**June 12, 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, Police Chief Billy Cooper, Fire Chief Scotty Whitten, City Manager Spencer Barron, City Inspector Jack White, and City Clerk April Sheffield. Present from the community were Susan and Mitchell Coffee, Ken Rogers, EM Harrington III, John Battle, Charlotte Hopkins, and Jesse Bearden.

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 item of business will be to approve the agenda.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes Sir, we need toamend #6 to state that it includes an MOU with the United Concerned Citizens at the Peabody complex.

**COUNCILOR** **PITTMAN**: Okay. And #13, the work session clarification would be city water/sewer policy for new annexations and water rates for county residents on city water. Council, do y’all have anything that y’all want to add or clarify or anything? If not**, I need a motion to amend the agenda with #6 adding the MOU with the United Concerned Citizens and Peabody Complex and for new annexations and water rates for county residents on city water.**

**COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: So moved.**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** I have a motion from Councilwoman Williams. I need a second.

**COUNCILOR WOODARD: Second.**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Have a second. All in favor, show of hands. **Motion carried unanimous. Now, I need a motion to approve the agenda with the amendments as it stands.**

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON: So moved.**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** I have a motion from Councilman Hamilton. 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 May 22, 2023, regularmeeting. Y’all got those in your packets over the weekend. Any questions about them or anything? If not, **I need a motion to approve the minutes then.**

**COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.**

**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.**

***NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS:***

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***NEW BUSINESS:***

***FIRE REPORTS:***

**FIRE CHIEF WHITTEN:** For the month of May we ran a grand total of 46 calls. 32 inside the city and 14 outside the city. We had 1 brush fire, 1 vehicle fire. Power lines down 1. LP gas leak 1. Medical calls, we ran 12. Vehicle rescue 8. Electrical alarm 4. Lift assist 9. Life Flight 2. Power line and trees 6. Public service 1.

***POLICE REPORTS:***

**POLICE CHIEF COOPER:** For the month of May we used 1,175 gallons of gas. We answered 748 calls, 25 traffic accidents, and patrolled 13,727 miles.

***KEN ROGERS, DODGE ARTS GUILD:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is Ken Rogers with the Dodge Arts Guild.

**KEN ROGERS:** On behalf of the Arts Guild of Dodge County, I would like to request street closure of Main Street in front of the outdoor theater on Friday, June 30, from 4pm to 10pm for a free outdoor concert. We are calling this event Friday Night Live. People will bring a chair. We will advertise it on Facebook and around town. We are planning on having live music one Friday per month for June, July, and August this summer. So, I will be back.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We may need to just issue you like a regulation set of orange barrels so you can put them out as needed.

**KEN ROGERS**: Again, that was Friday, June 30 from 4pm – 10pm on Main Street in front of the theater.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Any questions for Ken? If not, **I need a motion to approve closing the street there in front of the theater from 4 – 10pm on Friday, June 30.**

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON: So moved.**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** I have a motion from Councilman Hamilton. 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.**

***RESCHEDULE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING FOR GMA:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to reschedule the council meeting due to the GMA Convention in Savannah.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, normally we would have a meeting on the 26th. What would be the council’s pleasure to move the meeting to the next possible night. Maybe Wednesday or Thursday of that week?

**COUNCILOR WILLIAMS:** Thursday.

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** What is the date on that?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** That would be the 29th. We would move it from the 26th to June 29th at 6pm here at City Hall. If that is agreeable to everyone.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Are y’all good with that? **I’ll need a motion to then to reschedule the council meeting to Thursday, June 29th at 6pm.**

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** **So moved.**

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

**COUNCILOR WILLIAMS: Second.**

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

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***APPROVE MONTHLY BILLS:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to approve the monthly bills for May 23 – June 12. Y’all got those in your packets. So, any questions about them? If not, **I need a motion to approve the monthly bills.**

**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 MOU WITH UNITED CONCERNED CITIZENS:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the MOU with the United Concern Citizens at the Peabody Complex.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, Sir. This drafted document spells out our arrangement with the Peabody Complex for the use of that facility for the good of the public. It will also allow us to partner with them for various functions to the benefit of the city being held there.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Do y’all have any questions about it? If not, then **I'll entertain a motion to approve this MOU with the United Concern Citizens group and the Peabody High complex.**

**COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.**

**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.**

***APPROVE CONTRACT WITH DODGE CONNECTIONS:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to approve the contract renewal with Dodge Family Connections.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** As most of you remember, we are the financial pass-through agency for the Club’s program with Dodge Family Connections. That agreement would be the same one as we had last year.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Any questions for Spence? If not then, **I’ll entertain a motion to approve the contract renewal with Dodge Family Connections.**

**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.**

***APPROVE LWCF GRANT RESOLUTION:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to approve the LWCF Grant Resolution.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, as most of y’all remember, we have applied for a $500,000 grant at The Club here to update it. Our match is $500,000. So, it will be a million dollars if we get this grant, and it will go towards improving it. One of the things that is necessary for that is a resolution passed by this body. The city attorney has prepared that draft and we ask that you would pass it in support of our application for $500,000 worth of grant money from the State of Georgia for The Club.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Council, do y’all have any questions for Spence? If not, then **I will entertain a motion to approve the LWCF grant resolution in hopes of getting the $500,000 grant.**

**COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.**

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**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.**

***OBSERVANCE OF JUNETEENTH:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is the observance of Juneteenth.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, I believe the consensus at the work session was to add that date as a city holiday. That will bring us in line with what the Federal Government has done, and the State of Georgia has also done. But it requires a vote in an open meeting.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Any questions for Spence? If not, then I need a motion to add the Juneteenth holiday to the city’s holiday list.

**COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.**

**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.**

***APPROVE WATERSHED PROTECTION STUDY QUOTE:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to approve the Watershed Protection study quote.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** This is a requirement from our state regulators that we either perform by paying someone or do it ourselves. It is an assessment of our watershed monitoring. Last year it was $18,031. The quote from the same company this year is $22,710. But it is not really something that we have a choice in doing.

**COUNCILOR WILLIAMS:** What was it last year?

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Last time, I believe this is the one that we do every 2 years if I am not mistaken.

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** You do one part every year and then there is another test that you do every other year. This is the every year test.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I apologize. This is the every year versus every 2 years. I didn’t have Matt here to explain it and I probably should have.

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** I think he said that they were going to try and do some of this in-house next year to save money. But there is one of those tests or parts of that test that they do not do. So, they will still have to bring them in.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I don’t see any way for us to get out of doing it this year. Again, it has jumped from $18,000 to $22,710. So we definitely are going to be looking at doing something in the next coming years.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Any questions for Spence? If not, **then I need a motion to approve the Watershed Protection study quote.**

**COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.**

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** 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.**

***PERMISSION TO BID OUT THE CLUB TENNIS COURT PROJECT:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is permission to bid out The Club tennis courts.

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**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, this is a contingency plan in case we don’t get the grant for The Club. We would at least have the numbers prepared to know how to budget going into next year, if we wanted to try to do it as a phased approach. Maybe the tennis courts one year, the splash pad the next year. That type of thing. So, we are just asking for permission to put out quotes to have those tennis courts refurbished so we will know how to budget for next year if the grant doesn’t come through and if the Council decides that is the path to proceed. It is more for fact finding than anything at this point.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Any questions for Spence? If not, then I need a motion to grant permission to bid out The Club tennis court project.

**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.**

***FIRE TRUCK REPAIRS:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is fire truck repairs. I think everybody got a copy of that in your packets.

**CHIEF WHITTEN:** This is repairs that are needed on the oldest engine in our fleet which is 28 years old. I got an estimate to repair the things that is really pressing right now. Pressure gauges and pressure relief valve and other gauges. It’s from Brackett. It is $4,239.08

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Any other questions for the chief? If none, then how long will it take them to do all of this.

**CHIEF WHITTEN:** He is kind of behind right now and I don’t have a starting date. But they will actually do it in-house, down here at the station. It shouldn’t take, I would say, probably a couple of days once they get started.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Alright, I will entertain a motion then to approve the fire truck repairs for $4,239.08 from Randall Brackett Fire Truck Repair.

**COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.**

**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.**

***WORK SESSION FOR CITY WATER/SEWER POLICY FOR NEW ANNEXATIONS & WATER RATES FOR***

***COUNTY RESIDENTS ON CITY WATER:***

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Next on the agenda is to schedule a work session for the city water/sewer policy for new annexations and water rates for county residents on city water.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Yes, as you know, we recently amended our ordinances to allow a different process for zoning to bring in new properties. It is really time now, I think, to sit down and discuss how we are going to handle water and sewer in these new areas as we bring them in. So this work session will be limited to that. It will be an opportunity for us to discuss the future growth and the council’s wishes in terms of how to handle these situations. As well as the current county residents that are on city water as well. That will factor into the discussion.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Does anybody have any questions concerning that?

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** Yeah, when are we going to do it?

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Let’s see. If we try to do it this week, Thursday, I will not be in town. Do y’all want to try next week if we can come to some conclusion.

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** What about Tuesday?

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**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Tomorrow? I have a Development Authority meeting at 5.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We can have them in the morning, if that is easier for people. I don’t see this being a long meeting. This is just to decide our policy moving forward so that we actually have written guidelines about how we are going to handle it.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Sebrina, are you going to be gone all next week? Or just after GMA? Do y’all want to try and have it Tuesday then, the 20th?

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON:** Yeah, you said next Tuesday on the 20th? What time?

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Is evening better for you Jermayne? You want to try about 4:00? 4:30? Hopefully, I wouldn’t think that it would last more than an hour.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** Not unless there are some mighty deep discussions.

**ATTORNEY LLOP:** Is that the Downtown Development meeting?

**CITY CLERK SHEFFIELD:** That’s Monday. Oh wait, they did move it because Monday is Juneteenth and that is a holiday.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** We can have a work session in my office, or we can put them in my office, and we can meet in here? We do have 2 spaces in here to work with.

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON:** 4:00 is fine with me.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** What time is their meeting?

**ATTORNEY LLOP**: 4 or 4:30?

**COUNCILOR MULLIS:** It is easier to meet in your office.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** There is plenty of room for either us or them. And guests. I can’t imagine there will be too many at the DDA meeting.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Y’all want to do it at 4:30 next Tuesday? Or 4:00?

**COUNCILOR WOODARD:** On the 20th?

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON:** 4 or 4:30 is fine with me.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** 4:00? **I need a motion then to approve to have a work session next Tuesday, June 20th, at 4:00pm.**

**COUNCILOR MULLIS: So moved.**

**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.**

***CITY MANAGER’S REPORT:***

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** I just want to mention that we have been getting several complaints about stray animals around town. So please do a really good job if you can, of keeping your animals locked up and off the streets. We are looking at different alternatives to try and handle the problem. There is just no cheap or easy solution to it right now. But we ask everyone to please be a responsible pet owner. If you do see a problem or have a problem with an animal, please call City Hall. We do track and note those complaints. The ones that we can do something about, we will intervene. The ones that we cannot, we will at least track the complaints so we will know what the magnitude of the problem is.

***OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:***

**COUNCILOR HAMILTON:** Just talking to the city in general. If y’all can keep your eye out on a person, subject, somebody leaving busted glass in the roadway. This has happened for a couple of weeks now. I don’t know who it is, but we would like for you to report it if you see it done. Because one of our main priorities is to keep everybody safe. That’s what we want to continue to do.

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**COUNCILOR WILLIAMS:** I would just like to remind everyone about the Juneteenth celebrations that are happening at the old Peabody School beginning at 10:00. We are not promoting anything. Everyone is welcome.

**COUNCILOR PITTMAN:** Saturday at 10:00?

**COUNCILOR WILLIAMS:** Yes, it’s only one day.

**CITY MANAGER BARRON:** No, Sir.

***NO PUBLIC COMMENTS:***

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

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**CHAIRMAN CITY CLERK**