

January 13, 2025

The Eastman City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present: Sebrina Williams, Graham Snyder, and Debra Sheffield. Councilor Mark Peacock was out of town and Councilor Dwayne Burney was out with an illness. Others present were City Attorney Rita Llop, City Manager Spencer Barron, Police Chief Billy Cooper, Fire Chief Derl Maxwell, City Clerk April Sheffield, and Assistant City Manager Dayna Winslette. Department Heads Wynnon Pittman, Matt McDaniel, Brandon Brisco, and Gerald Fordham were also in attendance. Present from the community were Jesse Bearden, Sharon Cobb Flanagan, EM Harrington III, Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Syble Pruett, Dwayne Conley, and John Battle.

The meeting was called to order by City Clerk Sheffield.

The invocation was given by Manager Barron.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPOINT CHAIRMAN:

Clerk Sheffield called for a nomination for the Chairman. **Councilor Williams made a motion to nominate Graham Snyder. Councilor Sheffield seconded the motion.** No other nominations were made. **Snyder was unanimously approved as Chairman.** Clerk Sheffield then turned the meeting over to Councilor Snyder.

APPOINT VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Councilor Snyder nominated Sebrina Williams as Vice-Chair. Councilor Sheffield seconded the motion, and no other nominations were made. **Councilor Williams was unanimously approved as Vice-Chair.**

APPOINT CHAPLAIN:

Councilor Sheffield made the only nomination for Dwayne Burney to preside as Chaplain. Councilor Williams seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

APPOINT ATTORNEY:

Councilor Williams made the only nomination for Attorney Rita Llop to remain as the City Attorney. She was unanimously approved after a second by Councilor Sheffield.

APPOINT RECORDER'S COURT JUDGE:

Joey Marchant was the only nomination for Judge. He was unanimously approved on a nomination motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

On a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the agenda was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams the minutes from the December 23, 2024, meeting were unanimously approved.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

MONTHLY FIRE DEPT REPORT:

Chief Maxwell came forth to deliver the fire report. There was a total of 85 calls for the month of December 2024. Two non-working structure fires with 1 in the city and 1 in the county. One working structure fire in the city. Eight other fire related calls, with 3 in the city and 5 in the county. They worked 60 medical-related calls with 41 in the city and 19 in the county. Total of 7 motor vehicle accidents with 2 in the city and 5 in the county. Six public service calls (alarms, smoke, trees) with 3 in the city and 3 in the county. Cancelled in route once with no mutual aid calls. The toy drive was a big success this year with a phenomenal response from the public. The fire department was able to help give the toys out this year.

MONTHLY POLICE DEPT REPORT:

Chief Cooper presented the report for the police department. They used 1,048 gallons of gas was used in the month of December 2024 to ride 12,378 miles. They answered 756 calls, worked 18 traffic accidents, and made 170 arrests/citations. A total of \$18,632.99 was collected in bonds and fines. The totals for the year were 12,324 gallons of gas with 150,746 miles. Answered 9,436 calls. Worked and 260 traffic accidents. Made 2,281 arrests and collected \$268,987.56.

Chief Cooper also reminded everyone of the MLK parade next Monday. According to Mr. Battle, the lineup will begin at 12 at the old courthouse. The parade will begin at 1 going down 5th Avenue to College Street and then down 2nd Avenue to end at the District Attorney's office.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Wynnon presented the water distribution report for December. They had a total of 81 cut-ons and 93 cut-offs. There were 8 check leaks. Eleven service line repairs. 94 locates. One new meter installation. One valve inspection. Pulled 4 meters. They performed two meter repairs. Three leak maintenance at the meter. Nine meters inspected with no problems. Six manholes inspected with no problems. Six sewer investigations. Twenty lines cleaned out with mostly wipes and grease again. A total of 339 work orders were completed. A total of 394.964 gallons of gas was used in the amount of \$1,159.62.

As far as the I&I project is concerned, it is 65-70% completed. The second crew will be coming down Forest Lake while the first crew finishes with Buddy's Pond and moves up 5th Avenue. The Industrial Park Lift Station did get up and running. Matt can give details.

Matt presented the wastewater report. Water pumped from wells was 32,949,000. Water usage at the treatment plant was 794,000 gallons. There were 14,300,000 gallons of treated water released back into Sugar Creek from the plant. The bulk of the 505 hours used this month went towards lab and sampling, plant maintenance, lift station and well repair, and plant operations. The lab charged \$5,179.99 for wastewater testing in 6 towns this month.

The Industrial Lift Station did get started up again today with a generator that is on loan from Georgia Rural Water and thankfully no cost to the city. They are now waiting on Georgia Power to get a more permanent source of power installed. They still have some more things to be done but at least the pumps are running. The Chas Mar pump was also delivered today. Next step is to contact the electrician to schedule installation. The EPD inspection that was done in December went very well. Water and Wastewater passed.

Brandon presented the street department report. Spent a total of 10 hours on animal calls, 106 on curbs and gutters, 34 hours on trash pick-up, and 163.5 on limb pickup. 582 hours were spent putting up and taking down Christmas décor. They used 422.826 gallons of gas at a cost of \$1,217.90.

APPROVE BILLS:

On a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the monthly bills for December 23, 2024 – January 13, 2025, were unanimously approved.

SENIOR CITIZENS REQUEST:

Syble Pruett came forward to thank the council for everything that they have done in the past to help support the Senior Citizens Center. She also requested the Council approve giving them another \$3500 this year. Councilor Snyder said he didn't have a problem with it since it was already set aside in this year's budget. **On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams, the \$3500 was unanimously approved to go to the Senior Citizens Center.**

2025 ELECTION SUPERINTENDENT AND QUALIFYING FEE:

Clerk Sheffield reminded everyone that District 1 and 5 seats were up for election this year. The law requires a superintendent to be named, and qualifying fees be set and advertised before February 1. **Eastman code states that 3% of salary be the qualifying fee, which would be \$90. Sheffield also requests James Callier, the county registrar, to be named the superintendent and he is in agreement to do so. Both requests were unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams.** The qualifying will be held Monday, August 18 - Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 8:30 -5:00 PM. The General Election will take place on November 4, 2025.

EMORY TUFF WAS NOT IN ATTENDANCE TO DISCUSS HER NORMAN AVENUE DITCH.

SCHEDULE WORK SESSION:

Councilor Snyder attended a class on HB581 today and would like to set up a joint work session with the county to discuss their options. Ms. Flanagan said that the commissioners have not had a chance to look at their calendar yet but maybe the last week of the month, they could schedule something. The city council still needs to schedule their own separate session to discuss some upcoming and ongoing projects. **Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 5:00 PM was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Sheffield.**

WATER CONSERVATION PLAN, REGIONAL COMMISSION:

The Regional Commission has agreed to renew the Water Conservation Plan for \$1500. The last one was done 10 years ago, and it is time to renew it along with our Groundwater Permit. **It was unanimously agreed to let the RC proceed on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

CITY MANAGER HAS NOTHING TO REPORT

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

Councilor Snyder offered condolences to Manager Barron on a death in his family.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jesse Bearden inquired about making a public comment. The Council agreed to let him speak. He wanted to check on a speed hump petition that his son had compiled. Clerk Sheffield commented that she had not received the completed petition, but she remembered him coming to pick one up. As soon as she receives it, she will be happy to put it on the next agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and a second from Councilor Williams, the meeting was adjourned.