

July 8, 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, and Mark Peacock. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, City Clerk April Sheffield, City Attorney Rita Llop, City Inspector Jack White. Other department heads in attendance were acting Fire Chief Derl Maxwell, Police Chief Billy Cooper, Wastewater Operator Matt McDaniel, Wynnon Pittman, and Gerald Fordham. Audience members included Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan, EM Harrington III, Loraine and Ellery Aguayo, and Denesha Robinson.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

Invocation was given by Councilor Peacock.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was amended to add a #7, Special called meeting with the county at the Pearl Bates annex. The motion was made by Councilor Peacock, seconded by Councilor Williams, and approved by all.

Then, on a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Peacock, the amended agenda was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the June 24, 2024, regular meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

MONTHLY FIRE REPORTS:

Lieutenant Maxwell presented the calls for the month of June. A total of 43 calls were ran with 29 inside the city and 14 outside of the city. There were 3 structure fires, 1 false call, 3 brush fires, 1 dumpster fire, 2 down power lines, 1 natural gas leak, 12 medical calls, 4 vehicle rescues, 5 electronic alarms, 8 lift assists with EMS, 2 trees down, and 1 propane fire.

MONTHLY POLICE REPORTS:

Chief Cooper presented the stats for the month of June. They used 1,030 gallons of gas, answered 749 calls, worked 15 traffic accidents, patrolled 12,750 miles, collected \$31,066.37 in bonds/fines, and made 215 arrests/citations.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

BUILDING INSPECTION/CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Jack White presented the stats for the month of June. He collected \$4,356 in building permits, \$450 in electrical inspections, and \$400 in land and zone use. There were 3 blighted properties that were cleaned up and 1 demolished. Twelve letters have been issued in total and plan to issue 6 more this week. He is getting this ready to be able to issue citations.

WATER DISTRIBUTION:

Wynnon Pittman presented his report showing 3,180 meters in the system. Billed and serviced between 2500 - 2600 meters. 337 meters remain outside of the city. M & E Construction has replaced a total of 2,733 meters in doing their project. There is 1 8-inch meter left to install. Should be back in the next few weeks to install, and still be able to finish the project within budget. The water department pulled 2 meters and installed 1. Repaired 25 water meters, mainly leaky gaskets. Answered 210 work orders. There were 46 detected leaks: 18 being service line repairs and 3 broken mains. 105 cut ons and 112 cut offs. There were 45 locates completed. He was only able to get one area mulched this month while finding valves. They were able to vacuum out 11 storm drains. The department used 578 gallons of gas. Water revenue that was not billed was 76K gallons. For sewer issues, they had 1 private blockage, 5 investigations, 6 lines cleaned out, 1 line replaced and 1 tap installed. Concerning the lead and copper project, there are 321 meters left to identify. With the I&I sewer project, they have laid 300 ft of pipe and 2 manholes on Pine Drive. When asked, Wynnon says he feels that the project is moving a little slower than he would like due to coming across several issues that need to be addressed first. But the contractors seem to be a good group of guys and communicate well. The upcoming airport apartment project has brought in \$78,000 for sewer and water tap fees.

WASTEWATER/WATER SUPPLY:

Matt McDaniel presented the information for the month of June. Water pumped from the wells was 41,271,000 gallons which is an average of 1.376 MGD. Water usage at the treatment plant was 575,000 gallons. Treated water from the plant that was released into Sugar Creek was 12,110,000 gallons which is an average of 0.404 MGD. That is the lowest that it has been in a while. He also provided a graph detailing the number of hours used for each job type. Cleaning Clarifiers and Filters was 112 hours. Lab and sampling 115, belt press and sludge 30, lift station and well repair 71, mowing grass 16, plant maintenance 67, routine rounds 50, education and training 22, management duties 40, and plant operations were 112 hours used. Total of 635 hours. The biggest thing was that they had no violations and no spills. The month before we passed the wet test. That is where they put our water with the fish to see if it kills the fish or not.

STREET DEPARTMENT:

Gerald Fordham was present for this report. They used 844 gallons of fuel in the amount of \$2,931. Spent \$1,700 in repairs and maintenance, \$3,040 to Bridges of Hope, \$1,443 on supplies and materials, and a total of \$19,233 in payroll. A grand total of 1,222 hours were used on different projects this month. 17.5 on animal calls, 316.5 on curbs and gutters, 57.5 on ditches, 126.5 on tree limb cutting, 71.5 on potholes, 53.5 on trash pick-up, and 579 on mowing grass.

APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:

The monthly bills for June 25 – July 8, 2024, were unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Peacock.

FIRST READING OF THE REVISED ALCOHOL ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 2024-011-A:

In addition to what was proposed two weeks ago, Attorney Llop has added a definition for church in the ordinance. We had also been looking at the issue of consumption within the restaurant district and the distance requirements. The new definition of church in reference to this lists church as a registered non-profit in accordance with the GA Secretary of State, or an established church. This change requires a new first reading of the changes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: LORAIN AGUAYO: Asks if there was any change to the distances. Attorney Llop answered no, but we are being more specific in the definition of a church. Aguayo asks after the city talked to the state, is there any way to change or redefine the 100-yard distance requirement? And where does her application stand in reference to that? Attorney Llop informs that because of the definition change, Mrs. Aguayo's application can proceed forward after the passing of the new ordinance. **The first reading of the revised ordinance 2024-011-A was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams.**

SCHEDULE WORK SESSION:

They wish to have a work session on Tuesday, July 23. Time is unknown and depending upon the response from the Regional Commission and the Department of Community Affairs. The reason for the session is to have them brief us on some new grant opportunities. **The date and reason was approved on a motion from Councilor Williams and seconded by Councilor Peacock.**

CALLED MEETING FOR SPLOST NEGOTIATIONS:

We have been in negotiations with the county and other entities in the area concerning the upcoming SPLOST referendum. This will be a special called meeting to continuing that. They wish to hold it at the Pearl Bates annex on Thursday, July 11, at 5 PM. It was unanimously approved to participate on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Williams.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Reminds everyone about the sewer upgrades around Pine Street and Jessup Heights. The contractors are having to cut down trees and dig up yards. They are trying to repair everything back to original as much as possible. If there is a really bad area, please report it to City Hall. Also is the reminder that the fining for blighted property is about to begin.

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL

ADJOURNMENT:

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK