July 13, 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, Debra Sheffield, and Mark Peacock. Others present were City Attorney Chris Gordon, City Manager Spencer Barron, Police Investigators Josh Roberson and Nick Hulette, 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, Distribution Supervisor Evan Harrell, and Park Director Tanijia Hughes. Present from the community were EM Harrington III, Mitchell and Susan Coffee, and Doug Stevens.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

Invocation was given by Councilor Peacock.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Battle, the agenda was unanimously amended to remove the Budget Amendments until a later date. The newly amended budget was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Sheffield.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Battle, to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2026, regular meeting and the June 30, 2026, called 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 June 2026. The department answered a grand total of 181 calls. There were no structure fires in the city or county last month. There were 6 other fire-related calls with 3 in the city and 3 in the county. The EMS portion included 134 medical related calls with 98 in the city and 36 in the county and 6 MVC's with 1 in the city and 5 in the county. There were 17 public service calls such as fire alarms, smoke scares, and trees down with 14 in the city and 3 in the county. The department was cancelled in route once in the city and once in the county. There were 16 Air Evac calls. There was a total of 204 training hours for the department. Derl states that he felt that the fireworks went well. It was a lot better show this year. He hasn't heard any complaints, only praises. He gives praise to all his full-time and volunteer firefighters that came in to help with the event. He also thanks Brandon and his crew for helping with the cleanup. Councilor Snyder thanks all that helped with the event and agrees that a fantastic job was done.

Investigator Roberson presented the June report for the police department. The department answered a total of 584 calls, worked 20 traffic accidents, wrote a total of 87 tickets and 71 written warnings. They collected a total of $12,408.97 in cash bonds and fines. There were 1,189 gallons of gas used while patrolling 13,954 miles. There was a total of 29 jail days.

Evan presented the water distribution report. There were a total of 446 work orders to be broken down as follows: 126 water cut-ons, 148 water cut-offs, 13 possible water leaks were checked, 2 holes filled in, 1 new

meter box installed, 20 actual water leaks, 56 locates, 3 meters set, GPS of 2 meters, 1 meter pulled, 2 meters repaired, performed maintenance on 27 meters, 5 valves inspected, 5 meters inspected, and maintenance on 2 fire hydrants. Maintenance was performed on 1 vehicle, and 1 area was cold patched. The sewer orders included 4 manhole inspections, 5 sewer investigations, 4 repairs, and 11 lines required cleaning. AS far as stormwater, they helped with cleaning 3 catch basins and 4 ditches. The department used 438 gallons of gas last month.

Brandon presented the street department report. For the month of June, there was a total of 7 work orders for animal calls, 2 areas needed trees trimmed, 11 limb pickup orders, 13 orders for mowing in certain areas, 3 trash pickups, 14 specific curb and gutter work orders, 1 speed bump, and 1 vehicle maintenance orders. There were 37 orders for limb and leaf pickup. The bulk of their time for June was spent working on cleaning out storm ditches for 353 hours. Councilor Snyder reiterated how much they appreciate the hard work and Brandon and his department do.

Rodney came forward to give an update on the wells. A total of 31,952,000 gallons of water were pumped during the month of June. That is an average of 1.065 MGD. Rodney shared a picture of the newly installed open carport or shed to house the loaner generator from Georgia Rural Water Association. There is also enough room to house another generator and the backhoe while still having some extra space.

Matt presented the wastewater information for June. A total of 542 hours were spent with 69 hours on cleaning clarifiers and filters, 148 on lab and sampling, 30 on the belt press and sludge, 69 on lift station and well repair, 37 on lawn maintenance, 39 on plant maintenance, 28 on routine rounds, 21 on management duties, and 101 on plant operations. The amount of treated water released from the plant into Sugar Creek was 30,560,000 gallons with an average of 1.02 MGD. There were 417,050 gallons of water used at the plant. The total rain for this month was 7.4 inches. The lab charged $4,672 for wastewater testing. Councilor Snyder mentioned noticing that the amount of treated water for June was almost double that of May. He is confident that Matt and his team are diligently working to identify and remedy those areas still producing a lot of infiltration.

Gerald gave an update for the code and permitting departments. There were a total of 87 work orders this month. He handled 47 grease trap inspections, dealt with 1 blighted property, a planning and zoning issue, and issued 4 code violations for grass and trash by the road. There were 24 building inspections, 9 building permits, 1 business license inspection, and 1 electrical permit. Councilor Snyder asks for an update of the project with the code specialist. Gerald responded that they had met last week and got some Edmunds modules designed for the ability to take future payments in permitting. She is finishing up the suggested changes to our codes and will be getting them to Attorney Gordon soon.

Wynnon came to report that they used 224 gallons of gas at the limb and leaf disposal site this past month. They pushed down and buried 37 loads of limbs and took 43 loads of dirt to bury it back level. The Ward Street and Dodge Avenue project has been completed. Prescription Drive entrance at Griffin has been replaced along with the sidewalk in that area. Graham & Studstill will be starting tomorrow at the City Park on the Building B bathrooms and the outdoor area near the splashpad. They have also started on the grad site. Wynnon personally thanks the Dodge County High School football team for their 17 players that came out and helped with cleanup the night of the fireworks. Councilor Peacock asks about the possibility of getting the crosswalks on Pearl Bates repainted with good DOT paint so they can be better seen and able to withstand a little more cross traffic. Wynnon agrees and will reach out to them.

Newly appointed Park Director, Tanijia Hughes, came forward to give updates about her department. Her main focus has been trying to build a strong operational foundation for the park by improving organization, communication, and community involvement while evaluating the current programs and identifying opportunities for growth. They successfully completed the first season of the Eastman City Park Pickleball League. They received so much support and positive feedback and are now preparing for the next one. To keep the momentum going, there are friendly pickleball nights each Tuesday for the existing players while waiting for the next season to begin. Registration is anticipated to open on July 27th, with the league beginning on August 18th. She has established a facility rental program by developing rental agreements, liability forms, pricing, and procedures to ensure that rentals are handled consistently and professionally. Our prices are intentionally set to be fair and affordable, starting with $100 refundable deposit. This does not include any rental fees. We will continue reviewing participation, maintenance calls, and community feedback over the next few months to make adjustments as needed. Looking ahead, they are developing an Eastman City Park community feedback link to allow residents to share ideas and recommendations for the future leagues and improvements. Tanijia has begun working alongside community leaders at Sunset Park to strengthen the communication and coordination between the City of Eastman and the Sunset Park Committee. Councilor Snyder inquired about an online calendar generated for the public to know about all of the upcoming events and how to rent the spaces and when they are available. That project is in the works but has not gone live yet. Any interested parties would need to contact her directly at the Park.

APPROVE 2026-Q2 BILLS:

After council review, there were no questions concerning the 2nd Quarter bills for 2026. **The bills were unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Sheffield.**

APPROVE MAIN STREET PAVING PROJECT:

Manager Barron stated that he did not need an official vote tonight. He wanted to introduce an addition to the upcoming paving project. Last month, they approved the 2026 LMIG streets to pave, and it included two side streets and Main Street downtown. Barron proposes to use some of the discretionary money in the TSPLOST fund to get some additional blocks downtown paved while the equipment is there. He doesn't have the exact numbers, but they believe it will fall somewhere between $50 – 65,000 a block. That area was skipped in the last paving project a few years ago. There are some pretty deep cracks along Main Street. Perhaps doing two blocks would make more sense if the funds could be approved. Councilor Snyder points out the sidewalk and rail project at the corner of 3rd Avenue and College Street. A fantastic job was done. There are several more sidewalks downtown that are areas of concern. The question is going to be what should be addressed first. Barron also pointed out that he and Councilor Battle met with the Airport Authority recently and they will be making a request in the coming weeks for $20 – 30,000. It would have to come out of the same bucket or be willing to dive into the SPLOST funds. Council decided that decision would wait until they were approached.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Barron asks Mr. John Stevens to come forward and address the council. He felt the need to give the city some positive press. He has been a citizen of Eastman since 2021. A month after buying their house, they started having plumbing issues with backups and clogged pipes. He called the city and they came and cleaned the lines out. All was well for about 2 months, and it happened again. The city guys graciously went back out and cleaned the lines again. Mr. Stevens and his wife were advised against using specific types of tissue and wipes. Later on that year during the Thanksgiving holiday, it happens again. Same scenario and

same remedy. This continues for 4 years. He and his wife had become embarrassed to call and was just tired of living that way. Someone had come out during those years and had a conversation with him, but nothing else was done. He finally decided to approach Manager Barron, who promised him answers. He sent Evan Harrell and his team out to find out what was really going on. He did give the promise that if it was the city's problem, they would fix it. Around February of 2026, Evan and his team discovered the problem and got it fixed. Thankfully, it was not Mr. Steven's problem. He waited at least 5 months before he came forward to show his appreciation. He wanted to make sure that it was really fixed. He thanked Spence and the water and sewer guys for doing what they promised and following through. Spence apologizes to the community and promises to do his best to get the water and sewer systems back to where they need to be. He thanks the water and sewer guys as well as the well and treatment guys for working as hard as they do to keep things running with the small amount of money that have been allotted.
Manager Barron also thanks the Chamber of Commerce for their work on the July 4th parade. He also thanks the football team, the city staff, and volunteers that came out and made it a success. He looks forward to getting bigger and better next year.

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

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

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CHAIRMAN **CITY CLERK**