June 8, 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, Dwayne Burney, and Mark Peacock. Others present were City Attorney Rita Llop, City Manager Spencer Barron, Police Chief Billy Cooper, 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 Distribution Supervisor Evan Harrell. Present from the community were Charlotte Coffee, Gil Harrington, Kim Spencer, Grant Grantham, Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Brian Rubero, Daisy Howard, Charlotte Hopkins, and Carolyn McClendon.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

Invocation was given by Councilor Burney.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Battle, the agenda was approved by all.

APPROVE MINUTES:
A motion was made by Councilor Battle and seconded by Councilor Burney, to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2026, regular meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.

NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:
MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:
Interim Chief Maxwell presented the fire report for the month of May 2026. The department answered a grand total of 240 calls. There were no structure fires in the city or county last month. There were 11 other fire related calls with 6 in the city and 5 in the county. The EMS portion included 150 medical related calls with 108 in the city and 42 in the county and 15 MVC's with 6 in the city and 9 in the county. There were 51 public service calls such as fire alarms, smoke scares, and trees down with 39 in the city and 12 in the county. The department was cancelled in route once in the city. There were 12 Air Evac calls. There was a total of 218 training hours for the department. Side note, all of the SCBA air packs and masks that were approved to order have come in and are in place on the trucks.

Chief Cooper started off by saying that his newest officer, Faith Young, had just graduated from the academy and he feels that she will be a great new addition to the department. Chief presented the May report for the police department. The department answered a total of 629 calls, worked 19 traffic accidents, wrote a total of 60 tickets and 63 written warnings. They collected a total of $15,697.97 in cash bonds and fines. There were 1013 gallons of gas used while patrolling
13,706 miles.

Evan presented the water distribution report. There were a total of 424 work orders to be broken down as follows: 121 water cut-ons, 144 water cut-offs, 26 possible water leaks were checked, 5 actual water leaks, 3 holes needed filling in, and one cold patch request, 64 locates, 1 meter set, GPS of 1 meter, 1 meter repaired, performed maintenance on 19 meters, 2 valves located, 5 meters inspected, and 9 hydrants also received maintenance. Maintenance was performed on 3 vehicles. The sewer orders included 2 investigations, 1 repair, and 16 lines required cleaning. The department used 438 gallons of gas last month.

Brandon presented the street department report. For the month of May, there was a total of 10 work orders for animal calls, 1 sidewalk repair, 3 holes filled in, 5 limb pickup orders, 1 tree down, 20 orders for mowing in certain areas, 3 trash pickups, 11 specific curb and gutter work orders, 1 sign installation, 2 signs down, and 4 vehicle maintenance orders. The bulk of their time for May was spent working on cleaning out curb and gutters. Brandon mentions the younger aged guys from the school programs have signed up to work in the street department over the summer. Please congratulate them on joining the crew and keep in mind that they are young. Take a little care when driving near areas that they are working in. Councilor Snyder asks everyone to be mindful when cutting grass and try not to blow the grass clippings onto the street. It would help the street department immensely in keeping the streets clean and the gutters free.

Rodney came forward to give an update on the wells. A total of 32,075,000 gallons of water were pumped during the month of May. That is an average of 1.035 MGD. Councilor Snyder inquires about the need for pumps at one of the lift stations. Rodney shares that request is further down on the agenda to discuss. When approved, it should arrive this week and be put in if they have a full crew.

Matt presented the wastewater information for May. A total of 469 hours were spent with 55 hours on cleaning clarifiers and filters, 107 on lab and sampling, 27 on the belt press and sludge, 81 on lift station and well repair, 33 on lawn maintenance, 34 on plant maintenance, 44 on routine rounds, 25 on management duties, and 63 on plant operations. The amount of treated water released from the plant into Sugar Creek was 17,630,000 gallons with an average of 0.569 MGD. There were 361,340 gallons of water used at the plant. The total rain for this month was 8 inches. The lab charged $5,311 for wastewater testing. Councilor Snyder questions if there has been a reduction in I&I infiltration since completing that project considering all of the rain that the city has gotten over the last month. Matt responded that there is definitely improvement in that area but there was still too much rain for the stations to handle. Another large I&I project needs to be done in another area to continue to help decrease the infiltration. Someone would need to come in and smoke the lines in another big area to help pinpoint the next area to work on.

Gerald gave an update for the code and permitting departments. There were a total of 79 work orders this month. He handled 49 grease trap inspections, issued one limb and leaf violation, 2 certificates of occupancy, and 7 code violations. There were 16 building inspections, 1 building permit, one sign permit, and 4 business license inspections. Councilor Snyder asks for elaboration on the code violations. Gerald had reached out to some property owners on Smith Street and Mount Moriah to get some stuff cleaned up. He had sent out some courtesy letters regarding the requests and got very good response.

Wynnon came to report that the area of Dodge Avenue and WPA got paved with some assistance from the county. The dip at Griffin Avenue and Medical Center Drive got fixed as well as the sidewalk from there to Harrell Avenue. Both projects turned out well. He has hauled 25 loads of dirt at EPD's request to stockpile at the new limb and leaf disposal area. Another 10 loads were hauled in to build up the road coming in and out where it was washed away by all the rain. Ryan has done a phenomenal job in accomplishing that. He recently hired a new female driver to take over the limb truck so Ryan could go back to helping with curb and gutters. On a side note, Wynnon pointed out that the street crew averaged about 300 hours in the last two months just on curb and gutter cleanout. Multiply the guys that used by their pay for a year and you have spent over $51,000. The math over the period of years it will take to pay off the street sweeper justifies the purchase.

LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT:

Library board member Charlotte Coffee and Library Director Kim Spencer came before council to request 2 appointments to their board. Their first request was for **Ms. Jenna Law,** a third-grade teacher at Cornerstone Christian Academy. Ms. Law would fill the vacant seat left by Ms. Cindy Greene. The

other appointment would be for **Ms. Ivelyn Lampkin** to continue serving a second term. **On a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Battle, both ladies were unanimously appointed to the Library Board to serve for the City of Eastman.**

EXTEND DUE DATE FOR B BUILDING REMODEL & PAVILION @ PARK:

The original due dates for both park bids have expired without receiving a bid fulfilling the requirements of each project. After discussion with Attorney Llop, she suggests putting both out for bid for another two weeks**. All of council agrees and approves to rebid the B Building remodel and Pavillion projects at the Park for two weeks. Councilors Peacock and Burney both made the motion with Councilor Battle seconding the motion and all members approved.**

APPROVAL OF STREET SWEEPER QUOTE:

Grant Graham from Adams Equipment came forward to explain what his street sweeper can do and how it could benefit the community going forward. It's a street sweeper that has gutter brooms to pull your curb and gutter debris, whether it be small sticks, bricks, grass, or sand out of your curb and gutter. Also, it's got a head in it that you can run break large sand deposits loose. If you have any dirt streaks that pour out into the main fair throughs, it helps with cleaning up there because this truck is set up to be equipped with a valve, which dumps water into the head and essentially pressure washes the road. It's also set up with a catch basin cleaner so it would allow you to be able to pull manhole or catch basin covers and get 8-foot of reach with the tube and you can vacuum out your catch basins versus having to bring a vac trailer or dig them out by hand. It also will keep sand and debris off the road and out of your storm water runoffs. This will help prevent blockages in the long run. Councilor Snyder asks Brandon Brisco for examples of how it would benefit his department. He says that right now about 80% of the city's storm drains are stopped up right now. Clogged all the way to the top. This machine could take the place of so much manpower and time that it is currently taking to do the same job. The street guys are using a pair of hole diggers and a 5-gallon bucket to shovel and dump into the backhoe or truck to haul off somewhere else. Grant pointed out that his proposed truck also has a one-inch wash down line with an adjustable nozzle. It will help clean up the truck afterwards or even help loosen some of the dirt if it is packed into the basin. When asked, Wynnon explained the reasoning for not using the current vac trailer that the city has. Unfortunately, the water department keeps that truck so busy that the street department is unable to take advantage of it. This new sweeper truck would be focused on the street department. Councilor Snyder asks Manager Barron about the financing. Spence explained that the **quote was for $369,950.** The city would be expected to make **a down payment of $65,000**. Spence would then like to finance the remaining balance for the full option of six years. The interest is slightly higher doing that, but he feels it is the better option. He plans to make the payments out of SPLOST. **On a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Battle, the purchase of the street sweeper is unanimously approved. Next is the vote to approve the 6-year finance option after making the down payment. This is approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconds from both Councilors Burney and Battle. Motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF PUMP PURCHASE FOR LIFT STATION:

Rodney says that a new pump is needed for one of the lift stations. One pump was out and the other burned up a contact in the cabinet. It became an emergency. The electrical contractor was able to get one pump going to keep the lift station running until the new pump can be put in. Then they can pull out the old pump and have it rebuilt for a spare. The cost of the pump is **$15,636.80. Councilor Burney made the motion to approve the purchase, and Councilor Peacock gave a second. Motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MIXER PURCHASES FOR WWTP:

Matt went to get one of the mixers fixed and 5 months later they said they couldn't work on it. The pump companies aren't working as fast as they're supposed to. He is about to have a mixer fixed but will need to have one on hand. He has quotes for one for the anaerobic zone and one for the anoxic zone. One needs to be sent off from the anaerobic zone because a bearing has gone bad. So, if he doesn't purchase these and sends one off and another one goes down, we are in trouble. The whole plant goes down. These are 16-year-old mixers that run all the time. They never get turned off. They are really good mixers, but they have a lot of hours on them. The cost is increasing every year. The quote is for 2 different size meters because they go in different zones and are not interchangeable. **The 3HP is $10,609 and the 6HP is $11,928**. The lead time will be 14-16 weeks. The **total would be $22,537** and Manager Barron stated that the funds will come from either SPLOST or ARPA. He is trying not to touch the Short-lived fund right now. **Councilor Peacock made a motion to purchase the pumps and a second was given by Councilor Battle. The motion to approve was unanimous.**

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD:

DDA Member Loraine Aguayo turned in her resignation after the June DDA meeting. Spence thanks her for all her hard work during her time served. He now asks for permission to advertise for applications to appoint a new member of the board. He suggests a two-week time frame to accept applications. **Councilor Battle made the motion to approve taking applications for the DDA's open position and Councilor Peacock seconded the motion with the entire council in approval.**

COMMUNITY IN SCHOOLS AGREEMENT:

Councilor Snyder asked for a motion to postpone a final decision on the agreement with the Community in Schools organization. Councilor Burney made a motion, and Councilor Battle gave a second. Motion was approved unanimously.

HOME OCCUPATION LICENSE:

Voxtel Ventures LLC by Brian Rubero, located at 405 5th Avenue. Rubero has requested a home occupation license for him to operate his Artificial Intelligence Software Company. Mr. Rubero plans to specialize in building websites and AI digital receptionists and consulting services. For right now, most of the business will be focused in Middle GA. All work will take place remotely at his house. He can do everything from the comfort of his own house. Websites take a couple of days, and digital receptions can be built in 3 – 4 weeks. Clerk Sheffield and Inspector Fordham agree that he has everything in compliance. **On a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Battle, the vote to approve is unanimous.**

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Barron mentioned that the next day was cutoff day. Juneteenth celebrations are planned for June 20, 2026. They will be downtown this year instead of at the Peabody Complex. The July 4th parade and evening fireworks will be coming up soon. This should be the biggest fireworks show that Eastman has had. There's a work session planned for Thursday, June 11th at 6 PM. The goal is to discuss some upcoming city projects as well as some future plans for downtown as well.

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

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

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CHAIRMAN **CITY CLERK**