**May 8, 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, 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 and Mitchell Coffee, Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Connie Seacrist, John Battle, Emory Tuff, Opera Jordan, Dana Brown, Jesse Bearden, and Marlon Eller.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pittman.

The invocation was given by Chaplain Hamilton.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN**: The first item is to approve the agenda. We have?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** One addition, we've got 1 addition. The Police Department needs to request permission to apply for a USDA grant, so that would be #6.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Council y'all have anything y'all want to add? I'd like for us to add a work session meeting for The Club in the park up there.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON**: City Hall, Raymond? You said you wanted that on the next one?

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** Yeah.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** The Club, City Hall. Anything else y'all want to cover?

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** I’d like to talk about, if there is any way we can, where these people are putting stuff out beside the road.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** The ordinance? Okay, that’s 3 things then. That would be #7. the session. City Hall, The Club, and the ordinance on what is the term for that? When you dispossess somebody's belongings? You know what I am talking about, when they evict them from an apartment, and they pile all the junk on the right of way. We're looking at changing that so that we can hopefully add some fees or something to that.

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** Most cities do that.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yeah, Eastman's not. That's going to be an initiative, wouldn’t you think?

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** Eviction property.

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** Also, I'd like to add on if being that Juneteenth is a holiday for the state and federal, I'd like to let's talk about that.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** OK. We can talk about that. Alright, so, holidays, eviction ordinance, City Hall, The Club.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** OK. Anything else? All right, now **I need a motion to amend the agenda and add the #6 Police Department and USDA grant, and a work session to discuss The Club, City Hall, and ordinance for household garbage, and holidays.**

**COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Got a motion to amend the agenda from Councilman Mullis, I'll need a second.

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Second.**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. **Motion carried unanimous. Now, I need a motion to approve the agenda as it stands amended.**

**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.**

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next is approve the minutes of the April 24th, 2023, regular meeting. Y'all all got those in your packets over the weekend. Y'all have any questions about them? If not**, I'll entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the April 24th meeting.**

**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.**

***NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS:***

***NEW BUSINESS:***

***FIRE REPORTS:***

**FIRE CHIEF WHITTEN:** For the month of April, ran a total of 41 calls, 18 inside, 23 outside. Had one structure. Two electrical, 6 brush fires, vehicle fires one, power lines down two. Medical calls total of five. Wrecks 9. Electrical alarms 3. Lift assists 3. Life flight 2. Smoke check 2. And power line down/trees four, and public service one.

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** Those brush fires were they in the city limits of Eastman?

**CHIEF WHITTEN:** The brush fires were outside.

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** I had seen two of them. OK, thank you.

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON:**  Lift assists were 3?

**CHIEF WHITTEN:** Lift assists were 2.

***POLICE REPORTS:***

**POLICE CHIEF COOPER:** The police report for April. We answered 801 calls, worked 18 traffic accidents, patrolled 12,418 miles using 930 gallons of gas.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Down about 400 calls, aren’t you? Y'all needed a break.

**CHIEF COOPER:** Wasn't that bad of a month. And we made up for it today.

***SECOND AVENUE REPAIR:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is Second Avenue repair.

**INSPECTOR JACK WHITE:** As you all know, 2nd Avenue, right below the post office, has become a headache in some sort. This will be about the third time that we've addressed it. And instead of having to close the road and all again, I am asking for permission to go ahead and have the pipes spin cast. That way we don't have to do any road closures. Any of the adjacent work after that will be done in house. The fee for spin casting both pipes will be $52,962. In house, we will extend the head walls on both sides, add rip raff, and do it all by the EPD guidelines.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** When you say spin cast, what is that?

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** It's where they come in with a polymer fiber and it's kind of cement based. It hardens inside the pipe. They bring a machine in that actually goes through the pipe and it reapplies it to the inside of the pipes. Where we don't have to lose, you know, traffic on the road or close the road down by no means.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** It is the same process we used on some manholes, was it last year or year before? Ninth Ave. Yeah, and it seemed to work well from everything we gathered.

**COUNCILOR WILLIAMS:** Down by the bypass?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** This is going to be by the post office.

**COUNCILOR WILLAMS:** That on 9th Avenue, is that what you did?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Those manholes? Yes, it was more up this way, though it wasn't down at the bypass. You get into the county when you get too far down there.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Council, do y’all have any other questions? If not, then we will move forward, and **I'll entertain a motion to approve the culvert repairs and side wall repairs and all down by the post office on 2nd Ave.**

**COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.**

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

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Second.**

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

***MONTHLY BILLS:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to approve the monthly bills for April 24th through May the 8th. We all got those in your packets over the weekend. Any questions about them? If not, then **I'll need a motion to approve the monthly bills for April 25th through May the 8th.**

**COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCILOR WOODARD: Second.**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Have a second by everybody. All in favor show of hands? **Motion approved.**

***JUNTEENTH STAGE:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the Juneteenth stage.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, Sir. We're approaching Juneteenth again and the request is for the cities part of that celebration to rent a stage for the set up down at the Peabody School. Y'all remember, I believe in the past we agreed to build them a permanent stage, but we're still working through the logistics of that. We would at least like to rent them a stage to get through this year till we can finalize the permanent stage. John, is that okay with y’all? Mr. Battle?

**JOHN BATTLE:** OK, as long as we get a permanent stage because it has been previously approval by now.

We are settling with y’all as long as y’all are getting us a temporary stage. We will accept that.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** If there's any way to get the permanent one before then, I'm just afraid we're up against the wall and won't be able to get it done in time for the celebration.

**JOHN BATTLE:** As long as we get a stage.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, I need a motion to approve the rental of the stage for the Juneteenth celebration.**

**COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. We need a second.

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Second.**

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

***POLICE DEPARTMENT – USDA GRANT:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to apply for the USDA grant for the Police Department.

**POLICE CHIEF COOPER:** We got the grant rider. We're trying to purchase some new portable radios. Also closed-circuit TV for the Police Department and some alco sensors. We are trying to lump all that into one USDA Grant. From what the grant writer told me, they will cover 65% of the cost if the city covers 45% of the cost. The projected value, correction, the projected cost on that is just over $27,000. The city’s part of that would be around $9,000. And I think it's $9,800. Yeah, $9,683.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** All right, so. You look at our cost will be about $9k?

**CHIEF COOPER:** Around $9,600 for $27,000 worth of equipment.

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** Yeah, that's a good deal.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Y’all have any questions for the chief? If not, then **I'll entertain a motion then to move forward, applying for the USDA grant for the police department.**

**COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Have a motion by 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.**

***WORK SESSION:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is set up a date for a work session for The Club/Park, City Hall, an ordinance for household garbage, and a holiday. When do?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Grand jury. I'm in grand jury June 5th, I think. Coop, do you remember? I think it's June 5th, but technically y'all can have it without me if you have to.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Oh no. No, no, no, no, no.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I don't get off that easy? I might rather be at grand jury than that.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** It's going to be the grand jury. Let’s see. School gets out on the 26th, and that week is going to be a pretty busy week. I know for you. Y’all want to try the 18th, maybe?

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** What day is that on?

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** That's on a Thursday. Thursday afternoon.

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** Sounds good to me.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** 3 o'clock? 4 o'clock? There's so much on here. It's going to be a few hours.

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON:** I think that I got training that day.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** What's a good day for you then?

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON:** Probably that next week.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We can do it in my office. We keep the door open. If somebody wants to come in, we'll pull up a chair. Is that legal, Rita?

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** You can post it, that, if you post it.

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON:** I might. That Friday. I get back on the 19th.

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** When do you go?

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON:** Well, I can get back on the 19th. I leave on the 15th. I can come back Friday, the 19th.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Well, y'all want to shoot then, what is it, Tuesday the 30th?

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON:** I’m clear on that day.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I think I'm Good.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN**: We got no court then. Ya'll want to try to do Thursday the 30th, then?

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** Tuesday.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** What did I say? Oh, Tuesday is the 30th. 3:00 o'clock.

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** That will be alright with me.

**COUNCILOR WOODARD:** For the 30th, at what time?

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** 3:00 o'clock.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** All right. **I'll entertain a motion then to have a work session on May the 30th at 3:00 PM here to discuss the Club, City Hall, ordinance for household garbage, and holidays.**

**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.**

***CITY MANAGER’ HAS NOTHING TO REPORT:***

***OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:***

***PUBLIC COMMENTS:***

***VIA FACEBOOK:***

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

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**CHAIRMAN CITY CLERK**