

April 13, 2026

The Eastman City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. The following council members were present: Graham Snyder, Debra Sheffield, Dwayne Burney, and Mark Peacock. Councilor John Battle II arrived later into the meeting during the executive session. Others present were City Attorney Rita Llop, City Manager Spencer Barron, Police Chief Billy Cooper, Fire Chief Derl Maxwell, City Clerk April Sheffield, Assistant City Manager Dayna Winslette, Code Enforcer Gerald Fordham, and Public Works Director Wynnon Pittman. Other department heads present were Water Operator Rodney Harrell, Street Department head Brandon Brisco, Wastewater Operator Matt McDaniel, Distribution Supervisor Evan Harrell, HR Director Diana Wheeler, and Assistant Fire Chief Quantavious Rozier. Employee Lane Fountain was also present. Present from the community were Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Gil Harrington, Janice Winslette, Lillie Pitts, and Ryan Wells from Freedom Fireworks.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

Invocation was given by Councilor Burney.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Burney, the agenda was unanimously approved with no changes.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Peacock to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2026, regular meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

SECOND READING OF BUILDING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT:

The second reading of the building ordinance amendment was brought up. As told at the last meeting, this is just eliminating the specific editions of code books referred to within the ordinance and instead stating that the latest edition is followed. This ordinance was approved on a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Peacock.

MOSQUITO TRUCK PROPOSALS:

Wynnon addressed the request for a mosquito sprayer. Bids were received within the requested time, but they are not equally quoted. He is unable to directly compare 'apples to apples'. He asks for another two weeks to get clarification and more detail. He had looked at trying to get the current one repaired, but it would cost more than half of what a new one would cost. Manager Barron suggested he go back and requote more correct specs and council agreed. **On a motion from Councilor Burney and a second from Councilor Sheffield, it was unanimously decided to let Mr. Pittman come back in 2 weeks with a more defined recommendation.**

NEW BUSINESS:

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Interim Chief Maxwell presented the fire report for the month of March 2026. The department answered a grand total of 189 calls. That included 3 non-working structure fires in the city, 1 working structure fire in the county, 11 other fire related calls with 2 in the city and 9 in the county. The EMS portion included 104 medical related calls with 78 in the city and 26 in the county and 11 MVC's with 6

in the city and 5 in the county. There were 44 public service calls such as fire alarms, smoke scares, and trees down with 40 in the city and 4 in the county. The department was cancelled in route 4 times, with 2 in the city and 2 in the county. There were 10 Air Evac calls and 1 mutual aid call in the county. There was a total of 216 training hours for the department. Chief Maxwell announced that he has a full-time firefighter position open at this time. The department has been out flowing hydrants throughout the city. It could cause a disturbance of sediment in the lines and Maxwell says letting the water run a little bit will clear that up. Firefighter Herbert Etheridge just completed his training to be a live fire instructor. He may be the first live fire instructor that the City of Eastman has ever had. This will allow them to train with real fire and not mock situations. The second fire extinguisher class will be this coming weekend. They will be giving out the extinguisher and first aid supplies that Home Depot donated to the department. The fire department is having a raffle for a custom fire pit to raise money for fire education.

Chief Cooper presented the March report for the police department. The department answered a total of 563 calls, worked 24 traffic accidents, wrote a total of 87 tickets and 33 written warnings. They collected a total of \$18,212.33 in cash bonds and fines. There was a total of 24 jail days, and 1009 gallons of gas were used while patrolling 12,637 miles. There are 3 cadets scheduled to graduate from the police academy on the 24th of April.

Evan presented the water distribution report. There were a total of 475 work orders to be broken down as follows: 131 water cut-ons, 168 water cut-offs, 21 possible water leaks were checked, 22 actual water leaks, 92 water locates, 5 meters set, 2 meters were repaired, 5 meters inspected, and there was one meter reread. The sewer orders included 2 investigations and 21 lines required cleaning. The department managed to fix 2 holes with cold patch. The stormwater crew cleaned 3 ditches. The department used 362 gallons of gas for the month.

Wynnon stated that Popco is about 97% finished on the I&I project in Jessup Heights. He is figuring that they will finish at about \$140,000 under budget. He, Land, Gerald and some others have been out at the airport working on the new inert landfill. They have built the road to get to the back 5 acres where it is so low. A good portion of the land has been cleared. The end of June was the deadline to terminate the agreement with Dwayne Conley. Wynnon feels that he will be able to meet that deadline. As far as the Park, Bodie Gray has gotten involved and made a lot of suggestions. He is helping get the Pickleball League up and running. He has a lot of connections, experience, and willingness to help. He has plans for a possible volleyball league, flag football, etc. By the end of the week, a contractor should be picked to start on the splash pad. He would like to have a groundbreaking ceremony. Today, the final touches are being put on the project of making the corner of 3rd Avenue and College ADA compliant. Handrails will be going up shortly. The team will go from there to the Park to help make it ADA compliant. Next, he plans to get the area of Dodge Avenue and WPA Road repaired with some TSPLOST money where the trash trucks are running and deteriorating the road.

Brandon presented the street department report. For the month of March, a total of 971 hours were tracked with a breakdown of 22 hours on animal calls, 407 on curbs and gutters, 38 on ditches, 8 on tree limb cutting, 69 on mowing grass, 26.5 on potholes, 195.5 on trash pick-up, and 130.5 on limb pick-ups. 75 hours were spent on a variety of other projects. A total of 672 gallons of gas were used for the month. Total of 51 work orders with 13 animal calls, 1 sidewalk repair, 4 holes to fill in, 1 for limb pickup, 6 to mow particular areas, 6 trash pickup orders, 16 curb and gutter orders, 3 signs down/damaged, and 1 pothole. Brandon asked council to keep in mind that even though his work

orders seem low, please take into consideration that certain projects may take more than a few days to accomplish. Councilor Snyder assured Brisco that the council supports him and all of the hard work that his department does.

Rodney came forward to give an update on the wells. A total of 30,506,000 gallons of water were pumped during the month of March. That is an average of .984 MGD. Everything is currently running smoothly.

Matt presented the wastewater information for March. A total of 517 hours were spent with 50 hours on cleaning clarifiers and filters, 135 on lab and sampling, 20 on the belt press and sludge, 48 on lift station and well repair, 16 on lawn maintenance, 54 on plant maintenance, 39 on routine rounds, 34 on education and training, 24 on management duties, 95 on plant operations, and 2 hours on other things. The amount of treated water released from the plant into Sugar Creek was 19,940,000 gallons with an average of 0.643 MGD. There were 404,630 gallons of water used at the plant. The total rain for this month was 2.6 inches. The lab charged \$5,652 for wastewater testing.

Gerald gave an update for the code and permitting departments. There were a total of 74 work orders this month. He handled 47 grease trap inspections, issued 4 code violations, 10 building inspections, 5 building permits, and approved 2 electrical and 7 building license inspections. Gerald also mentioned the need for an ordinance to mandate the number, location, and distance of vape stores. The state currently has no restrictions. The city currently has 3 and at least 2 more are in the process of opening, with one being next to the middle school ballfield. Council asks Fordham to get some literature and versions of code that are already in place in other cities so they can take it into consideration. He has the president of GACE coming later this week to meet with all of those involved in code enforcement (officers, lawyers, judge, etc.) to learn how to move forward and prosecute some of the code violations that are being written.

SKINNERTOWN MEMORIAL WALK:

Ms. Lillie Ann Pitts came forward to explain the community event request for the **Skinnertown Community Memorial Walk**. It is in remembrance of their loved ones who have passed away and their shared childhood memories growing up in that area. The walk will start and end at the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church. They will walk down Mt. Moriah to Dodge Avenue, make a right and then make a right onto Main Street. From there, depending on the distance someone wants to walk, they will either go right on Smith, Clay, or 1st Avenue to get back to Mt. Moriah and the Church. Festivities will begin at 8:30 AM **on Saturday, May 9, 2026**. By 11:30 all walking should be completed, and the rest of the day will be spent as Family Day between Mount Moriah Street and Smith Street. Ms. Pitts once again requests the police department to escort them during the walk. Chief Cooper spoke and said they would be glad to. They have never had any problems with this event. **Council approved the annual walk on a motion by Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Burney.**

FIREWORKS:

Ryan Wells from Freedom Fireworks came forward to present his figures. He is from the company that did the show last year. After last year's show, the council had requested that the next show be a little higher like the shows that the city was accustomed to. The solution is to go with all canister shells. Along with that, comes a change in price. The trade off is a little bit slower of a show but he can pack in as many shots as possible. For the show, he is proposing to use no smaller than a 3-inch up to a 5-inch shells in the finale. Last year's show was 1 ½" cakes. The show will last for about 25 minutes. It

should be loud and big. The increase in price is due to using all shells and he will need an extra man there to shoot, and more racks will be added. Councilor Snyder confirmed that about \$15,000 was allocated for this year's show. Manager Barron confirmed that if Council voted to go with the bigger and best option (C), he could come of with the money difference. The proposal includes 3 options: A @ \$15,500, B @ \$17,500, and C @ \$19,500. Chief Maxwell verified that \$14,500 was spent on last year's show. **On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Burney, the Council voted to allow Freedom Fireworks to perform the fireworks show on July 4, 2026, with Option C for \$19,500.**

RTA FUNDING:

Assistant Manager Dayna Winslette came forward to deliver some good news. There has been a history of Griffin Avenue being a traffic sore spot for the city over the years. Discussion has taken place over the years about traffic lights, roundabouts, turning lanes, etc. What to do with the area from Oak Street all the way out to the Golden Isles Parkway. Last year, Dayna began working on a grant opportunity with a pilot program through the USDOT and their Build America Bureau. She put in an application for everything up to the point of implementing the plan. Basically, everything that can be done before dirt is moved like traffic studies, feasible plans, including purchasing property, surveying, etc. An application was submitted in March of 2025 and then again in September of 2025. Last week she received an email stating that **the City of Eastman has been awarded \$1 million with no match.** They took in over 800 applications and awarded 49 (18 tribal communities and 31 rural areas) of them a total of \$54.2 million. All data gathered and plans made from this project can be used on future applications to do the actual work. No formal motion was made at the time. The formal vote will take place when the resolution is drafted to approve.

SCHEDULE WORK SESSION:

After some discussion, Council unanimously voted to hold a work session on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 6 PM. The vote was taken on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Burney.

HOME OCCUPATION LICENSE:

ONYA AUTO, LLC:

Alfred Johnson has applied for a license for his mobile automotive service, ONYA Auto, LLC. The home base will be his residence at 5631 Bacon Avenue. Because it is not a commercial zone, Council must approve. Mr. Johnson has agreed not to do any of the work at his residence. Attorney Llop was asked to draw up an agreement for Mr. Johnson to sign and agree to those conditions and to remain compliant with all city codes. **Council approved the license contingent upon Mr. Johnson signing the agreement. This vote was taken on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Burney.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilor Sheffield made a motion with Councilor Burney seconding in order to enter into executive session to discuss legal, personnel, and property matters. All approved. Council exited room.

Council re-entered the room. **Councilor Burney made a motion to return to regular session. He was seconded by Councilor Sheffield and all approved.** No other business was discussed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Barron reminding everyone about Movie Night at the Park, Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 5PM. The movie is The Lorax. There will be food and other vendors there. Pickleball League signup is open to everyone. Lastly, cutoff day is tomorrow.

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK