

**November 28, 2022**

The Eastman City Council met in a regular scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Buddy Pittman, Raymond Mullis, Sebrina Williams, Jermayne Hamilton, and Ronnie Woodard. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, City Clerk April Sheffield, Attorney Rita Llop, Police Chief Becky Sheffield, City Engineer Jesse Bearden, City Inspector Jack White and Paul McCranie. Present from the community were Mitchell and Susan Coffee, John Battle, County Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Chamber Director Paula McCain, and Mark Studstill.

The meeting was streamed live via Facebook.

The meeting was called to order by Council Member Pittman.

Invocation was given by Council Member Hamilton.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVE AGENDA:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** First order of business is to approve the agenda and I think we have a couple of changes.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** If you don't mind, I think we need to take the Dodge County Food Bank report off. I asked him to come to the next meeting since we had so much on it tonight. I also need to add approval for the Lions Club Christmas parade. That is the only 2 changes that I have.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright. Council, anything else that y'all want to add or change? If not, then I need a motion to amend the agenda removing the Dodge County Food Bank Report and adding approving the Lions Club Christmas parade and, in that motion, also add to approve the agenda as it stands.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis to amend the agenda. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Second.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor show of hands? Motion carried unanimous.

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next is to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2022, regular meeting. I think all of y'all got those in your packets last week. Do y'all have any questions or anything about the minutes from the last meeting. If not, then I will entertain a motion to approve the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD: Second.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show of hands? Motion carried unanimous.

**NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**WORKERS COMP BID:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** First under unfinished business is the worker's comp bid.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, we only had one submission to our bid notice. It was the GMA Workers Comp self-insurance fund. It was \$85,612. Last year, it was \$85,963. So, if I am reading that right, it actually went down.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** At least it wasn't a 10-15% increase. It went down about \$350. Alright council, do y'all have any questions for Spence? If not, I need a motion to approve the worker's comp bid from GMA for the total of \$85,612.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimously.

**BONDS & FINES ORDINANCE:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next under unfinished business is the Bonds & Fines Ordinance.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Just a reminder to council that this is the new ordinance that added a 20% increase to all criminal bonds and fines, penalties, and fees associated with our municipal court.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Is this the actual first or second reading?

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Okay. I need a motion then to approve the second reading for the bonds and fines ordinance.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Council, do y'all have any other questions about it? If not, I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Got a second from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**GRASS CONTRACT BIDS:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next is grass contract bids.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** As the council I am sure remembers, we actually do this in Bid Sheet part A and Bid Sheet part B. So, Bid Sheet part A, this is yearly maintenance for the Eastman Cemetery, Woodlawn Cemetery, the Senior Citizens Center and 911, Sunset Park, Veterans Park, the Eastman Gateway area out near Wal-Mart, the Club, and the Peabody complex. We received 2 responses to that section of the bid. The first response is from R&G Lawncare LLC, and they bid \$52,520. The current holder of the contract, Dixie Lawn & Landscaping Inc. also submitted a bid, and they bid \$56,988. Now this is just for the cemeteries and the welcome areas. Now, we have part B that we are going to get to. Rita, Council, do you want to take a vote on it by part or together? Because when we get to part B, I am just going to ask you to let us keep that in house. We think we can do it cheaper with our help. Can we just vote of part A, Rita?

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** Yes, I think so.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Question. Now, on this bid, with either one of them, the frequency is every 2 weeks, and this was their cost? Now, in the event as far as cost, if we have extra rain, will they charge us on this particular one, say the \$260 to go if it turns out that once a week or something.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, and they're probably times during the summer that it needs to be cut a lot more than every 2 weeks to be honest.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Like with Woodlawn Cemetery. R&G has \$1225, and Dixie has \$1040.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** What he is doing is going line by line, where I just gave you the total for all of them. Do you want to vote on each element?

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** No, I'm just looking at in the event. Each element may not come into play.

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** Usually in December and January when they don't need to cut it, we use one of those times to cover the extra in the summer, if like you said, we have an extra rainy session.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, he has done it in the past, but I can't guarantee that he is going to do it in the future. This was done a little bit differently this year. Honestly, we are trying to learn as we go. What works for them and what works for us. I think they were being needed in a lot more places than we initially thought they would be. So, that's why we agreed, both of us, to break it out per location too. Just to give us an idea. Maybe there is a special event at Peabody, and we need an extra grass cutting or we need an extra trash pickup or something. Maybe Main Street is going to have a festival. Or we want to do it every 7 days. This contract would give us those options. But for purposes of the vote, I just gave you a total.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** And these totals are normal?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes Sir. If you want them beyond that, you are going to pay per event, that amount.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** This extra? So I reckon in figuring those in with the overall costs, it looks like R&G. Now, I have a question. Because I know this past year, Dixie, got rid of all his residential because they didn't have enough people to handle it. How many people does R&G got working for them?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I can't tell you. I can ask them to be here at the next council meeting.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** And I ask that, because they are the low bidder. If they ain't got but 8 people working with them. What do y'all think? I don't know how many people they have.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I agree. I understand. I can't tell you anything about R&G. I can tell you that Dixie has done us a great job on the cemeteries, I think. That's not to say that R&G would not. But, like you say, I don't know enough about their company to give you a truthful opinion.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** Would it be in the contract that if they didn't come to the specs that we are looking at, that we could fire them and get somebody else? Is that right, Rita?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes Sir, I would think so.

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** Yes.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** I say give them a shot. If they don't have the manpower, we will cross it when that happens. They are the lowest bidder.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Any other comments or thoughts?

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:** With Dixie, that is the best that the cemeteries have ever looked. Especially the Eastman Cemetery.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** Quality is something too.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** That is why I said that if they are not cutting it like they are supposed to, we can go ahead and get rid of them and go back.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, with that being said, do y'all want to make a motion to approve the low bidder, R&G Lawncare?

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** I will make that motion to give it to the R&G Lawncare with the stipulation that if they don't do what they are supposed to, then we can get rid of them and get somebody else.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I have a motion then to approve R&G Lawncare, LLC. at a cost of \$52,520 per specs and the spec sheets that they bid out on. Any other questions or comments? If not, I will need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD: Second.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Got a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous. And now, going with what you said about Bid Sheet B.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, that is the section of the contract where we clean the stormwater ditches, remove the fallen limbs, cut small brush, and also where we clean the sidewalks and where we edge, clean gutters, and remove dirt and debris. We have had some really good luck here lately. Wynnon has got the excavator that y'all purchased for us. We are making some tremendous headway using it mulching. But we've also partnered with Bridges of Hope, using some of their people with the city people, to really work the sidewalks, work the curbs and the gutters. From a cost standpoint, in the bid for the Division B, R&G Lawncare bid \$51,500, Dixie Lawn & Landscaping bid \$60,984. But we think we can do it, and this is our own crew, working 5 days a week, at our beck and call when we need it for about \$60,000. We think we are getting a much better quality of service, because again, we have our staff with them. If we get a complaint from the public, like the sidewalks on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue need attention, that morning, the city workers and those Bridges of Hope guys can go and start working on them versus calling a contractor like Dixie, who may or may not be able to get a team in town that week. It is just something to think about. I have talked with Jack, Jesse, and April, and we have looked at it, and talked to Brandon too. We are asking you to kind of give us a chance on it. If we realize that it is more than we think that we can do, we can always step back and bid it back out. If you hadn't seen the sidewalks and curbs down here in front of the library and going towards the hospital on Griffin, we have gotten so many complaints in the past and so many compliments in the last 2 or 3 weeks on what those guys have been doing, and Jack. Jack has been out there with him, trying to help them a little bit. It is just something to consider. I'm not trying to push you one way or the other.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, thoughts?

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** I like the idea with the Bridges of Hope guys. That's the way I look at it.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** And worst case, if that relationship broke down between our organization and theirs, we could also look at getting the prison detail back in. We had success with that to some degree. There is options. This isn't a catastrophe if we get into 6 months and realize that it's not working out.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** I like the idea of it as well. However, I do think R&G Lawncare can provide the same quality.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** They very well probably could. I just don't know much about them.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Well, we have got the equipment now to maintain these storm ditches, and clean and cut brush, and weed eat and all. And we have got enough people now that we have got our own crews. Are y'all interested in letting Spence and them continue what they are doing? And at this time for Division B, we just not accept any of these bids. We will carry on with our crews doing it. And in the event that it is more than they can handle, then we can rebid it back out. Alright, I don't think we need a motion not to accept the bids, do we?

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** No.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Then we can just rock on like I am doing now, Rita?

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** Right. Just let them know that they were rejected, and no action was taken.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We will notify them both tomorrow that there was no action taken on Division B.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESCHEDULE MEETING:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** First item under new business is to reschedule the December 26, 2022, council meeting. That will be the last meeting of the year. Becky, are y'all having court the 27<sup>th</sup>?

**POLICE CHIEF SHEFFIELD:** The 20<sup>th</sup>.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Would the 29<sup>th</sup> be open as far as you know?

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Or do you want to do the 27<sup>th</sup>?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** It doesn't matter. I'm here either way. Y'all pick it. 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** The 27<sup>th</sup> is Tuesday. The 29<sup>th</sup> is that Thursday.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** Do Tuesday, that way we won't forget it, because it will just be the day after.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** 27<sup>TH</sup> @ 6?

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Y'all good with the 27<sup>th</sup> at 6? Now, I need a motion to reschedule the December 26<sup>th</sup> regular council meeting to Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 6PM.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** **So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** **Second.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**INTRODUCE 2023 BUDGET:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is introduce the 2023 budget and set dates for it.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, I received no further feedback after the work session on the budget. So, this is what we are officially presenting the council today, unless there is another change. It's roughly a \$10,020,355 budget. Rough estimate, big numbers is \$3.5M is general fund, \$2.9M is the water fund, and solid waste is about \$685K. And the balance is made up of various other grant and special purpose funds. We need to have a public hearing on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30, isn't that right? So, we would need to have a vote to do that right before the meeting at 6.

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** And we would pass it on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** That's the 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30? Alright, I need a motion to approve the public hearing on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM before the meeting. And at the December 27<sup>th</sup> council meeting, we will vote to approve the budget.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** **So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Any other questions? If not, I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD:** **Second.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**CDBG RECOMMENDATION:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda are CDBG recommendations.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** The council had previously voted to do curb and gutter in Bacon Heights. After talking with Jesse and some of the council members, I believe that Jesse has a much better plan of where we need to spend that money.

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** Just keep in mind that we are under a corrective action plan because of our sewer or lack thereof. For the CDBG, in house with everybody's help, me and Mr. Royce, with a flashlight, got out and pulled some manholes and looked. Did April send you the map?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We rode around and looked at them on the way to Vidalia.

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** So, the issues that we saw were probably the worst in town. Horne Drive, the little area over here behind Shorty's Quick Stop, Beulah Avenue, Mount Moriah, and Cary Circle. Smith Street which is right down from Mount Moriah and Cary Circle. And then the line that we just repaired

between the Soperton Hwy and the Dublin Hwy that runs behind the Housing Authority, Eastside, and services the Eastside Housing Authority. Those need to be addressed. So, with all of that being said, I came up with over 10K feet of proposed sewer. As all of y'all know that when you go to the store, everything cost twice as much. Two years ago, we were looking at doing sewer and we were looking at \$80-\$85/ft to put it in. We are looking at \$145/ft now, all inclusive. That would be manhole, lid, rings, and the sewer line and the taps. So, if you look at a million-dollar CDBG, and it has to take Grand administration fees, and the engineering design, you're going to come up with somewhere between \$840-\$850K. And so that's going to be about 5800 feet of sewer that we can possibly do. So, I put the linear footage on the area photograph. But if we did Horne Drive, Beulah, and Mount Moriah/Cary Circle. That is the worst area. That puts us at 4200 feet. That would leave us 1655 feet to do. We could either do some of Smith Street or go ahead and do that behind Eastside Housing Authority. If we did that combination, we would have Horne Drive, Beulah, Mount Moriah/Cary Circle, and Eastman Housing Authority at Eastside. In those areas, I feel like with the qualifications of the CDBG, those areas would not have any problems or any issues of being approved for that. So, Spence and myself talked today about engineering. We have been using Stillwaters on our sewer and on our hydrant replacement. They have not got back with us in a while. I know they are covered up with plenty of work like most. My recommendation would be to ask for a request for qualifications and just see what engineering firms are out there and could get to this for us. I probably shouldn't say this, but I would. We have had an engineer in the past that did some of our sewer work, that has not done such a good job on our sewer work or our treatment plant. I would not want to include him on this RFQ. But other than that, there's plenty of folks out there.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We can just get whoever submits and then they can evaluate it. Would you be okay with that?

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** Yeah.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** if the council would let us, we would like to put out an RFQ for engineering firms. Let's see who puts back in and expresses an interest. And then let the council weigh in on the submissions.

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** Spence and myself have been coming back with some phone calls.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, we have engineers coming by weekly wanting work. And not sparing any engineering firm that we have worked with or dealt with. We haven't called any by names. Let's just see what else is out there. Sometimes people just get too busy. So, we have to look somewhere else.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** At this time, you just want a motion to put out an RFQ?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** An RFQ for a CDBG project in Bacon Heights, Sheldon Streets. We will get the verbiage right.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** When is this? When is the CDBG?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** This is for the 2023 year. I don't remember the deadline off the top of my head. April? I'm drawing a blank. We've got time to get one in though. I know that. Maybe the first of April.

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** I can't remember either. Whether that is when they award it or that is when they accept it. It may be when they turned it in, and it was awarded in October maybe with the last one?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** The last time that I looked at the dates, we had many months, and it wasn't pressing but we need to do it this month if we can. I wouldn't let it go to the first of the year without having it out there.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, with that being said then, I will entertain a motion to put out a bid for an RFQ for a CDBG project.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. Council, do y'all have any other questions? If not, I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Second.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**MONTHLY BILLS:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the monthly bills for November 15 – November 28, 2022. You all got those in your packets. Did you have any questions about them? If not, I need a motion to approve the monthly bills.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.**

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

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Second.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**2023 LIMB GRINDING RENEWAL:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next is the 2023 Limb Grinding Renewal.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes. #5 & #6 are actually related. To derive what I think would be a correct answer, we need certain facts. One of them is to know for 2023, what would a contractor charge us to dispose of the limb and leaf debris from James Avenue. And just to remind everybody about this in the public, this is the truck that drives around the neighborhoods and picks up the limbs and leaves and takes it down to James Avenue and dumps it. This contract would be for an individual to come in and dispose of that. We need to know what that number would be to try and look at how it fits into our overall solid waste management plan. Because, as you know, our residential trash pickup is up in March. So, it's time to put those bids out. So, what I'm asking is permission to bid out the limb and leaf removal from James Avenue. We call it limb grinding. Whether it is ground or hauled off, just get rid of it. And we would like to do it this way: bid it out as 4 pickups plus an additional pickup cost. And by that, I mean, we usually need it let's just say, Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Sometimes it is actually in July, and sometimes it is as late as April. So, we are just going to say four times a year and then, if we need it again, let's say a bad hurricane, what would you charge us to come in and do that? For an extra event. And the other way we want to bid it out is just not a yearly contract. It's just you come when we call you. If we need a bid out twice in January, what would you charge us. And then we may not need it bid out until May, what would you charge us? So, we are asking it to go out 2 ways. We are asking for your full yearly contract for four events. Plus, what you would charge for an extra event if we need it. And then the other is just I want to have you on call as needed. What would your cost be to clear that lot? Per call. Jack, you good with that?

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** I am good with it. That would give us some information to go on too.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, I need a motion to approve to advertise for limb and debris removal out of the James Avenue plant. And we're going to ask four times per year, which is the end of March, end of June, end of September, and end of December. Plus, with that, in the event of the extra event that we get overloaded again, how much per cost for an extra event? And along with that bid, what would you charge if we called you twice this year to get it, per call to remove limbs and debris? All right, I need a motion to approve to bid that out.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Second.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**GARBAGE CONTRACT RENEWAL:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Now, next on the agenda will be the garbage contract.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Alright, this is to handle residential trash cans. The green cans by everybody's driveway. That contract is up in March. It's time for us to bid that out. One of the contractors who is interested in that has asked if we would consider bidding that out with front loading dumpsters or without. They want front loading dumpsters included. The council, in my opinion, needs to look at it both ways. They need to know what the numbers are with or without before making a decision. So, we would be asking to bid out residential pickup with front-loading dumpsters and without front-loading dumpsters included. This does not include roll-off containers in any way. And just to make sure everybody is clear. There's three types of well at least three, there's really more. But there's residential cans, front-loading dumpsters, and roll-off containers. This has nothing to do with the roll off. I don't think that we want to get into that business. And we may not want to get into the front-loading dumpster business wither but one of the contractors has expressed a request for those numbers.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any questions or concerns?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Alright. So, some people are wondering what a front-loading dumpster is. So, it's the truck that has the hooks on the front. It drives to the dumpster and raises it over.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** You've got McDonald's and their trash. Burger King.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Right now, you have the county that provides that service. Ryland provides that service. I think Republic has got somebody in here. There's four or five private entities and what I'm predicting and don't know for certain, but I think Ryland is wanting to come back and show you those two numbers but what they're going to come back and ask for is an exclusive contract for the front-loading dumpsters. Now, they have not come in here and made that official and maybe I shouldn't be speculating until they do but you are going to have to have both of those numbers before you make up your mind, I think.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Any other questions? I'll entertain a motion to approve to advertise for bids for garbage contract renewal and also with that, a bid on front-loading dumpsters.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Got a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WOODARD: Second.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor show of hands? Motion carried unanimous.

**LEGION DRIVE PROJECT:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the Legion Drive project.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** So, Jesse has been working and I think we are to the point where we are ready to bid that out now. We are really excited about it. As you know, it's been a difficult project and I can't thank him enough and the other engineers and contractors that have consulted with him. Anything else to add?

**ENGINEER BEARDEN:** The only thing that I want to add is that we tried to value and add this engineering project for Legion Drive. We had several folks that wanted to come in here, and I don't disagree with them. They wanted to come in and put large box culverts in that would have changed the whole look and driveways. Put our pump station in a whole that would have just changed the whole



scene and look of Legion Drive. Plus, at half a million dollars. It just hurt my feelings so bad that we could spend a half a million dollars on a surface street. I mean, that's a lot of money for a 200-foot strip through there. So, with this, I've worked hard and diligently. We've got an easement from the Harrell's to keep that cleaned out. Y'all have graciously got us the backhoe and the excavator with the mulching head on it. It's going to help a lot. I am ready to see us mulch some beavers. You know that has been the problem. The Harrell's are mostly out of time. Well, most of the Harrell's moved away. In the case of that property, I don't want to say that they abandoned it, but it didn't get maintained. It just happened and it impeded the flow of just about the whole subchannel of Eastman. The watershed goes through there. So, we have designed four pipes and written up the bid or the solicitation to go in the paper this week. And so hopefully we can get this project going and get Legion Drive back open. While I am here Mr. Ronnie, I invite you to go look at the intersection of 14<sup>th</sup> and Page Street. Otis Grading and Landscape repaired that for us, replaced the culvert there. We had some issues come up. We had some water lines that we didn't know was going to be there. But you need to ride by. I invite all of you to go to the end of 14<sup>th</sup> at Page Street. That has turned out to be, well that's going to solve that problem of it looking like a lake. So, what I am counting on is Legion Drive turning out to be the same kind of job that 14<sup>th</sup> has turned out for us. Any questions?

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Do you have any questions for Jesse? Thank you for all your time and hard work getting in there. I will entertain a motion then to approve that packet with the bid notice and put it in the paper to advertise it.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:** Second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** A second from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**SEAL COATING/STRIPING MAIN STREET:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is seal coating/striping Main Street.

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** What we are up against is like a lot of other places in our town. It is starting to get a little dilapidated and a little worn down. What we're trying to do is save some money. Instead of having it paved, come in and seal coat it. Seal all of the cracks in the Main Street area, seal coat it and restripe it. Prolong 7 -10 years maybe on have to pave that area. That may not be a long time, but it is a long time when you are talking about the amount of money that we can save. All we want to do is bid it our right now. We're wanting to do it in sections because there is no way that we can close the whole section of Main Street down from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>. It's just impossible. It needs to be done in sections so that way the businesses can be operational and so forth. So, I would like to request for y'all to allow me to take bids on it.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, do y'all have any questions for Jack? So, you are just wanting to bid out seal coating?

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** We are going to bid out the whole project and then we will give them 120 days to complete it. And it would be done in intervals.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Do a section of street a block at a time?

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** And that would be east and west side.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright, do y'all have any other questions?

**INSPECTOR WHITE:** Keep in mind that this is just the downtown area, not the entire Main Street area.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Council, I would like to entertain a motion to bid out the seal coating and striping on Main Street.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** So moved.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** **Second.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

**LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARADE:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to approve to approve for the Lions Club Christmas parade.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** The Lions Club has requested permission to hold their annual Christmas parade following their traditional route through Eastman. We would ask the council to please consider letting them do that.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** What is the date on that?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Tenth at 6:30.

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** They leave 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and take a left onto Oak Street. Go to 5<sup>th</sup> and take a right. Then go up to Main Street and take a right, going down to 3<sup>rd</sup> and crossing over the railroad tracks and loop back to the courthouse.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** I reckon you are going to get with DOT.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** They have already filled out the paperwork and attached them out and got it to us. And we don't see any problems with it.

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** I will email everything to GDOT in the morning.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Alright. I'll take a motion then to approve the Lions Club Christmas parade, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** **So moved.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** **Second.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands. Motion approved unanimous.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I just want to tell y'all thank you for backing us on some of these endeavors. I know we're kind of moving in a different direction and we appreciate your confidence. We've got a good team up here. Thankfully, we've actually got a little bit of money from the federal government to work with right now. So, just thank you again for letting us try to get some of these things ready for the next 40-50 years.

**OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** We just sure appreciate all the workers and everybody that's taking part in the project. I know it ain't easy but y'all make it look easy and we sure appreciate you.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** I appreciate you. Are you going to leave us this year?

**POLICE CHIEF SHEFFIELD:** Yes.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** I don't appreciate you as much now.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Mr. Raymond, don't tell Becky about her surprise retirement party. We are losing her, Mr. Royce, and Mr. Carl. So, we will be having a lot of festivities coming up.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS:** At least they are leaving when we aren't a sinking ship like we was before.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** That's right. They have earned their retirement.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Oh yes, they sure have. A lot of years between them. I just want to add a big thank y'all. A thank you to Jack. Hopefully, people have seen over the last 6,7,8 months, a

different turn of events and how we're trying to work and run the city and I think the phrase or word of trying to become more sustainable ourselves that we're taking care of things and not depending on everybody in the world. Like if a limb falls, call somebody in Warner Robins and see if they can come and get it. So, thank you for the job you are doing. And Jack and Jesse. Thank you Sir. Thank you, Paul, who is a new employee that we have had in the last several months. And also, Wynnon. We have others. We are trying to take in the role of doing more for ourselves and not being so dependent on everybody. And Mark, thank you for everything that you have done and do. You have been along by us for the last 100 years.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We would have never survived; I can tell you. Thank you. You have kept the city afloat, you and your folks.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**SUSAN COFFEE:** I do want to say that the sidewalks look great. I've seen them working very hard as I have driven around. So, kudos to them. They are doing a good job. We have suffered through a rather long garbage contract. You have not said how long this one will be.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** 5 years.

**SUSAN COFFEE:** 5 years only, huh? Promise?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I can't bind the council to that, but I will try my best.

**SUSAN COFFEE:** So, it won't be 25 years again?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** No ma'am! I will offer my resignation right now if they do that.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** In talking with some of these companies, that's the most that they want to go.

**SUSAN COFFEE:** Good. I don't want any of us to get stuck with that one again.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** 3-5 years is the going rate now.

**JOHN BATTLE:** I think that y'all are doing a terrific job over the past years with me coming down here to council. I think you and the workers of the city are getting on the right track to bring the city up to where it should be. Because as it has already been stated, we have got pipes and things that have been there since Mr. Stone was here. So, y'all doing a good job and it's still going to take some time to get up to date because we are well behind but y'all on a track to put us in the right place. If you can continue without any big disruption. So, I give y'all kudos.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Thank you, Sir.

**INSPECTOR JACK WHITE:** I think that the key word that everybody is trying to come up with is accountability. We're holding ourselves as city employees accountable for what actions are being taken around town now. It is not someone in Warner Robins that we need to look at, we need to look right here at ourselves. When I say this, I mean everyone involved in politics or city business around here, we gotta look at ourselves.

**VIA FACEBOOK:**

**DEBBIE WEATHERSBEE:** Allow more bigger restaurants and businesses come into Eastman. We are so close to I-16 that Eastman should be growing by now. It's a shame that don't go and check out Dublin city people to see how they are growing and other small cities. Eastman is lucky to have their airport so why can't we get bigger and better businesses in town. Look around folks, the town only has one street on one side that looks halfway decent. Eastman also needs animal control.

**VELISA PUGH:** Please have business owners keep their business clean and neat. Especially Oak Street. Make it look nice for passerbys.

**DEBBIE WEATHERSBEE:** EXACTLY!!

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**JACK WHITE:** On that note, I think this falls back under accountability. That if we maintain ourselves as far as the city in a more accountable way as far as keeping it clean and making it look better. Other people around us will evolve and elevate their self to that point with us.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** And please call City Hall in the morning if you have got an animal control problem in your neighborhood in the city limits. Just let us know and we can have traps out there before lunch tomorrow. The deer I am unable to do anything about. And there is no shooting within the city limits.

**COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN:** Working together and trying to get better businesses and restaurants has been an ongoing affair and will continue to be.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** As far as that, we have a representative from the Chamber here and we work hand in hand with them. We encourage any entrepreneurs that want to open any kind of business. Any ideas on how to get them here, city hall is behind you.

**COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON:** We are actually still working on one, right? We have been trying to get them.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, Sir. They haven't told us no yet.

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

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**CITY CLERK**