June 22, 2026

The Eastman City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting on the above date at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present: Dwayne Burney, Mark Peacock, and Debra Sheffield. Councilor Snyder participated by phone and Councilor Battle was not in attendance. Others present were City Attorney Chris Gordon, City Manager Spencer Barron, Police Chief Billy Cooper, City Clerk April Sheffield, Assistant City Manager Dayna Winslette, Code Enforcer Gerald Fordham, Public Works Director Wynnon Pittman, and Fire Chief Derl Maxwell. Present from the community were Susan and Mitchell Coffee, EM Harrington II, and Daisy Howard.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Peacock.

Invocation was given by Councilor Burney.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
On a motion from Councilor Burney and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the agenda was unanimously approved.

APPROVE MINUTES:
A motion was made by Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Burney to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2026, regular meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS AGREEMENT:
Manager Barron presents the final agreement that will separate the city from the Communities in Schools organization. The city will still act as their fiscal agent, but they will leave the 11th Avenue location allowing the city to fully take over the property and use it as a City Park. Attorney Gordon confirms that he has reviewed the agreement and CIS has already signed their section of the agreement. **The agreement was passed unanimously on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconds from Councilor Snyder and Burney.**

NEW BUSINESS:
RTA FUNDING:
Assistant Manager Winslette confirms this is the $1,000,000 that we will receive from the USDOT and Build America Bureau funding that they are doing with the Rural and Travel Assistance Program this year. It has no match and helps us take a look at Griffin Avenue and what we may be able to do there with relation to sidewalks and if we need to look at rights-of-way. It will basically allow us to get traffic study info and draw up some plans for feasible projects that we may be able to do out there. It essentially takes us up to the point of having information that we can use for future grants for implementation out there. To solidify this agreement and move forward, it must be approved by the Council. Attorney Gordon has already reviewed it, made changes and approved it. **Motions to approve were made by Councilors Sheffield and Burney. A second was given by Councilor Snyder and all approved.**

ADA COMPLIANT BATHROOMS:

Public Works Director Pittman asks permission to bid out the project to make the City Hall bathrooms ADA compliant. In updating the city code, he and the inspector became aware of the lack of compliance with the bathrooms. Wynnon asks for a time frame of 30 days to receive any bids before choosing a contractor. **With no objections, Councilor Burney made the motion with a second from Councilor Sheffield and all approved.**

SCHEDULE CALLED MEETING:

The first meeting of July is still a couple of weeks away and there are some bids at the park due along with DDA applications. The council would like to go ahead and move forward with both bid projects as well as replacing the DDA board member. **On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and a second by Councilor Burney, a called meeting was unanimously scheduled for Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at 3 PM.** The purpose of the meeting is to make decisions on the park pavilion and B building bathrooms projects along with the DDA board appointment.

CREDIT CARD LIMIT CHANGES:

Manager Barron explained that for accounting and accountability purposes, all the department heads have their own credit card in their own name. To stay under our credit limit at the bank ($55,000) and still be able to issue one to Tanijia Hughes, our new park director, it is necessary to reduce his limit, reduce Dana's limit, and April's to be able to create a card for the park. Department head cards each have a limit of $3,000. **Council unanimously approved the change on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and seconded by Councilor Burney.** Councilor Peacock suggested looking into other banking establishments for better card options since the city is locked in with a credit limit at Magnolia.

LEAVE IT BETTER ALLEY PLANS:

Manager Barron states that there's a set of plans that's been submitted to the city for the pavers in the back alley. Several of the property owners have said they're in favor of it. We have letters from Mark Driggers, Ash Brewer, and Vincente Guevara. Also, got a text message from Miss Becky Colson saying that she was in favor of it too. Attorney Gordon asks if there is a written easement or at least one that is proposed. According to a survey done by BJ Hartley recently, it shows that the city owns that alley. Barron is unaware of an easement being given. He has cautioned Leave It Better that those property owners do have prescriptive easements or rights of access. Gordon agrees but is questioning what is being asked of the city. Is it paving the alley? No, LIB is selling memorial pavers. Is the city being asked for an easement? Not yet, unless it is necessary to do so. Gordon reiterated the question of who is ultimately responsible for the maintenance of the pavers? Normally, an easement would address not just the permission to use the property, but who will be responsible for any hazards or upkeep moving forward. Barron confirms that approval is needed to give permission for Leave it Better to be able to build the paver walkway in the alley according to the plans that have been drawn up. Wynnon explains the example of what is being proposed. The city paid for the survey to be done. The city has also put down a thin base of rock that is not considered a trip hazard. Without the city's permission, larger rocks were put down in the alley that could be considered a trip hazard. Some of the property owners like it and some don't. A separate section of brick pavers has already been installed in another area without the city's permission, just a verbal ok. Attorney Gordon suggests adjourning into the executive session to talk about the legal and property aspects of what needs to be in an easement and how to handle this particular situation. He also mentions inviting Wynnon in as well to discuss. Council decided to hold off moving forward until after the discussion in executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL, LEGAL, AND PROPERTY:

On a motion from Councilor Burney and a second from Councilor Sheffield, all members exited into executive session after a unanimous approval.
On a motion from Councilor Burney and a second from Councilor Sheffield, it was unanimously approved for Council to exit out of Executive Session and back into regular session.
No further action was taken, nor items discussed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Barron reminds everyone of the July 4th fireworks that are coming up.

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

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

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CHAIRMAN **CITY CLERK**