. So, if there are no more questions, **I'll entertain a motion to approve.**

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

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: OK, got a motion from Councilman Mullis to approve up to \$5,150. Like I said, it could be \$2,150, for the Aviation Fly-in Day at Middle Georgia State University, out at the airport out there. I've got a motion I need a second.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: So moved.

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

MONTHLY BILLS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is approve the monthly bills for July 11 through July 24, and I think y'all got all those in your packets over the weekend. Y'all have any questions about them? If not, **I need a motion to approve the monthly bills for July 11 through 24.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

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.**

BUILDING PERMIT:

ROY GRENADE @ 219 KING STREET:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is building permits and the first one is Roy Grenade at 219 King Street for a restaurant. The contractor is Swift Construction.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Yes, Roy has come to us, and he is wanting to remodel the building on King Street. He presented us with a set of plans and his deed, plat, the whole nine yards. It should be a complete package ready to go.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: So, all of the paperwork is in order, got the check and everything is ready to go? Alright, **I need a motion to approve the building permit for Roy Grenade at 219 King Street.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: 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.**

GRAHAM & STUDSTILL @ 740 GRIFFIN AVENUE:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is another building permit for Graham and Studstill at 740 Griffin Avenue for Lee's Fried Chicken. Contractors are Graham and Studstill.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Yes, Sir. This is the complete package also. The building permit has been paid for and everything is ready to go.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Everything is in order. Alright.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I've got a question. I heard it was going to be Maryland Fried Chicken. The man that is cooking it, that's what he used to do over in Dublin or something. So, it looks like might have some Maryland Fried Chicken in here.

INSPECTOR WHITE: No, it's Lee's.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: But I think he's the one that made it though is what I'm saying. It's what I was told.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have one question. Where are they going to get in and out of this place at?

INSPECTOR WHITE: They're coming in off of Legion.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Oh, OK.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Yes Sir, that was my first question.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Would it come off of Legion and turn back and go off of Legion or they come into the main road?

INSPECTOR WHITE: Well, what they got is a decent turning lane. They'll come in off of Legion. There'll be a circle around the building and come right back out the same driveway. It will only be one entrance and exit.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: OK, good.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Everything is in order. **I need a motion to approve the building permit for Lee's Fried Chicken, Graham & Studstill.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: **So moved.**

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

PLANNING & ZONING:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is under planning and zoning. Trailhead Media @ 536 Oak Street, a variance to increase sign face to 240 square feet.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Yes, Sir. Trailhead has been through all the proper procedures with Planning and Zoning. We've reached out to the community for any public hearings. No one has objected. They've got everything in order and ready to go as far as it goes. I've got the two checks to cover the electrical permit and for the zoning change. So, everything is ready to go.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: And that's the sign that is over there?

INSPECTOR WHITE: Yes, Sir. This is Mr. Carl Hutchinson sitting here. This will be the sign down at the Circle K, the lighted sign. They've been DOT approved and everything is ready to go.

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

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: I just wanted to know where it was, and you told me.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: How much bigger is this going to be?

INSPECTOR WHITE: It's going to be about 110 square foot bigger, by the time it is all over. You know that our ordinance says 100 square feet and they've already had a special use variance and made it a little bigger. So, they are just increasing the size. What? About another five feet high?

CARL HUTCHINSON: Yes.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: And it looks like you are going to move the pole over.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Three feet. Yes Sir. So it's going up, and over just a little.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I could be bad wrong. It's been a long time ago. When they first put that sign in, and if I'm wrong, tell me I'm wrong, but I was under the assumption it was going to be like two computer screens on either side.

CARL HUTCHINSON: It will be the same one with just the one side and a static on the back side.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: OK.

INSPECTOR WHITE: The reason they had left with two display signs off in the original was something to do with the neighborhood there. You know, with all those flashing lights on houses, so basically it was just to respect the issue.

CARL HUTCHINSON: It's going to be pretty much the way it is now. The visual will be on the same side and the static will be on the same side.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: OK, alright. Thank you, Sir. Council, do y'all have any other questions? If not, I'll entertain a motion for Trailhead Media at 536 Oak Street for a variance to increase the sign face 240 square feet.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: 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.

CITY MANAGER LEFT NOTHING TO REPORT

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Yes. I just want to make sure that we get Sunset back on the agenda at the next meeting with the total. I think previously we was up in the like you said, the 200 range, \$200,000. This number here is more reasonable I think as well. Even if it doubled the costs, it would be around \$60,000. But we will just get the numbers and go from there. But I would like to get it back on the agenda.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right. OK. Anything else, Sir?

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

SUSAN COFFEE: What are y'all doing about the leak across from Waffle House, I mean Huddle House, behind Circle K and Magnolia State Bank? It has been there over a week. It's a bad water leak.

CLERK SHEFFIELD: We applied for the DOT permit today. I'm waiting on the response from them.

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

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK