

April 27, 2026

The Eastman City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present: Graham Snyder, John Battle II, Dwayne Burney, and Debra Sheffield. Others present were City Attorney Chris Gordon, City Manager Spencer Barron, Police Chief Billy Cooper, City Clerk April Sheffield, Assistant City Manager Dayna Winslette, Code Enforcer Gerald Fordham, Public Works Director Wynnon Pittman, Water Supply Operator Rodney Harrell, and Fire Chief Derl Maxwell. Present from the community were Susan and Mitchell Coffee, EM Harrington III, Martin Kehayes, Scotty Whitten, Pastor Lonnie Lewis, and Sharon Cobb Flanagan.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

Invocation was given by Councilor Burney.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Snyder starts the meeting off by thanking the Fire Department for their efforts in going to Brantley County and helping to fight the wildfires.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Battle, the agenda was unanimously amended to add #6, Code Enforcement Contract. The amended agenda was then unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Battle.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Battle to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2026, regular meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

MOSQUITO SPRAYER:

Wynnon Pittman came forward to present the latest quotes for the mosquito sprayer. He recommends going with Agricultural Solutions and a Guardian Sprayer 95. It was pretty much the lowest bid. He has talked with the salesman and the service guy. He is very confident that the city will receive good service. His quote also included set up, calibrate it, go through EPD guidelines and train all of the guys in the right way to use it. The other quotes did not include any of that. Pittman informed Councilor Snyder that the price was \$13,790. Manager Barron stated that it was SPLOST eligible. **On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and a second from Councilor Battle, it was unanimously approved to purchase the Guardian Sprayer 95 from Agricultural Solutions for the amount of \$13,790.**

NEW BUSINESS:

SCOTTY WHITTEN, JUNETEENTH:

Mr. Scotty Whitten came on behalf of the United Concerned Citizens of Dodge County requesting approval to host Juneteenth downtown on Main Street on Saturday, June 20, of this year from 10 AM – 6 PM. He asks permission to use the downtown amphitheater for the duration of the event and also asks to temporarily close East and West Main Streets from 4th to 5th Avenues. The event is intended to bring the community together to celebrate Juneteenth through cultural programming, music, food, and local engagement. They are anticipating a good turnout and are committed to working closely with the city to meet all safety, permitting, and logistical requirements. They will do any necessary steps, permits, and provide any documentation required to move forward. Mr. Whitten has already talked to the downtown merchants to get their okay. They are also planning to supply porta-potties but would

still like access to the theater. Ms. Coffee voiced her concerns about the railroad. Whitten stated that they planned on calling the railroad and scheduling with them, along with planning for extra help to monitor the area should a train come through during the event. **Council members unanimously approved the Juneteenth event for Saturday, June 20, 2026, from 10 AM – 6 PM downtown on Main Street on a double motion from Councilor Battle and Burney and a second from Councilor Sheffield.**

PASTOR LONNIE LEWIS, JR, MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE :

Pastor Fluellen was unable to attend so Pastor Lewis, President of the NAACP, came to request that the city continue to partnership with the Ministerial Alliance and to keep the Sunset Community Park open. He also asks for the city to allocate some money to the park. They hold 3 – 4 events a year there. There was a small little incident back in February, but they hope not to have that happen again. The Ministerial Alliance is unable to fund the park on their own. Councilor Snyder appreciates Mr. Lewis coming to them and asking. He is aware that the previous councils have worked with them in the past and even had an agreement in place to work in conjunction with them for the park. Snyder feels that they need to give it a more in-depth look, especially since they are asking for more money than has already been provided over the years. Pastor Lewis is asked how much money he is asking for or what is he looking to spend it on. Councilor Snyder mentions that the city is trying to make one big, unified park that is accessible by all neighborhoods. Pastor Lewis understands that but doesn't think a lot of his people are going to be willing to migrate over to the new one. They would feel more comfortable where they reside at. He says that the equipment at the park needs to be upgraded, such as the swing set and the merry-go-round. Lewis is thankful for the playground set that they got two years ago. The kids are enjoying it. He doesn't feel like they would be asking for too much, but he is willing to sit down with Spence and see what they can come up with and agree on. He would like to keep the partnership with the city going and see how much updates can be done. Manager Barron mentions the upcoming work session. Councilor Snyder asks how the council feels about having a more in-depth discussion at the council meeting to see if they can come to an agreement. Council agrees to discuss this more at next week's work session and invites more of the Ministerial Alliance to attend.

CITY OF ETHICS RESOLUTION:

It is time to renew our resolution with GMA as a **Georgia Certified City of Ethics**. Councilor Snyder read the resolution, and it will become a part of the official minutes. **The resolution was unanimously passed on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Burney.**

FIRST READING OF SEWER ORDINANCE AMENDMENT:

Wynnon explained that the water ordinance was amended around two years ago. The sewer ordinance was also on track to be amended but somehow slipped through the cracks. The purpose is to throw the responsibility and fees of running lines and tying into the sewer back onto the contractor. The cost of the taps was not enough to cover the amount of work that was being done. He checked around with other towns, and they had already implemented this action. Pittman proposed the amendment and Attorney Gordon, and his team wrote up the changes to bring before council. Attorney Gordon states that it is helpful that Mr. Pittman takes the initiative to do the research and start this on his own. It saves time and the city money. **On a motion from Councilor Battle and seconded by Councilor Burney, the first reading of the Sewer Ordinance Amendment was unanimously approved.**

SPLASH PAD CONTRACTOR:

Assistant Manager, Winslette, explained the details of choosing a contractor to construct the new splash pad at the Park. The city received a grant to build a splash pad thanks to Dayna. The RFQ was sent out a few weeks ago to find a vendor to build and install the splash pad. There were 5 companies that put in a

proposal. In the RFQ, there were five different categories that were scored with weighted points. The committee included herself, Wynnon, and Manager Barron. They each scored separately. The number one ranking was KorKat out of Carrollton. He actually came through town last Friday and took a look at the Park. Based on their references that were called, they have done a great job with municipalities and other customers and have worked on several splash pads. Councilor Snyder confirms that there was specific language within the grant on how to go about choosing a contractor. Winslette says the language includes that the city is not held to the lowest bid and that no additional points can be given for being a local contractor. **Councilor Burney made a motion to name KorKat the splashpad contractor. His motion was seconded by Councilor Sheffield and was unanimously approved.**

CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT:

Gerald Fordham explains the reason behind the contract with Code Consult 360. This company actually belongs to the President of the Georgia Code Enforcement Association. The city's ordinances have been found to be outdated and not legally enforceable in their current state. Angel Gray with Code Consult is willing to step in and help to rewrite the ordinances for property maintenance issues and code enforcement issues. He has also spoken to her about looking over the planning and zoning ordinances because she is over the Planning & Zoning department in Albany. She is going to provide services to help with ordinance review, revision, and recommendation of ordinance specific to property maintenance issues and public nuisances, along with zoning district issues. She will also evaluate and aid in producing policies and standard operating procedures in addition to developing case management and court procedures. Manager Barron states that the cost of this consulting will be \$6500 and will come out of the Code Enforcement budget in the General fund. Councilor Snyder thanks Gerald for the hard work he is doing. Attorney Gordon has found a paragraph in the contract that needs striking that concerns indemnification. Gordon also states that this contract will end up saving the city money in the long term because she will be doing a good deal of the creating and researching. It will end up being a multi-phase project due to whatever she creates and will be handed over to the attorney and tweaked into a new ordinance or amendment. **Councilor Snyder asks for a motion to approve the contract for \$6,500 with Code Consult 360 pursuant to the change in language recommended by counsel. Councilor Sheffield made the motion with a second by Councilor Battle and all members approved.**

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Barron reminded everyone that the City of Eastman is under an absolute burn ban. There will be no tolerance from the Chief of Police or the Fire Chief. The state has designated us as a Level 1 drought area. Please do your best to minimize using water, whether for your garden or for washing your car. There are a lot of ideas in the paper and posted on Facebook of ideas to cut water usage down until the rains return and the wells replenish. Pickleball signups at the Park are still ongoing. There are close to 70 people that have already signed up. Lastly, he thanked everyone that helped with movie night. I was another great event.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

Councilor Snyder once again thanked the fire department for helping out down south with the wildfires. Lastly, he reminded everyone that early voting has started.

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK