

January 10, 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 via telephone. Others present were City Manager Spencer Barron, Inspector Jesse Bearden, City Clerk April Sheffield, City Attorney Rita Llop, Police Chief Becky Sheffield, and Maya Clark. Present from the community were Charles Williams, Sharon Cobb Flanagan, John Battle, and Mark & Jill Studstill.

All attendees practiced social distancing guidelines due to COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was streamed via Facebook Live and the public was provided an opportunity to submit questions and/or comments via Facebook Live.

The meeting was called to order by City Manager Barron.

Invocation was given by Council Member Hamilton.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Newly elected District 1 Council Member Sebrina Williams and District 5 Council Member Jermayne Hamilton were sworn in by Attorney Rita Llop.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN:

CITY MANAGER BARRON: At this point I will entertain a motion to nominate a chairman for council for this upcoming year.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I would like to nominate Buddy Pittman.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Do we have a second?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Second.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Are there any other nominations? Move to close nominations?

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I will make that motion.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: All in favor? Motion carried.

APPOINT VICE-CHAIRMAN:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda will be to appoint a vice chairman. I will entertain a motion for nominees for vice chairman.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I will nominate Raymond Mullis.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a motion to nominate Raymond Mullis as vice chairman from Ms. Sebrina. Any other nominations? If not, I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Got a second. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous. Raymond Mullis is the vice chairman.

APPOINT CHAPLAIN:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda will be to appoint a chaplain.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I nominate our newest member, Jermayne Hamilton, to be our chaplain.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Okay, I have a motion to appoint Jermayne Hamilton as our chaplain. Do we have any other nominations? If not, then 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. Jermayne is our new chaplain.

APPOINT ATTORNEY:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda will be to appoint the city attorney.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I make a motion that we keep the same one we got, Ms. Rita.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: We have a motion to appoint Rita as our city attorney. Do we have any other nominations? If not, I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a second from Mrs. Sebrina. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous. Ms. Rita, you are our city attorney.

ATTORNEY LLOP: Thank you.

APPOINT RECORDERS COURT JUDGE:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to appoint a recorders court judge.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I have spoken with Joey Marchant, and he is interested in continuing that role if the council sees fit.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I make a motion to appoint Joey.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I have a motion to appoint Joey Marchant for our recorders court judge. Are there any other nominations? If none, I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Second.

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

APPROVE AGENDA:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to approve the agenda but I think we have...

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We need to add an emergency repair to a water line on Pine Ridge Rd. It would be #8.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright Sir. Emergency water repair on Pine Ridge Rd. Anything else that anybody needs to add?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: No Sir. Not from me.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Alright. If not, then I need a motion to amend the agenda with #8, Emergency water line repair on Pine Ridge Rd.

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: Got a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands? Alright, agenda amended. Now I need a motion to approve the amended agenda as it stands with the amendment.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Motion to approve 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 on the agenda is to approve the minutes of the December 27, 2021, regular meeting. I think you all got those in your packets over the weekend. Any questions about them or anything? Saw anything that needs a spelling change or a word added or something. If not, then I need a motion to approve the minutes from the December 27, 2021, regular meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a motion to approve the minutes. 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.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

MONTHLY FIRE REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER BARRON: He is not able to make it tonight. I will cover it for him unless you want to. I believe he had 38 calls for service within the city limits and he had 13 calls for service outside the city limits for the month of December. Total of 51 calls.

MONTHLY POLICE REPORTS:

POLICE CHIEF SHEFFIELD: For the month of December, we used 990 gallons of gas, answered 965 calls and had 18 wrecks.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Any questions for the Chief? If none, thank you.

APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to approve the monthly bills for December 28 - January 10. Y'all got those in your packet this weekend. Any questions on them? If not, I will entertain a motion to approve the monthly bills from December 28 – January 10.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a motion to approve the bills. I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Got a second. All in favor show of hands? Motion carried unanimous.

APPOINT ELECTION SUPERINTENDENT:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next is to appoint an election superintendent. I think always in the past that is the city manager.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Traditionally.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I reckon I need a motion to appoint..

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I make a motion to appoint Spence to be our election superintendent.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: We have a motion to appoint Spence Barron, the city manager, to be our election superintendent. Any questions from council or anything? If not, 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.

APPOINT ABSENTEE BALLOT CLERK:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next is to appoint the absentee ballot clerk. I think traditionally that has been or will be Ms. April. Oh, we didn't even say anything about that today. This is our new city clerk.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Our very first meeting as new city clerk.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I need a motion to appoint April as the absentee ballot clerk.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I have a motion to appoint April as the absentee ballot clerk. I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a second from Ms. Sebrina. All in favor show of hands. Motion carried unanimous.

APPOINT 3 MEMBERS TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to appoint 3 members to the Housing Authority Board. I think Michelle, the director out at the Housing Authority, as always. I think y'all got this letter in your packet. We have 2 for reappointment and their recommendation would be one as Elvis Davis. His term ended December 31, 2021, and that's a 5-year term. And reappoint Ms. Alice Faye Oxford. Her terms ends January 1, 2022, and the recommendation is to reappoint her for a 1-year term. And then there is a recommendation to appoint Stephen Whigham to fill Ms. Martha Sauls term ending December 31, 2022. Am I reading that right?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes Sir. Elvis Davis, Alice Faye Oxford, and Stephen Whigham are their requests.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Council, any questions or anything? If not, I will entertain a motion to appoint these 3 folks to the Housing Authority of the City of Eastman.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilman Mullis to appoint Mr. Elvis Davis, Ms. Alice Faye Oxford, and Mr. Stephen Whigham. I need a second.

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: Second.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor show of hands? Motion carried unanimous.

RESCHEDULE JANUARY 24 COUNCIL MEETING:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda it to reschedule the January 24th regular council meeting because of the Cities United Summit in Atlanta.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes Sir. The majority of us will be in Atlanta on the 24th. So possibly Tuesday, the 25th or Wednesday, the 26th or even Thursday the 27th, depending on the council's schedule, might be appropriate days.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: When do y'all have court Becky?

CHIEF SHEFFIELD: We have court on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: That is the 25th, so that let's that out. Do you want to shoot for Thursday, the 27th?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: That is good with me if it is good with the council.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Are y'all good with that date? Alright, I need a motion then to reschedule the January 24th council meeting to Thursday, January 27th. Alright, we will still meet at regular time, 6:00.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I have a motion to reschedule the meeting to January 27th. 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. I am writing this down. Now, if you will just text us and remind us of that.

EMERGENCY WATER LINE REPAIR ON PINE RIDGE RD:

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the busted water line repair on Pine Ridge Drive or Road?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: I call it Pine Ridge Rd. Jesse, do you want to address it any?

ENGINEER BEARDEN: Well, it makes so many circles, but it is on Pine Ridge Road. It ends up in Minter Ridge on Pine Haven Drive. Crosses College Street and goes into the Industrial Park. So, it is on Industrial Park Drive. It is a 6-inch water main. We were able to valve it off Saturday to stop some of the bleeding and reduced pressure to most houses to be able to have enough pressure to operate. But right now, we are without fire protection for that section of town.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And the city has no capacity to repair it ourselves, do we?

ENGINEER BEARDEN: Well, it would take an excavator. All we have right now is a rubber-tired backhoe. Most all of y'all would know. Before the bypass was built, Pine Haven use to come down that way. And of course, the bypass was built on top of that water main. The water main is in the original place it was back in the 70s. It crosses the creek and goes through some rough areas. So no, we do not have the equipment or the manpower to replace this pipe.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: With that being said, y'all getting with Mark and them?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes Sir. We have reached out to Graham & Studstill. They have given us a quote of \$11,100. I think he is here to answer any questions if y'all have any. I would ask that we go ahead and proceed with it though. It is an emergency and a risk.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Are y'all going to get started on it in the morning?

MARK STUDSTILL: If we can find the materials we are.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Recommendation is to make a motion to approve Graham & Studstill's quote of \$11,100. Provided that they can get the materials and all, get started in the morning or just as soon as he can get them. Is that correct? Good deal. Alright I need a motion to approve Graham & Studstill fixing this water line on half the streets in that part of town down there.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: So moved.

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

CITY MANAGER HAS NOTHING TO REPORT**OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:**

COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON: I would just like to thank the Lord for this opportunity to be here at this time and at this capacity and this environment to conduct business for the City of Eastman. This is truly a dream come true for me and my family. You know, first generation as a city councilman. That means a lot. I appreciate the support of everybody. I didn't have any opposition but the people that was going to actually run, they supported me, and I really appreciate that. It really means a lot to me. Just like I say, you know we all have dreams. We all have different things that we want to do in life. Start it one step at a time. Success is a collaboration of small steps. And if we could just see that through 2022, then I think we as the City of Eastman would be better off going forward into 2023. That's basically what I have to say. I just appreciate the opportunity.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: Glad to have you.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I can't follow that. But I am just happy to be here.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULLIS: I am happy for you to be here too.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

JOHN BATTLE: We would like to thank the city for putting that speed bump on Martin Luther King Drive.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: How many times have you hit it?

JOHN BATTLE: I hit it today for the first time. The reason we thank y'all is because they have a daycare there and they have got children playing in the area. And people be speeding through there like they on the interstate. Thank y'all for putting the speed bump there and I hope you put some in other places too.

COUNCIL MEMBER PITTMAN: I think these are the kind that you can pick up and move.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We can. And if there are places that the council particularly wants one or the public, if you will let us know. We have had some success. We have 2 out now and have heard a lot of good compliments about them.

On a motion from Councilman Mullis and a second from Councilwoman Williams, the meeting was adjourned.

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK