September 28, 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: Graham Snyder, John Battle II, Mark Peacock, and Debra Sheffield. Councilor Burney was out due to an illness. Others present were City Attorney Chris Gordon, City Manager Spencer Barron, Police Chief Billy Cooper, City Clerk April Sheffield, Assistant City Manager Dayna Winslette, Public Works Director Wynnon Pittman, and Fire Chief Derl Maxwell. Present from the community were Susan and Mitchell Coffee, EM Harrington III, Loraine Aguayo, and Pastor Rick Hamilton.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

Invocation was given by Councilor Peacock.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Asst Manager Winslette asks for the AFG Grant to be added to the agenda as #6. On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Battle, the agenda was unanimously amended to add #6, the AFG Grant, to the agenda. The amended agenda was then unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Battle.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Sheffield to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2026, regular meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRST METHODIST TRUNK OR TREAT ROAD CLOSURE:

Pastor Rick Hamilton came forward to ask the council for permission to block off Foster Street between Anson Avenue and 5th Avenue for the First Methodist Church to host their annual Trunk or Treat event. It will be held on **Wednesday, October 28, 2026, between the hours of 6 and 9 PM**. In the past several years, the city has just dropped off the barrels a couple of days ahead of time and the church members actually block the road off and open the road back up on the night of the event so the city workers do not have to work the event. **On a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Battle, the council unanimously voted to allow for the street to be blocked off for the event.**

GREENWOOD HEIGHTS TRICK OR TREAT POLICE ASSISTANCE:

This is the annual request from the Greenwood Heights neighborhood to turn the neighborhood into one entrance and one exit for the duration of their trick or treat event. Traffic will flow from entering from the Hawkinsville Hwy onto Evergreen Circle and exiting by the forestry tower onto Jim Harp Road. It is requested for help from the police to maintain traffic control. **The event will be held on Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 5 to 7 PM.** Chief Cooper has no problems with the event and has made plans to get it handled. **On a motion from Councilor Battle and a second from Councilor Sheffield, the event is unanimously approved.**

HOMECOMING PARADE:

City Clerk Sheffield explains that the Dodge County High School has come again to ask for permission to hold the Homecoming parade downtown on **Friday, October 2, 2026, beginning at 4 PM.** Ms.

Mullis and Deputy Sheffield have completed and submitted their required paperwork to the city as well as to GDOT and the railroad and has already received approval from the Georgia Department of Transportation and Norfolk Southern. The Eastman Police Dept has agreed to help the Dodge County Sheriff's Office with traffic and the street and water departments are also ready to help with blocking roads as in the past. Loraine Aguayo asks what the specific route is and Asst Mgr. Winslette shows the map to the public. The route follows Oak Street to 2nd to College Street and back down to 5th Avenue and then turning and travelling both sides of Main Street before ending at the old courthouse. Manager Barron stated that not all roads are closed at the same time. Each intersection is opened back up once the parade has cleared. Her question also included asking if the businesses were allowed to stay open during this event. The answer was absolutely. With no other questions, **the HOCO parade was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Battle.**

NURSE PRACTITIONER WEEK PROCLAMATION:

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners has requested that the City of Eastman recognize and approve a proclamation stating that the **week of November 8 – 14, 2026**, be declared National Nurse Practitioner Week in Eastman, GA. *(A copy of the signed proclamation will be included in the official minutes.)* **With no objection, the council unanimously approved that week be National Nurse Practitioner Week on a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Battle.**

RESCHEDULE OCTOBER 12TH MEETING:

Due to the next council meeting being scheduled for a holiday, there is a need to reschedule. After some discussion, **the council unanimously voted to reschedule the meeting for that Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 6 PM. The vote was taken on a motion made by Councilor Peacock and seconded by Councilor Batte.**

AFG GRANT AWARD:

Assistant Manager Winslette brings the announcement that the FEMA AFG (Assistance to Firefighter Grant) that was applied for several months ago has finally been awarded, and the Eastman Fire Department is the recipient. The grant was written to request some SCBA gear. The department had asked earlier in the year for some updated gear and was approved to purchase a portion of what was needed. $51,000 as requested through the grant with the city only needing to provide a 5% match. They were **awarded $48,571.42**. The **match will calculate to be $2,428.58**. That cost is a lot cheaper than outright buying the required equipment. Winslette asks council to approve the grant match so she can move forward with the paperwork. **On a motion from Councilor Peacock and a second from Councilor Battle, it was unanimously approved to move forward with accepting the grant.**

ALCOHOL LICENSE:

LUCIANO'S/JOHNATHAN HIGGINS (ITALIAN RESTAURANT) AT 206 MAIN STREET:

City Clerk Sheffield attests that Mr. Higgins has paid the correct fees to get footage and zoning approval along with the required background check. Per the city ordinance, Mr. Higgins meets all requirements to be issued a license. **On a motion from Councilor Peacock and seconds from Councilors Battle and Sheffield, the alcohol license for Johnathan Higgins with Luciano's restaurant was approved.** Ms. Aguayo asks if the license is for just beer and wine or liquor as well. It was confirmed that the application was for both.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Barron announces that the city has tentatively scheduled a fall movie night at the park for October 17, 2026. The movie will be Hocus Pocus. Music on Main and Quantum Con is scheduled for October 24, 2026. Also, it is Homecoming week in Dodge County. Enjoy and have safe fun. Councilor Snyder agrees with the warning that Sheriff Robinson and Chief Cooper have issued about taking the festivities too far.

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

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

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CHAIRMAN **CITY CLERK**