

April 24, 2023

The Eastman City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present: Jermayne Hamilton, Raymond Mullis, Buddy Pittman, Sebrina Williams, and Ronnie Woodard. Others present were Attorney Rita Llop, Assistant Police Chief Wesley Dyal, City Manager Spencer Barron, City Inspector Jack White, and City Clerk April Sheffield. Present from the community were Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Sharon Cobb Flanagan and Mike, Martin Kehayes, Kyle Davis, John Battle, and Charlotte Hopkins.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pittman.

The invocation was given by Chaplain Hamilton.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: The first order of business is to approve the agenda. Is there any additions, deletions.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: No Sir, no changes. None from me.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: All right. Well, I'll entertain a motion to approve the agenda as it stands.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: We have a motion to approve the agenda from Council Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a second from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor, show of hands.

Motion carried unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023, regular meeting. I think all of you got those in your packets Friday. Any questions or? About anything in those? If not, I need a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023, regular meeting.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCILOR WOODARD: Second.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a second from Councilman Woodard. All in favor, show of hands. **Motion carried unanimous.**

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

FARMERS MARKET:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: First under new business is the farmer's market.

SHARON COBB FLANAGAN: So Cindy also chairs the board, the library board, and she thought she'd be here probably a little bit later. So hopefully she'll come in if you have any questions for her. But what we're asking for is approval to temporarily use The Club on Saturday morning. I believe the hours were 9 to 12, that were discussed. And we want to use it for the purpose of restarting the farmer's market. A slow restart. There are vendors interested in selling. And Cindy and I met to discuss this because Cindy's been wanting to get this started up again and a lot of people are asking about it. Just so you know, and I didn't bring the list with me, but there was over 6 to 8 or more locations that were suggested and we thought about and discussed each one of them and we settled on The Club. And then there were multiple reasons for that. One priority is a bathroom. So, the bathroom is absolutely necessary. That

was a problem with the courthouse. It had to close before. There's an external door at The Club that's a bathroom. You know, that's a door to a bathroom. So, people can get to it from the outside without going into the rest of the building, is my understanding. We looked at and discussed locations all the way up and down Oak Street, College, and Oak, starting from the Chamber, I mean, we started way down by the Terry Coleman. And came and we looked and discussed the use of the Goody's building, the use of seeing if we could get an authorization or OK to use by the old Stuckey's plant where the auctions are. We, I can't remember all the places, but we kind of went down the roads and the best thing that came up was The Club. There's no activities going on at The Club on Saturday and we believe that it's kind of a little bit off the main. And we can be off and protected from traffic and things like that? Which is a problem to make sure that we're paying attention to safety concerns. We don't want anyone to get hurt. There would be ample parking. People can walk to it. And in consideration of the Goody's building, just to let you know, we even looked at church parking lots. OK, in consideration of the Goody's building, it looked like it might work out okay, but there is a lot of traffic and congestion right there, which creates a safety concern as well as we'd have to have access for a bathroom and then someone would have to be maintaining that bathroom. Because we're asking volunteers to handle all this stuff, right? So, there's a limit to what they're going to do. And I can tell you I'm not cleaning the bathroom. I'm not cleaning a public bathroom, OK? Anyway, The Club surfaced as it kept coming back as a good option, if it was OK with the city. So we're asking for that and it's temporary until we can get access to either something else or back to the courthouse. That's what Cindy was going to come ask you for. Any questions?

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: You did a very good job. Council, do y'all have any questions?

COUNCILOR MULLIS: When do y'all expect it to open?

SHARON COBB FLANAGAN: If we get approval to use The Club, I believe Cindy's thought was to start as soon as we could in May. People are growing things and wanting to sell it. And people are asking for the farmers market, and I'm sure you all realize that the cost of food is going up and up and up. So that's another reason we want to get this market going. So, I don't have a set date. I think it might be the first or second, probably the 2nd Saturday in May.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Any other questions? I know for me I don't have a problem with it. And it's glad to see y'all getting it back started and all.

SHARON COBB FLANAGAN: So, one more thing. I feel that I need to say and Mike and I discussed this, because I want to make sure my memory was correct. When we had the farmers market at the courthouse, that location is really great. But there really weren't a lot of people. In fact, maybe we could count maybe 2, that would actually walk to it at that central location. Everybody drove and parked and got out. Some wanted the food brought to them in the car and that was done, but nobody was really walking. And of the two that were walking, they were walking through, but they were not buying. They were not there as customers. They were walking to the service station.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: That's up there, in that neighborhood, maybe there's a lot of those folks may come and join. Join in and purchase some stuff. Council, if y'all don't have any other questions, I'll entertain a motion to allow the farmers market to use The Club.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I make a motion that we let them use the farmers market down at The Club.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Second.

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

SHARON COBB FLANAGAN: Thank you.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Yes ma'am.

SHOP SMALL SATURDAY:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Alright, next on the agenda is the Shop Small Saturday event.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Will you tell us a little about what you are planning to do?

KYLE DAVIS: First off, good afternoon. My name is Kyle Davis. I am the owner and operator of Backdraft BBQ, a small catering business located here in Eastman. And myself, along with Miss Priscilla Dyal, who is owner of Dodge Fitness and Eastman Nutrition, are requesting permission from you guys to hold an event downtown Eastman that we have called Shop Small Saturday. The purpose of this event is to bring attention and to bring spotlight to those small business owners here locally, who are putting in the extra effort, you know, and trying to go the extra mile. We don't always get the spotlight and you know bigger business and all, but we wanted to highlight, you know, the hard work that these individuals along with ourselves are putting in. So our idea and what we were wanting to propose to you guys, was that on Saturday, May the 20th, we would like to ask for permission to block off the roads for this event. We have two locations in mind. They're basically the same location. But the first thing that we had in mind was from right at the corner of the gym here on College Street, up to the four-way stop and then down to Main Street. Just that little L shape there. And if that wasn't acceptable, we were going to ask for permission just to block off this portion of 2nd Avenue from Main Street to College Street. We have approximately at this time 16 small vendors who are interested in participating in this event. We made the decision that for our initial event that we wanted to keep it a unique, one-of-a-kind event. So for instance, Backdraft BBQ that day, will be the only food vendor on site. We would be doing rib plates and hot dogs. They would be highlighted with the loaded teas and the nutritional side of it. We have the Hartley's on board, who are going to come do shaved ice. Big Mikes' Inflatables wanted to set up an inflatable for the kids, which is why we were requesting that portion there just to give him room to set up his inflatables and work. And as I said, we have 16 different vendors. We've also talked with Chief Whitten of the Fire Department. And he is willing to set up here at the top of 2nd Avenue and Main to do events for the public to let kids walk around, tour the fire trucks, do some type of demonstration. We also got signed documentation from Miss Taylor Barnett at the Tech Center. They are closed on Saturdays, so that would not affect their flow of traffic or their business. In fact, they want to participate with us. Their idea was to set up some of the puzzle mats outside and do some of the MMA demonstrations. Allow some of the people to get hands on if they would like in order to try to grow their business and get more people enrolled in class. Some of the leg work that we've done on it, I spoke with Chief Whitten. In the event of an emergency, he said that if we were to block this street off, it would not affect him because when they come out of the bay they can go left or right down Main Street to get whichever way they need to. I also spoke with Assistant Chief Dyal as far as the PD goes, the PD offices will be closed on Saturday, so that wouldn't affect their traffic. And if they have an emergency or an arrest, anything, they have this alleyway here, in between the PD and the City Hall that will go down straight down to 3rd Avenue, or they can cut through to College Street. And as I said, this was just an idea that we come up with to highlight these small businesses. We wanted to do an initial trial run. If we got y'all's approval and if it were successful, we've talked about maybe future plans and extending out, you know the number of vendors that we can have. But for the first one, we didn't want to bring in five food vendors and have everybody competing against everybody. As I said in the beginning of my presentation, we kind of wanted to keep it a unique original and give each little group, you know, their own spotlight and allow them to gain a customer base and people to see other things that we have locally here. If you guys have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them. And I just appreciate your consideration for this event.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Now, I might have overlooked it, but what time were you talking about?

KYLE DAVIS: Oh, I'm sorry. We would like the event to be from 8:00 to 2:00 on Saturday.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: And OK, all right. If we go to shut down from that stop sign right there, back up here. I reckon folks can park on Main Street and walk around the corner.

KYLE DAVIS: Yes, Sir. That was our idea to kind of park back here at Main Street, up near the fire department and Sidetrack and all, and, you know, have them walk in.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: You're aware that we may have to get the backhoes or dump trucks out? They'll be an alley or a way for us to connect to the alley?

KYLE DAVIS: Yes Sir. We will make sure that we will leave clearance in order for you to get them out of the building up to Main Street or whichever way that you see is fit. We will make sure that we leave the space there as well. I know that Assistant Chief Dyal will be there that day and he told me that he would help out with the operations or the logistics on that as well.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I reckon you got behind the shop building. You have parking back there as well.

INSPECTOR WHITE: What I was going to suggest if y'all will agree to go along with it with the city's input, is we can move this equipment around to the backside of the building and let them have this area so they can set up some of the stuff where you can still come down the street. That's on y'all's call.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: As long as we can move it or get it out, I'm happy. But I get what Jack is saying. That might give them more room if they need to set up in that area.

INSPECTOR WHITE: Well, not only that, if we had an emergency and had to get to our equipment, it would already be around on the backside where we could access it easier.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Right, get out quicker. And you know something's going to happen. It never fails on a Saturday. If it's alright with y'all from an operation standpoint, we'll move it back there to that grassy area, kind of how we set up at the auction. That will give you a little more room too.

KYLE DAVIS: Yes Sir. And we're not charging for this event. I mean, there's no, I meant to say that up front. We're not charging vendors to come in. We're not charging people. We reached out to different small businesses that we knew, and we asked them if they would come be a part of this. And like I said, everybody was excited. I believe we turned in a list of the vendors that we had at the time that was willing to participate.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We will try to make sure that we have it locked down over there. We don't want people just rambling through the supply room.

KYLE DAVIS: And that's the reason we request the space there in front of the gym. Like I said, I'm not sure if he hasn't locked it down yet, whether he would just bring an inflatable or if he would bring a water slide. But we're trying to give him enough room to operate, you know, and not have everything just piled in on top of each other right here. So just that little L shape, but if not, we can go with just this.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Right in there would be your perfect place.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And water too.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: I was going to say put that in the shop area. Because once you put that up, you can't move it.

KYLE DAVIS: OK, I think that's a great idea too. Yeah, I didn't think about that.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: That's if y'all decide to do that. That way you leave College Street open for traffic and things.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Yeah, we definitely want to leave that straight or that street open.

KYLE DAVIES: Yes, Sir.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: But I agree with it, yeah.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We'll move everything out of the service corridor there. But y'all agree not to block the four-way stop. Chief Dyal, does that sound okay with the Police Department?

ASSISTANT CHIEF DYAL: We're going to do that as long as we can get through it.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: What do you think, Mr. Chairman?

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: I think that sounds great. Y'all have any more questions?

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Just for clarification, could you give us a rundown of exactly what your plans are again? As far as this street and that street?

KYLE DAVIS: Yes, Sir. We were just going to block the street off right here at the four-way stop. Chief Whitten is going to have a fire truck down here at Main Street. And then we will have vendors lining both sides of the road right here. Like I said, shaved ice, funnel cakes, T-shirts, embroidery. We are going to have the rib plates and everything. And then the gym will also be open, and the nutrition center will be open for people to come in. And like I said, it's just the opportunity for these different small business owners to get some spotlight and to get out in the public.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: Are you blocking any intersections?

KYLE DAVIS: So no, we're not blocking any intersections. The only one that may be affected somewhat just depending on how Scotty parked the truck would be right here on Main Street. But back here, we would stay off of the four way stop and have people set up. In fact, I could get with whomever makes the call, and you know, if you will show me where you want it at, we'll make sure at that point that we stay that far back. Just give me some guidelines to operate off of. If you could do that, you know whatever is safe for you and gives you enough room. We will make sure that we adhere to those guidelines.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Y'all have any more questions? If not, **I'll entertain a motion to move forward with the Shop Small Saturday event, May the 20th from 8:00 to 2:00 PM on 2nd St. from stop sign to stop sign.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: **I make a motion to approve the Shop Small Saturday event, May the 20th, 8:00 to 2:00.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: **Second.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor, show of hands. **Motion carried unanimous.**

KYLE DAVIS: Thank you.

GEORGIA CITIES RESOLUTION:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is Georgia Cities Resolution for Georgia Cities Week.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, Sir. It's that time of the year again. April 23rd through 29th, 2023, is Georgia Cities Week. So we have an official proclamation prepared if the Council chooses to pass it, and in honor of this week. The ladies have done an outstanding job. April and Dayna have put together several social media posts, so if you're not already following the City of Eastman Facebook and Instagram page, please do so. You'll see photographs and historical updates regarding locations on the National Registry of Historic Places, services relevant to the city, samples of our community spirit, and individuals around town that we think everyone would enjoy reading about. So the whole list front and back and you'll see it appear on the Facebook and Instagram accounts in living color with pictures and narratives. And Twitter? Wow, we are breaking all boundaries now so. Didn't know we had a Twitter account.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: Yes, we have had one.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: You know that us old folks don't know how to do that stuff.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: See, I'm falling somewhere in that gap. I do Facebook and Instagram, but I haven't, you know, figured out Twitter yet. Well, me and you'll have a tutorial on it. We'll get somebody to teach us how to use it.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: We need to do that.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I will ask this question; do you all want me to read this resolution? I like that head shaking. That's what I'm talking about. We would be glad to give everyone a copy of it on your way out if you don't have one already. And on moving on, **I will ask for a motion to approve the Georgia Cities Week resolution.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: **So moved.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: **Second.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: I have a second from Councilman Hamilton. All in favor, show of hands. **Motion carried unanimous.**

JUNETEENTH PROCLAMATION:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is the Juneteenth Proclamation.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Yes, Sir. We have a request from several individuals around town that the city honor the celebration of June 19th, known as Juneteenth 2023, again this year. We had a great celebration last year and look forward to the same thing this year. So we would ask for permission to prepare a proclamation and to begin planning those events.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: It's already prepared.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: How about that.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: And it's going to be June, the 17th and 18th, which I think is a Saturday and Sunday, 2023. Did I look at the calendar right? I think I did. Isn't that a Saturday and a Sunday?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: The 19th is usually that Monday. Mr. John Battle. Does that sound kind of where the planning stage is going at this point?

JOHN BATTLE: June 17, only one day. That Saturday.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: OK, just the 17th. But then the 19th is the federal and state holiday, right? OK. All right. And as y'all get us the agenda and the event schedule, we'll publish that for you on our Twitter and our Facebook and our Instagram.

JOHN BATTLE: As soon as Ms. Gail gets back into town, she can provide y'all with that information.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: With that being said, **I'll entertain a motion then to adopt the Juneteenth Proclamation for the city.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: **So moved.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: **Second.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a second from Councilwoman Williams. All in favor, show of hands. **Motion carried unanimous.**

MONTHLY BILLS:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Next on the agenda is to approve the monthly bills for April 11th through April 24th, and you all got those in your packet this weekend. Y'all have any questions about them? If not, **I'll entertain a motion to approve the monthly bills for April 11th through the 24th.**

COUNCILOR MULLIS: **So moved.**

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Have a motion from Councilman Mullis. I need a second.

COUNCILOR WOODARD: **Second.**

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

CITY MANAGER' HAS NOTHING TO REPORT:

OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: While we have Facebook, I will go ahead and if I tell it wrong, you stop me. For everyone listening and everyone attending, you all should have these pretty red trash cans out in front of your houses now. And there were letters and instructions on all of them. For this week, continue putting your household trash in the green cans and carry them out to the side of the road. Which they were coming today, so hopefully you did that today. Because I know that I have seen a few red ones out

there with trash all in them and I'm like hmm, that ain't going to work. And at the end of this week, they will be picking all the green cans up and next week start using the red cans.

CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD: She did email this morning. Some people did not put their green cans out today. They put their red cans out today. They may be picking cans up next week. Some people did not follow instructions. Green cans should be left at the edge of the road. Red cans should not go out yet.

COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Should we just leave the green cans out?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And that's what I would do. I wouldn't bother bringing them back and forth because like April said, this isn't going quite to plan. So before it's over, we're probably gonna have city workers trying to corral them up too. So everyone attending tell all your friends and neighbors and cousins and kinfolks and folks you don't like everything else, but please tell them. And for folks on Facebook, please tell everybody that Spence has had instructions and all. And like I said, I know I'd come down the streets today and saw some red ones loaded down.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We literally put the instructions on every single can and, but it's OK, we'll get it handled, no problem.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: We'll get through it.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Nobody panic. It's trash. We'll get it.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: More instructions. Anything else, Sir?

CITY MANAGER BARRON: No, Sir.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: I appreciate everybody in here that has donated money to the fireworks and anybody out there, on what do you call this thing? Facebook? With anybody out there on Facebook would like to donate to the city, just send it to April Sheffield in care of the fireworks. And the city and me especially will appreciate it.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We will even come pick it up if we have to.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Yeah, I will even do that. My number is 689-6966.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

SHARON COBB FLANAGAN: I'm going to talk to you about broadband. So, the state of Georgia has been given some money to help facilitate the broadband initiatives. The goal? This county is broadband county wide. That's a broad goal, but it's important. And so when they were here a couple of weeks ago for the listening session, they handed out these flyers. I did not grab a whole stack of them. But I have these two to share. One of them is addressing how we can correct mistakes in data on a Georgia map pertaining to our county regarding what the FCC thinks our broadband accessibility is versus what is the reality of our broadband access. And the reason for that is the numbers that they are giving to the different residents here in our county, including in the cities, are derived from one number that's based on the census block. So they get one number for a whole census block and everybody in that census block has that amount of accessibility. And we all know that that's not correct because that's a peanut butter approach that is not going to work here. So they have a link that you can go to, and you can look up your address or a family members and if you disagree with the numbers, you can challenge it. They call it Challenge the Map. The state is begging people to challenge the map, so that the data is correct. The value of that data and the importance and criticality of that data being accurate, I can't even begin to communicate very well. But let me just say this, they are looking at that data to make a decision on how much funding is going to different counties to support getting broadband. So we can ignore it and say, oh well, you know, or we can validate that they've got the right number. How do you get every resident to do that? I have no idea, but this is a start. So I have one of these with the link on it. Maybe copies can be given out. That's extremely critical. The grant monies and stuff for that broadband is completely dependent on the data in this map tied to your address and yours and mine.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Well wait until May 1st. We have this whole initiative for that.

SHARON COBB FLANAGAN: OK. The second piece to this whole broadband initiative and the funding that's coming from federal to state is extremely important because OK, so now you've got broadband, but maybe you don't know what it means, how you're supposed to use it, you can't afford a device or the bill. OK. Any or all of those? So that second piece of that effort of the funding is tied to coming up with a way to have people know that if you qualify, you can get a device. They'll give you up to \$100 for a device depending on qualifications. Also depending on qualifications, people can get access with their internet connectivity. The bill that comes in the mail, like you get a water bill, you get a Internet access bill. A lot of us get that, but not everybody does. If you qualify, you can get it for \$30.00 a month maximum. What I'm trying to say here is there should be, hopefully, very little reasons for people not to be able to get access to broadband. Why is that important to me? It's important to me because well, I know from experience living in other places, things over time get here. I remember coming here with a cell phone and this area didn't have cell phone towers and things like that. And I couldn't communicate to anybody from when I was visiting my family here. Like OK. Fast forward. I know that broadband is going to be critical for healthcare. Education. We saw the educational impact with the COVID and streaming TV. I think there's a lot of people out there with a lot of investments in stock and things like that. I think TV is going to go away. OK. I think what we know as TV, well, I remember black and white. And then I remember when they painted it to look like its color and it wasn't, but it was black and white TV and look where we are now. Things are moving where everything is going to be on the Internet. And if we are not ready for it, once again, we are going to be left behind. So the responsibility now is on the residents and those of us that are leaders to get people to be aware of this. Take advantage of it if it fits them. Don't let this money pass through us and go to the next county over or 4 counties down. We don't have a lot of resources to go around and ask people to do these things like the bigger cities do. But I've come to learn that when there is extra money, then they gravitate it back to the big cities, right? I mean, that just happens because they are going to spend the money. But we have to ask for our portion and we have to show that we're qualified for it. Otherwise, fast forward 10, 20, 30 years and the trench is going to go past us. And so that's why these things are important to me. And I am sorry I took so much time, but please, just try to get this information out.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: And starting the May, just echoing what she said, we're going to try to mail this out with the next water bill cycle. So every house in the city limits will get a copy of the information and the hope being that they take a few minutes to pay the water bill, they'll take 3 or 4 minutes, log on and complete the survey and participate.

COUNCILOR HAMILTON: Well, I will say this, let me say this real quick. You have been on this broadband journey for about almost a year I know, at least. And I would say that was a well, you know, thought out presentation that you presented us today. So, I've spoke to you about it a couple of times in your presentations, but I think that one right there, really, you know, sparked the feel.

SUSAN COFFEE: I was going to tell you that I, this is Susan Coffee, I was going to tell you that I challenged the map because they had my house on Hawkinsville Rd. in the middle of a pond in Wood Valley. And there's a little bitty shape on that map, and I actually drug it and put it down there to where my house really is, and I hope it helps not only the broadband map but maybe Google because they put me up at Grace Baptist Church for my street address. So I hope that gets there, but just to add to this for people who are listening, I know that they were doing testing. A lot of our families are familiar with all the testing they've been doing at the school system. They tried to do some kind of study class or testing. They had 100 students in the lunchroom to get on their Chromebooks, and only half of them could get on it because there was not enough broadband to load them all up. So this is important. It's important. I'm in the healthcare business with a personal care home. If you stop and think about it, you don't walk out with that little bitty piece of paper anymore with the prescription from the doctor. It goes straight to the pharmacy and if you leave the doctor's office and go to the pharmacy, and it's not there, chances are it's because our broadband is slow. Our Internet is slow. So this is something that counts for all of us.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: Want to talk about the lead paint? I mean, I will if you. Real quick, and thank you Sharon and the county commissioners, they are sponsoring a paint recycling day Saturday, May 6th, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Dodge County Courthouse. They're going to have fire trucks, hot dogs, a high school art contest. Winners will be announced. And you can bring, let's see, 5 - two or one-gallon buckets, 1-quart and one-pint cans. Latex, oil based, and stains only. Paint should not be mixed with anything, including other paints in order to be considered recyclable. And note this is not a household hazardous waste collection. So that's gonna be May 6th at the courthouse, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. If you got any old paint stains or varnishes.

MIKE FLANAGAN: If you have got a paint can that you used inside of your house, take a picture of the top of the can and the formula for the color. Don't forget that. You will never remember the color. I have had people argue with me about that.

CITY MANAGER BARRON: We appreciate the advice.

JOHN BATTLE: I would like to just say I'm glad to see that the Eastman City Council, City Manager and everyone that has come to the meetings recently, all of the city employees and all. Trying to move Dodge County City to a better place. Eastman and the county, we are so far behind with logistics and a whole lot of other things. I can stand here and tell you many more things, but I wanted to give the City Council, City Manager, and city employees kudos. For the city of Eastman is making more progress trying to take us to a new level than where we've been before. We usually stay stagnant. I don't have to say anymore. Even when you ride around the city now, you see better streets, better paving, better everything going on in the city. We've been in the Stone Age too long. It's time for us to get to the 21st century and I don't have to say anything else to you. All of you live here in Dodge County and you know what's going on. Thank you, City Council, for trying to put us in the 21st century.

COUNCILOR MULLIS: Thank you.

COUNCILOR PITTMAN: Thank you, Sir.

VIA FACEBOOK:

JESSIE SMITH: Thank you for keeping Woodlawn looking good.

ASPIRE JEFFREY: Broadband will open up the opportunities the community currently doesn't have right now for the city and the county. I definitely support this. Also sending many thanks for the upkeep at the Eastman Cemetery! The families truly appreciate it.

GAIL SMITH: June 17th is correct. Juneteenth is only one day.

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

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK