

**May 11, 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, John Battle, Debra Sheffield, Dwayne Burney, and Mark Peacock. Others present were City Attorney Christopher Gordon, 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, Wastewater Operator Matt McDaniel, and Distribution Supervisor Evan Harrell. Present from the community were Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Gil Harrington, Charlotte Coffee, and Scott Hall.

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 Burney and seconded by Councilor Peacock, the agenda was amended by an all in favor vote to add #8, the Chamber 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. The amended agenda was then unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Battle.**

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

**A motion was made by Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2026, regular meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**SECOND READING OF SEWER ORDINANCE AMENDMENT:**

The change was to update the sewer ordinance to have a more accurate policy and match the water ordinance. Attorney Gordon had nothing more to add about this amendment. Manager Barron states it is just part of the formality and would like to move forward. **On a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Sheffield, the sewer ordinance was unanimously approved.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

Interim Chief Maxwell presented the fire report for the month of April 2026. The department answered a grand total of 235 calls. There were no structure fires in the city or county last month. There were 13 other fire related calls with 4 in the city and 9 in the county. The EMS portion included 155 medical related calls with 111 in the city and 44 in the county and 9 MVC's with 6 in the city and 3 in the county. There were 41 public service calls such as fire alarms, smoke scares, and trees down with 33 in the city and 8 in the county. The department was cancelled in route 5 times, with 2 in the city and 3 in the county. There were 12 Air Evac calls. There was a total of 260 training hours for the department. The fire extinguisher class has come to an end right now. They still have a few buckets left and will run some more classes in the future. Jacoree Wilcox is heading up the CRR Program and looking to expand in other areas. Wilcox has been building props and has a water day scheduled tomorrow at the elementary school. Another program is scheduled with the hospital employees and their families later this week. Chief Maxwell stated that he recently hired Firefighter Cisero and his roster is currently full. The fire pit ticket sales are closed, and they will do the drawing at Thursday night's drill. Acting Assistant Chief Rozier is currently in class to get his evaluator certification.

Chief Cooper presented the April report for the police department. The department answered a total of 571 calls, worked 20 traffic accidents, wrote a total of 65 tickets and 52 written warnings. They collected a total of \$14,656.50 in cash bonds and fines. There were 1018 gallons of gas used while patrolling

10,509 miles. Chief Cooper has received several phone calls over the last couple of weeks. His department has started going around and checking churches and businesses at night and leaving door hangers to let the owners know that everything checked out good. It is a preventative measure. Councilor Snyder congratulated his 2 officers that recently graduated from the academy. Another cadet failed firearms but will be going next week to retest and then she will be on the road as well. They still have 2 open positions.

Evan presented the water distribution report. There were a total of 344 work orders to be broken down as follows: 110 water cut-ons, 169 water cut-offs, 31 possible water leaks were checked, 1 actual water leak, 1 meter identification, 1 meter set, GPS of 2 meters, performed maintenance on 1 meter, 1 meter inspected, and there was one meter reread. Maintenance was performed on 2 vehicles. The sewer orders included 2 investigations, 1 repair, and 17 lines required cleaning. The department applied cold patch in one area. Maintenance was done on 2 hydrants. The stormwater crew cleaned a ditch. The department used 409 gallons of gas for the month. Councilor Snyder confirms that the sewer issues are still coming from grease and wipes.

Wynnon informs the public that when the enforcement of code violations begins, they do not plan on showing any favoritism. It is not going to be just one neighborhood or one side of town. They are moving slowly on getting up and running but they want to be fair to everyone. Wynnon has been diligently working out at the newly proposed inert landfill site. He thanks Brandon and Evan and their guys for all of the help they have given him. EPD gave a surprise visit. She left well pleased with the area. He just needs to move a little dirt around for fire protection. As far as the requested projects and updates are concerned. He will wait and update at the department head meeting and get those updates keyed in and accessible by all.

Gerald presented the street department report. For the month of April, a total of 1,052 hours were tracked with a breakdown of 20 hours on animal calls, 345 on curbs and gutters, 34 on ditches, 36 on tree limb cutting, 214 on mowing grass, 76 on potholes, 36 on trash pick-up, and 167 on limb pick-ups. 56 hours were spent on a variety of other projects and 71 hours on special events. A total of 780 gallons of gas were used for the month. Total of 81 work orders with 5 animal calls, 4 holes to fill in, 6 tree trimming orders, 5 for limb pickup, 32 to mow particular areas, 8 trash pickup orders, 12 curb and gutter orders, 1 sign down/damaged, 3 speed bumps, and 3 potholes. Maintenance was performed on 2 vehicles.

Rodney came forward to give an update on the wells. A total of 31,570,000 gallons of water were pumped during the month of April. That is an average of 1.052 MGD. Wells are looking good right now. As far as lift stations, the one at the Airport only has 1 pump currently running. A gentleman is scheduled to pick it up in the morning to tear it down and find out what is wrong. Councilor Snyder asks if the city has any backup pumps to use. Harrell states that the city does not have any backup pumps. Manager Barron says that is something that needs to be addressed. When asked, Rodney confirmed that all of the pumps are different sizes and not all would be interchangeable.

Matt presented the wastewater information for April. A total of 443 hours were spent with 46 hours on cleaning clarifiers and filters, 124 on lab and sampling, 15 on the belt press and sludge, 61 on lift station and well repair, 12 on lawn maintenance, 38 on plant maintenance, 37 on routine rounds, 26 on education and training, 21 on management duties, and 63 on plant operations. The amount of treated water released from the plant into Sugar Creek was 12,210,000 gallons with an average of 0.407 MGD. There were 281,640 gallons of water used at the plant. The total rain for this month was 1.5 inches. The lab charged \$5,619 for wastewater testing. Nothing major is currently happening at the plant. Matt reiterates that the lift station at the Airport has always given them problems.

Gerald gave an update for the code and permitting departments. There were a total of 78 work orders this month. He handled 47 grease trap inspections, issued 4 code violations, 18 building inspections, 1 building permit, 4 electrical permits, and 4 business license inspections. Gerald is working with the consultant to rectify some ordinance issues. The first meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. The goal is to have new policies and procedures in place by the end of June so he can start pursuing code enforcement. Attorney Gordon says this is the most responsible and economical way to get updated. Once they are in place, the city will be able to push these issues through the court system.

**CHARLOTTE COFFEE, LIBRARY:**

Charlotte is coming forward to update everyone. First, the city board appointee, Cindy Greene, will reach the end of her term on June 30, 2026. The city will need to pick her replacement. Circulation for the Library is up 3% over last year. The library has increased its efforts in hosting different events such as Crafternoons, Loopers circle, games from Dungeons & Dragons to Mahjong to Canasta. They are open to any other ideas as well. They have increased their social media presence and are thankful for the city for continuing to share also. The library gets financial support from the Dodge County Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners. The City of Eastman ceased its support several years ago, but the library would welcome any support that they would like to give. They have some major repairs coming up including new HVAC units and a new roof. The Board has met and is in progress updating and reviewing their constitution and bylaws. Currently, the city gets three appointments to the board, and the City Manager is an ex-officio member. Upcoming events include the summer reading program and will concurrently run the fines forgiveness and fine amnesty program. Charlotte recognized the current library director, Kim Spencer, and her hard work over the last 2 years and how much progress she has made. Council thanks Charlotte for the report and all of the hard work that has taken place.

**BIBLE READING PROCLAMATION:**

The council is proud to join in conjunction with the County Board of Commissioners in proclaiming May 12 – 17, 2026, Bible Reading Marathon Week. Ms. Andrea McCranie has asked council members to pick a day and time to participate. Other community members that would like to participate should reach out to Ms. McCranie. The proclamation will be included in the official minutes. **Councilor Peacock made a motion to approve while Councilor Burney made the second and all were in favor.**

**RESCHEDULE MEMORIAL DAY MEETING:**

**On a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Burney, the council unanimously voted to move the regular scheduled meeting from Memorial Day to Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 6 PM.**

**AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL DAY EVENT:**

Representatives from the American Legion have come again this year to ask permission from council to close that section of the bypass exit by Memorial Park on Monday, May 25, 2026, to have their annual event on Memorial Day. Plans are still being finalized as far as speakers, etc. More than likely, it will need to be closed from somewhere between 10 AM and 1 PM. Chief Cooper is in agreement. They have not had an issue with this event in the past. **A motion to approve the street closure for the Memorial Event was made by Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield. All members were in favor.**

**MODIFICATION OF BUILDINGS AT THE PARK FOR SPLASHPAD:**

Wynnon came forward to explain. This project is part of the grant that the city received in order to install a splash pad and small pavilion type building. Pittman would like to request bids that would include a 40' x 48' concrete slab to be poured along with erecting a 40' x 48' pavilion. Another project he is requesting to bid is the remodel of Building B at the Park. The plan is to change it into more of a bathroom area. It is decided to run the bid opportunities for 2 weeks. Wynnon has already written up

the specs, and the city clerk has them ready to go. **The Council unanimously voted to proceed with the bid advertisement on a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Burney.**

**STREET SWEEPER PRESENTATION:**

Wynnon has a video presentation that he has already shared with the council. Everyone is impressed, so Wynnon requests the opportunity to put an advertisement out for quotes on purchasing the city a new street sweeper. Of the ones viewed, most of the council preferred the bigger version. The reason being that it would not have to be shared with the water department because they could continue to use their vac truck. With the extra accessories, more street projects could be accomplished such as curb and gutters. It is a significant investment that could go a long way in making the street department quicker and more efficient because of the less need for manpower. Wynnon would like the chance to see what sizes and price ranges are available. **Councilor Peacock made a motion to allow Wynnon to seek quotes and present them back to council. Councilor Battle seconded the motion and all members approved.**

**CHAMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY PARADE:**

The Chamber of Commerce has requested permission to hold a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade this year before the fireworks. It would start about 1 – 2:30 PM. They have submitted the required paperwork to forward to GDOT including a map of the path requested, a detailed letter, and a hold harmless agreement. They propose to use the Christmas route that has been used over the last several years. Chief Cooper stated that if the council approves it, he will get it covered. This is all in anticipation of the 250<sup>th</sup> year of independence. **On a motion from Councilor Burney and a second from Councilor Sheffield, the council unanimously gave their permission for the parade.**

**HOME OCCUPATION LICENSE:**

Funagin Rentals LLC by Scott Hall at 723 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue for an electric bicycle rental business. There will be no foot traffic. His website and LLC are based out of his home, but they will be rented at remote locations such as Ellijay and some other places. **This license was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Battle.**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Manager Barron gave a few updates. Several dogs have been picked up recently. Please keep your dogs penned up. Check out the Facebook page to see if you can be reconnected with your dog. Pickleball will be in full swing by May 15 and will run through June 25. Tomorrow is cutoff day. Don't forget about the Juneteenth celebration downtown on June 20 from 10 AM – 6PM. It is also confirmed that there will be a parade and fireworks on July 4<sup>th</sup> of this year.

**NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:**

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

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CHAIRMAN

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CITY CLERK