

June 24, 2024

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, Debra Sheffield, and Mark Peacock. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, City Clerk April Sheffield, City Attorney Rita Llop, Administrative Assistant Dayna Winslette, City Inspector Jack White, Fire Lieutenant Derl Maxwell, and Assistant Police Chief Wesley Dyal. Audience members included EM Harrington III, Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Ellery & Loraine Aguayo, Martin Kehayes, Kristin Petch, John Battle, and Christy Martinez.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

Invocation was given by Councilor Peacock.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

There was one change to the agenda. Manager Barron asked to strike #6, the first reading of the Sewer Ordinance. Attorney Llop is still working on the amendment.

On a motion from Councilor Peacock, a second from Councilor Williams, and a unanimous vote, the agenda was amended for the requested change. On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the amended agenda was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for the June 10, 2024, regular meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Williams and a second from Councilor Sheffield.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

MONTHLY BILLS:

The bills for June 11 - 20, 2024, were unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Peacock.

RICHARD KEMP, TINY HOUSES:

Mr. Kemp was unavailable.

APPOINT PLANNING & ZONING BOARD REPLACEMENT:

With Jerry Steverson resigning from the board, it has been requested to appoint Ivelyn Lampkin to fill that seat. Councilor Sheffield has contacted Ivelyn, and she is willing to serve.

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams, Ivelyn Lampkin was unanimously voted onto the planning & zoning board.

APPROVE 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

The budget committee has worked diligently the last several weeks on trying to finalize this amendment. Manager Barron states that these amendments are involving the General Fund. The original 2024 Budget of anticipated revenue and expenses will each be decreased in the amount of \$113,453.15 for a new total of \$4,061,515.85.

During public comments, Mrs. Coffee asked why it was going down? Where else is it needing to be spent? There are over 20 changes that were made and instead of going line by line, a copy will be available to the public. Clerk Sheffield stated that the bulk of the change was being able to eliminate

using as much of the ARPA as a supplement so it could be used for a special project and not just operating costs. Mr. Battle asks which services are being cut for the city and Dodge County. Manager Barron stated that the services offered from the city itself will not be cut. However the city would be cutting the money that is given to other organization/services as support.

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Sheffield, the council unanimously voted to approve the 2024 budget amendments.

FIRST READING OF ALCOHOL ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS:

A work session took place last week with a lot of in-depth discussion and Attorney Llop has been working hard to get the changes ready.

The first section deals with reducing the food to alcohol ratio from 75% to 50% food required. Within the Restaurant District, the ratio was lowered to 25% food with the service of beer/wine. If you are serving spirituous liquors within the Restaurant District, the ration will remain at 50%. This fits the requirements that state law has.

There was also the elimination of the residential distance requirement within the Restaurant District, so long as the establishment has separate entrances and exits and there is no common area and separate postal addresses.

The Restaurant District has been refined to a smaller area. The beginning and ending point are at the same area. For clarity, it begins at the SE corner of the intersection of 5th Avenue and Oak Street, then along Oak Street until 2nd Avenue, left east on 2nd Avenue to Main Street, left north on Main Street to 3rd Avenue, right east on 3rd to King Street, right east on 4th Avenue to Foster Street, then left north on Foster to 5th Avenue, and then left west on 5th Avenue to the point at the beginning.

Previously there were prohibitions against certain alcohol related functions: drinking publicly, possession by minor, etc. Because they were inadvertently omitted, they will be remitted back in with this amendment.

During public comments, Mrs. Aguayo commented about wanting to service champagne and needing a wine license. When measuring distances it was discovered that her establishment was 36 feet shy of meeting the church footage requirement. There is a building that is being used for worship services around the corner. There is a store selling alcohol next to it. However, the church popped up after the store. Loraine had contacted the Department of Revenue, and it doesn't show that church licensed. The question has been asked what constitutes a church according to the state law? Inspector White, Clerk Sheffield, and Attorney Llop are trying to get ahold of an ATF agent to get some clarification of the laws.

Mrs. Coffee comments that the city has worked hard on this Restaurant District. But we know what is in this district. There is a church on 3rd on the corner. She asks that if there is a church in it, why haven't we cut them out. Why not grandfather something in or out? What about the others that are wanting to come downtown? Barron states it isn't a city problem, it is a state law. Clerk Sheffield states that the city is trying to figure out what the state is classifying as a church. The city ordinance states a place where worship is occurring. What about the difference between regular worship and a special event? Mrs. Aguayo asks about scrutinizing the businesses that are wanting to move into the downtown area and the Restaurant District. Try to keep intact and uphold what is really wanted in that district.

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the first reading of the Alcohol Ordinance amendment was approved.

CITY MANAGER HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

Barron thanks everyone for the Juneteenth celebration. He thanks Councilor Williams for being able to attend and represent the city. He also thanks the street department and all of their hard work in getting the Peabody area ready for Juneteenth.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

Councilor Williams thanks everyone for everyone involved in Juneteenth and those that checked on them. Mr. Battle comments on Juneteenth and thanks the city, the Chief of Police, all of the citizens and vendors that took part in it. It was a hot day.

Councilor Snyder reminds everyone about the fireworks on the 4th of July. The concert begins at 7 along with some food trucks and the fireworks will begin at dusk.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK