August 10, 2026

The Eastman City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. The following council members were present: Graham Snyder, John Battle II, Dwayne Burney, and Debra Sheffield. Others present were City Attorney Chris Gordon, City Manager Spencer Barron, Police Investigator Josh Roberson, Fire Chief Derl Maxwell, City Clerk April Sheffield, Assistant City Manager Dayna Winslette, Code Enforcer Gerald Fordham, and Public Works Director Wynnon Pittman. Other department heads present were Street Supervisor Brandon Brisco, Water Operator Rodney Harrell, Wastewater Operator Matt McDaniel, and Park Director Tanijia Hughes. Present from the community were EM Harrington III, Darshay and Justin Frazier, Shanaye Tuff, Charlie Johnson, Charlotte Hopkins, MayClaire Bryant, Ashley Black, Cheryl Barrett, Loraine and Ellery Aguayo, and Sonia Olmeder.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

Invocation was given by Councilor Burney.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilor Snyder began with requesting to add another item to the agenda, #5 – scheduling a work session to discuss ongoing projects and an ordinance review. **On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Battle, the agenda was unanimously amended to scheduling a work session. The newly amended agenda was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilors Sheffield and Burney and a second from Councilor Battle.**

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Battle, to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2026, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Interim Chief Maxwell presented the fire report for the month of July2026. The department answered a grand total of 186 calls. There were no structure fires in the city or county last month. There was one other fire-related call in the city. The EMS portion included 130 medical related calls with 86 in the city and 44 in the county and 6 MVC's with 3 in the city and 3 in the county. There were 32 public service calls such as fire alarms, smoke scares, and trees down with 27 in the city and 5 in the county. The department was cancelled in route twice in the city and 7 times in the county. There were 8 Air Evac calls. There was a total of 180 training hours for the department. Zach Pate is now a certified EMT. Jaden Corson also passed EMT with the department. John Walker passed his flammable liquids class. These are trainings beyond what we do normally. Jacoree Wilcox is in class all week for fire and life safety coordinator so he can head up the CCR program. And Q is in the fire officer 2 class. There is a lot going on as far as training and education.

Investigator Roberson presented the July report for the police department. The department answered a total of 557 calls, worked 23 traffic accidents, wrote a total of 35 tickets and 15 written warnings. They collected a total of $12,260.41 in cash bonds and fines. There were 1,098 gallons of gas used while patrolling 13,033 miles. There was a total of 17 jail days.

Wynnon presented the water distribution report. There were a total of 464 work orders to be broken down as follows: 104 water cut-ons, 153 water cut-offs, 28 possible water leaks were checked, 1 hole filled in, 29

actual water leaks, 104 locates, 1 meter set, GPS of 1 meter, and performed maintenance on 14 meters and one hydrant. Maintenance was performed on 2 vehicles, and 1 area was cold patched. The sewer orders included 9 sewer investigations, 1 sewer tap installed, and 6 lines required cleaning. As far as stormwater is concerned, they helped with cleaning 1 catch basin, 5 ditches, and 3 culvert repairs. The department used 533 gallons of gas last month.

Brandon presented the street department report. For the month of July, there was a total of 6 work orders for animal calls, 9 for cleaning ditches, 2 sidewalk repairs, 12 holes filled in, 5 areas needed trees trimmed, 2 limb pickup orders, 3 trees down, 36 requests for mowing certain areas, 3 trash pickups, 2 specific curb and gutter work orders, 1 sign down, and 4 vehicle maintenance orders. There were 47 orders for limb and leaf pickup. The total number of orders has increased because of logging all pickups that the limb and leaf truck pick up on their daily routine routes. When asked how the new dumping site was going, Brisco stated that they have acquired 2 full-time employees to dedicate to the site and actual pickup. It seems to be going well, and he hasn't heard any complaints.

Rodney came forward to give an update on the wells. A total of 34,752,000 gallons of water were pumped during the month of July. That is an average of 1.121 MGD. Councilor Snyder asked for an update on the ordered generator. Harrell responded that the transfer switch is already in stock and ready, but the actual generator is on a ship somewhere in the ocean.

Matt presented the wastewater information for July. A total of 607.5 hours were spent with 60 hours on cleaning clarifiers and filters, 127 on lab and sampling, 45 on the belt press and sludge, 79 on lift station and well repair, 57 on lawn maintenance, 115 on plant maintenance, 25 on routine rounds, 24 on management duties, and 75.5 on plant operations. The amount of treated water released from the plant into Sugar Creek was 20,930,000 gallons with an average of 0.675 MGD. There were 697,360 gallons of water used at the plant. The total rain for this month was 5 inches. The lab charged $4,207 for wastewater testing. Matt mentioned that the water usage at the plant had increased due to a leak that caused the rotor shear and the belt press to run more and use more water.

Gerald gave an update for the code and permitting departments. There were a total of 85 work orders this month. He handled 46 grease trap inspections, dealt with 1 limb and leaf violation, 2 other code enforcement issues, and issued 3 code violations. There was 1 sign permit issued, 15 building inspections, 3 business license inspections, 2 moving permits, and 12 electrical permits. Fordham stated that there are 16 active building permits and plenty more are coming soon with some upcoming projects. Councilor Snyder asks for an update of code ordinance changes. The city is updating a lot of the older ordinances that have contradicting information. Some no longer comply with the state law because of recent changes. The city has adopted the International Property Code Maintenance which deals mainly with grass, weeds, high vegetation, overgrown properties, trash and debris, and stuff like that. Councilor Burney asks who is responsible for leaving furniture out by the street. Gerald states that the owner is responsible for the house if it's dilapidated, or not up to code. The renter is responsible for all the trash and debris on the property. Gerald also spent the last week at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center and earned some special inspection certificates.

Wynnon came forward to report that the 2 people that were hired for limb and leaf are doing a phenomenal job. He and Brandon sometimes must assist with hauling some dirt over helping with dirt cover but for the most part; they are out there running smoothly. Councilor Snyder asks if Pittman foresees the need for any more equipment out there at the site. At some point, the city is going to have to look into doing something different if we want to keep that excavator in town mulching. It needs to be in town mulching, laying lines. There's a little tractor that we've got out there and at some point, if we leave it out

there, we're going to end up killing it. That's why Wynnon made the decision to leave the excavator out there. A lot of the loads coming out there are just more than that older, little tractor can handle. Pittman has started up at the Park, with already having laid 40 feet of storm drain. It is currently too wet to continue. Graham & Studstill have the bathrooms at the Park are about 95% complete. They have also come a long way with the pavilion. They will pour concrete at the end of the week. The tin has been ordered for the top. As far as the grad site, Graham & Studstill has got everything cleared and Chief Maxwell gave them permission to burn to speed up the cleanup process. He has gotten the locates requested, so he can start laying pipe soon. Mr. Wilcox is working alongside the developers on Gracie Lane. The developer is pouring his driveways, and the city made the decision to go in and pour sidewalks in between the driveways in order to make the neighborhood more uniform. Pittman updated that he purchased more fuel than usual but only due to having more equipment running at the same time. Wynnon commends the street department for doing a phenomenal job with the small amount of help that he currently has. Councilor Snyder asks if there is an estimated completion date for the splashpad. Korkat has promised to give a 3-week lead time of expected arrival and has promised to be done by the end of September. As far as the street sweeper, the expected arrival is in December if not as early as November.

Park Director, Tanijia Hughes, came forward to give updates about her department. On the 14th, we launched the weekly pickleball game night held every Tuesday at 6 P.m. to keep the participation active between the league seasons. On the 15th, they partnered with Middle Georgia Aviation Flight Instructors to host an event featuring pickleball, dodgeball, cornhole, and other activities. July 20th through the 24th, they coordinated with the police department for hosting some educational classes. On the 25th, Sunset Park hosted a successful back-to-school event providing school supplies. On July 28th, they partnered with Dodge County 4-H to host a successful back to school event featuring a water slide, horse riding, and more. On the 29th, the move-in process began for our new CAN/CMA training partnership with classes starting soon. And looking ahead for August, pickleball registration will be held August 3rd through the 20th with opening day on the 25th at 6 PM. The registration fee is $20, and people can come and register or Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 5 – 7 PM. She will continue trying to improve our facility, expand our community programs and develop the Sunset Park Committee.

FRAZIER FOOD TRUCK PARK:

On behalf of the Food Truck Park, Darshay Frazier came before the board to request approval to host a family fun and game night every first Saturday. They would like to have a guest DJ and want to be respectful of downtown and surrounding residents. It would include basic games, musical chairs, karaoke, etc. Foot traffic has slowed down since the kids are back in school. They are looking to create an event that would bring more foot traffic back downtown. Councilor Snyder voices his concerns of tying up the police officers and street department on weekends. Ms. Frazier states that it would only be the first Saturday of the month. They will play it by ear and see what kind of crowd intends to participate. If the street department would leave them a few barrels around, the vendors might be able to handle the crowd themselves after the first initial events. The first night is scheduled to be Saturday, September 5, 2026, from 4 – 9 PM. Approval is unanimously given on a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Battle.

RISEUP EASTMAN COLOR WALK AND CONCERT:

Ashley Black, who serves as the ARSC (Addiction Recovery Support Center) coordinator over the new RISEUP Eastman Extension, came forward to request permission for a community event. They are a recovery community organization with Community Service Board of Middle Georgia. The event will be the **RISEUP Eastman Recovery Color Walk & Concert. It would be held on Saturday, September 5, 2026, at the old historical courthouse.** Registration will begin at 9 AM and the walk will start at 10. The walk should end

by 12. The concert will begin afterwards and last a few hours. This event is a free, family-friendly substance abuse celebration of hope, healing, and recovery. The purpose is to bring the community together to raise awareness about mental health and substance abuse recovery while demonstrating that recovery is possible and that no one must walk the journey alone. They work every day with individuals and families whose lives have been affected by substance abuse. We see people overcome tremendous obstacles, reconnect with their families, return to work, and become active members of our community. The event will begin with the community color walk around the historic courthouse and neighboring streets. Along the route, participants will pass through color stations representing values that are essential to recovery. Following the walk, there will be a live outdoor concert featuring local musicians along with messages of hope from individuals in recovery, certified addiction recovery empowerment specialists, certified peer specialists, and community leaders. Community organizations and healthcare providers will provide information about prevention, treatment, peer recovery support, overdose prevention, naloxone education, mental health resources, and other services available. They are hoping for 100 to 150 participants, including individuals in recovery, families, youth, healthcare professionals, first responders, educators, faith leaders, local businesses, and community members from across Dodge County and the surrounding area. She emphasizes that they are not requesting funding from Dodge County or the City of Eastman. They've applied for a Recovery Month mini grant to support the event because September is National Recovery Month, and they will be responsible for all funding needed to make it successful. However, they are requesting a partnership. They ask for city support in assisting with the coordination of the walking route. They plan to stay in the nearby neighborhood and not on state highways. They hope the city will help us promote the event and join them on the day of the event. When people recover, communities become stronger. The Recovery Color Walking Concert is about creating hope, reducing stigma, and reminding every person who attends that recovery is real and that our community cares. Councilor Snyder clarified that the city is unable to give permission to use the courthouse grounds, but he doesn't see a problem with helping with traffic and such. Ms. Black confirms she is on the next agenda for the county meeting to ask for their permission and support. The ending time of the event will more than likely coincide with the Farmers Market that will be taking place at the same time. Afterwards, they will suggest staying in town and heading towards Main Street to participate in the local Food Truck Event also scheduled for that afternoon. With no other questions, **Councilor Sheffield and Battle made a motion to approve the RISEUP Event. Councilor Burney seconded the motion and all members approved.**

QUANTAM KIDS & EVENTS – OCTOBER EVENT:

Ms. Aguayo distributed flyers to the council to show what would be advertised for the proposed event. It's advertised to be a really fun-packed day. They partner with the chamber, for the Music on Main Street date, the 24th of October. They know that there's families and children out there already dressed up and ready for the trunk or treat and enjoying that day. It is planned to be a bigger group than last year. Last year the county donated a flatbed to use, and the city let them close off the street all the way to in front of Daniel's Law, where the stage was. We had all our own vendors. This year will be the same thing, but a lot of special things are going on. They are asking for funding. They have proposed a budget and what they're going to be doing. They have the flight school that they're working with for some flight simulators, the GBI is going to do a Batman crime scene. The main thing is to just create an environment for kids, not just to have fun, but also to learn and to have some kind of career expectancy for their later years and just kind of see where their giftings are. They have local farmers that are doing the small plant gardens and succulents, and all this event is free and for the kids. The pumpkin carvings will be done again this year and the painting showcased where they're doing the homemade costumes. Local artists are doing canvas paintings. There's a Dora the Explorer scavenger hunt. They are involving the rest of the businesses downtown and so they're

going to have to go to each downtown business that's open that day to get the next clue to go to the next business and then they'll find something at each business. Just wanting to create an environment of community. A local medical student is going to be doing Doctor Who. The high school art team and drama team have gotten involved and will be getting the time travel telephone booth built and painted. All of the activities are free. They are trying to raise $8,000 by that time so a lot of these things can get done. Two actors that are coming. Michael Koski is coming back this year. He was on Walking Dead and Guardians of the Galaxy. Another actor that's coming with him is Greg French, a filmmaker. He will speak about being able to identify your limits and use your handicaps to further your career and your goals. There will be an interactive LEGO presentation. They are hoping to have WMAZ involved for promotions and advertising. They want to advertise Eastman and have something creative for the kids to do. They had 400 people attend last year. People came out of town from everywhere to do stuff like this. Councilor Snyder states that the organization is a tax-exempt organization, so those who have a desire or a passion to invest can do so and receive some tax-exempt credit. Manager Barron is definitely in favor of supporting it. He thinks it's going to be the biggest event the city has had in the whole year and will grow to become a bigger and bigger event. But the reality is there is no money budgeted for it. There is money that could be allocated if the council agrees to it. Attorney Gordon points out that there's very narrow window for a city to donate public money to. He confirms that the event is open to the public and no admission is charged. He asks for a basic summary of the public benefit and what they think this gives to the community. It looks like an opportunity for kind of a free public education. Chris states that the city may have to have some document to just basically contemplate that in exchange for a donation, the event is providing free public education of the arts and that kind of thing. It may be just something that's almost in the form of a resolution, not a contract or anything, but a written document that just says this is the intended purpose of this. Spence understands that everybody else is trying to fund themselves too. Rise Up's doing a great job trying to raise money. Chamber's trying to raise money. The city is trying to figure out how to spread the love around. Councilor Snyder states that he is willing to make a recommendation for contributing up to $2,500 toward this event. Spence says the city can cover $2500 and the anticipated costs for porta potties on top of the unallocated costs for police and fire. Hopefully the event coordinators will be able to raise money on top of that. Gordon says it needs to be clear that we're partnering with them for free public education on the arts and not for festivals or a fair. It's a service the city doesn't provide. The key here is there is a service to the public other than just entertainment. **Councilor Snyder then asks for a motion to approve contributing up to $2,500 to Quantum Kids and Events for educational purposes for the event to be held October 25th, 2026, in conjunction with the Music on Main. Councilor Battle makes the motion with a second from Councilor Burney and is approved by all.**

WORK SESSION:

Councilors Burney and Battle made a motion to have a work session on Monday, August 17, 2026, at 6 PM. The purpose of the work session would be to discuss ongoing projects as well as the two proposed ordinance amendments. Councilor Sheffield gave a second with a unanimous vote by all.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL, PROPERTY, AND LEGAL:

On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and a second from Councilor Battle, the council unanimously voted to enter into executive session. The entire council along with the city attorney, city manager, and assistant city manager adjourned from the regular session and into an executive session to discuss personnel, property, and legal matters.

After some time, all exited the executive session and entered back into regular session. This was done on a motion from Councilor Burney, a second from Councilor Battle, and a unanimous vote from Council. No other action was taken.

CITY MANAGER HAD NOTHING TO REPORT:

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and a second from Councilor Burney, the meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote.

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CHAIRMAN **CITY CLERK**