October 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, and Debra Sheffield. Councilor Peacock was absent due to a family emergency and Councilor Burney was absent because of sickness. Others present were City Attorney Charlie Johnson, City Manager Spencer Barron, Police Chief Billy Cooper, Fire Chief Derl Maxwell, City Clerk April Sheffield, Assistant City Manager Dayna Winslette, and Code Enforcer Gerald Fordham. Other department heads present were Street Supervisor Brandon Brisco, Water Distribution Supervisor Evan Harrell, Water Operator Rodney Harrell, Wastewater Operator Matt McDaniel, and Park Director Tanijia Hughes. Present from the community were EM Harrington III and Mitchell and Susan Coffee.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Snyder.

Invocation was given by City Manager Barron.

Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

City Manager Barron asked that a few items be added to the agenda. A #6 for SCBA gear and a #7 for the latest TIA Agreement Resolution. **On a motion from Councilor Battle and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, the agenda was unanimously amended. Next, Councilor Sheffield made a motion with a second from Councilor Battle and all members approved the newly amended agenda.**

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Battle and seconded by Councilor Sheffield, to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2026, regular meeting and the minutes of the special called meeting from September 30, 2026. 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 September 2026. The department answered a grand total of 169 calls. There was one non-working structure fire in the city and 2 in the county last month. There were 2 working structure fires in the county and four other fire-related calls with 3 in the city and 1 in the county. As far as EMS calls are concerned, there were 82 medical related calls in the city and 22 in the county and 9 MVC's with 5 in the city and 4 in the county. There were 33 public service calls such as fire alarms, smoke scares, and trees down with 32 in the city and 1 in the county. The department was cancelled in route twice in the city and twice in the county. There were 10 Air Evac calls. There was a total of 252 training hours for the department. Maxwell reported that Firefighter Quantavious Rozier passed his Fire Officer 1 & 2 classes. Jacoree, with the CRR, has been setting up this month for Fire Prevention Week but has turned it into a month-long thing. He has done classes for Lolly's Daycare, Pre-K, and the Primary School. They are still working on the fundraiser and selling T-Shirts. Business spots are $100 a piece and individuals are $20. That will close out on November 1. The reason is to raise money for Fire Education and be able to have the ADA compliant fire houses for the kids when there are events downtown. The kids can learn different areas of fire safety. Each house is about $4000, and they have already raised $3100. A second fundraiser is taking place on November 21. The department will be selling Boston Butts again. Those tickets will be $40 a ticket and limited to 100 tickets. The cooking will take place at the Park this year. Councilor Snyder congratulates Q and Jacoree on their accomplishments. He also

inquired about any open positions available. Derl stated that there are still 3 open positions that have currently been put on hold.

Chief Cooper presented the September report for the police department. The department answered a total of 584 calls, worked 29 traffic accidents, wrote a total of 37 tickets and 48 written warnings. They collected a total of $10,626.65 in cash bonds and fines. There were 1,064 gallons of gas used while patrolling 11,732 miles. The total number of arrests and citations was 107. There was a total of 37 jail days. The Police Department had 2 promotions this past month. Corporal Rose was promoted to Sergeant and Officer Sheffield was promoted to Corporal. Rose has been with the department around 16 years, and Sheffield has been there about 3 years. Cooper also has 3 positions open and has 2 qualified applicants currently. He is waiting on the budget process before moving forward with those positions. Councilor Snyder congratulates the officers on their promotions.

Evan presented the water distribution report. There were a total of 386 work orders to be broken down as follows: 79 water cut-ons, 151 water cut-offs, 23 possible water leaks were checked, 17 actual water leaks, filled in one hole, did 65 locates, identified 2 meters, set 3 meter, repaired 2 meters, performed maintenance on 18 meters, 1 meter read, 5 meters inspected, and did maintenance on one water vehicle. The sewer orders included 1 sewer investigation and cleaning out 15 lines. As far as stormwater is concerned, a culvert repair was completed and a manhole was inspected. The department used 396 gallons of gas last month. He also gave the reminder that the next day was cut off day.

Brandon presented the street department report. For the month of September, there was a total of 19 work orders for animal calls, 2 for cleaning ditches, 1 sidewalk repair, 5 areas needed trees trimmed, 6 specific limb pickup orders, 43 for limb/leaf dumping, 4 trees down, 20 requests for mowing certain areas, 5 requests for trash pickup, 2 for curb and gutter, 1 sign inspection, 2 signs down, 4 potholes, and fixed 1 speed bump. Vehicle maintenance was performed on 5 department vehicles. Brandon's department used 959 hours for the month with a breakdown of 20.5 for animal calls, 155 for curb and gutters, 39.5 on ditches, 353 on mowing grass, 65.25 on other, 63.5 on potholes, 23.5 on trash pickup, and 238.75 on the limb truck pickup. Brandon asks the public to please quit blowing their grass clippings onto the street. It can be dangerous, but it also clogs up the curb and gutter system.

Rodney came forward to give an update on the wells. A total of 32,045,000 gallons of water were pumped during the month of September. That is an average of 1.068 MGD. Councilor Snyder inquired about the generator. Harrell stated that his last update was that it was still on its way. The contractor has already acquired the transfer switch and is waiting.

Matt presented the wastewater information for September. A total of 564 hours were spent with 44 hours on cleaning clarifiers and filters, 132 on lab and sampling, 52 on the belt press and sludge, 76 on lift station and well repair, 22 on lawn maintenance, 84 on plant maintenance, 28 on routine rounds, 30 on management duties, and 96 on plant operations. The amount of treated water released from the plant into Sugar Creek was 9,940,000 gallons with an average of 0.331 MGD. There were 698,400 gallons of water used at the plant. The total rain for the month was 1.2 inches. The lab charged $4,050 for wastewater testing.

Gerald gave an update for the code and permitting departments. There was a total of 63 work orders in September. He handled 48 grease trap inspections, 1 blighted property, 1 planning and zoning, and issued 2 code violations. There were 2 sign permits issued, 6 building inspections, 1 building permit, and 1 business license inspection. Currently, he has 28 active building permits. Councilor Snyder congratulated Fordham on achieving his Level One Code Enforcement Certification. Last week, he and Dayna were able to build the

Notice of Violation Forms. He will be sending the first wave of those out later in the week. If you receive one, please just follow the instructions and contact Gerald so that a plan can be put in place to correct the error and get the property back into compliance.

Manager Barron gave the public works updates as of the end of September. 227 gallons of fuel were used for limb and leaf disposal site and the mini x at the park splash pad. The excavator was used a good bit last month due to a manhole leak in the woods off of Industrial Park. Korkat is waiting on parts to be able to come back and start working on the splash pad and the playground. The City Hall ADA bathroom project is coming along. They are getting ready to paint and install the flooring and fixtures. The ADA ramps at the Police Department are also in progress. The drawings for the dog park on the Kimbo property have been sent in. Gerald mentions that the next step in ADA upgrades will be the push button door entrances.

Park Director, Tanijia Hughes, came forward to give updates about her department. On September 15, 2026, she and her staff members completed CPR and AED training. They began planning their Halloween Movie Night. It will be held Friday night, October 16, 2026, at the Park. Activities will begin around 5 PM and the movie will start around 7:30. Not only will they be showing Hocus Pocus but there will be outdoor games, a petting zoo, and more. Hughes also let everyone know that the final pickleball night will be October 29 and invited everyone out to come out and watch the players.

2026 3RD QUARTER BILLS :

There were no questions on the list of bills presented. **On a motion from Councilor Sheffield and a second from Councilor Battle, the 2026 3rd Quarter Bills were unanimously approved.**

SYMPHONA AGREEMENT :

Manager Barron stated that he has acquired help from an outside CPA firm to assist in the financial transition of QS1 to Edmunds. They have provided much assistance in the change from cash to accrual-based accounting as well. If council would agree, he would like to contract with them to come in at least once a month going forward to overlook our current processes and develop a more up-to-date financial policy. After some discussion, it was decided that Attorney Johnson would be submitting some changes to the wording of the contract and resend it to Symphona for their approval. There would be no changes to the fees and costs outlined in the document. Councilor Battle asked what the fees were. Barron stated that after the initial costs that have already been approved, the hourly rate would range from $185 - $250 an hour. Barron also stated that he was still holding the financial position through 2027 in order to use those funds to help offset the costs of the CPAs. Meanwhile, Assistant Manager Winslette and Clerk Sheffield would continue to split the job duties such as writing checks and reconciling accounts. **On a motion from Councilor Battle and a second from Councilor Sheffield, the council unanimously approved the agreement pending attorney and Symphona approval.**

TAVT AGREEMENT:

The current Dodge County Tax Commissioner has discovered some undisbursed TAVT monies. These monies must be disbursed pursuant to the guidance from the Ga Dept of Revenue to the county and municipalities involved. Manager Barron stated that negotiations with Dodge County and the cities of Chauncey, Chester, Eastman, Milan, and Rhine have been taking place over the last several months and all involved have agreed to a distribution of these funds proportionate to the current LOST percentages. The total amount of proceeds was $262,259.06. Proceeds were to be as follows, Chauncey $6,740.06 (2.57%), Chester $19,931.69 (7.6%), **Eastman $81,667.47** (31.14%), Milan $8,864.36 (3.38%), Rhine $7,395.71 (2.82), and Dodge County $137,659.77 (52.49%). Ms. Coffee inquired as to what exactly these funds were. Barron stated that they were ad valorem taxes held by the county. **This agreement was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and a second from Councilor Battle.**

SCHEDULE A WORK SESSION:

Council decided to schedule a work session for Thursday, October 29, 2026, at 5 PM. **This was unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and a second from Councilor Battle.**

SCBA GEAR:

Chief Maxwell came forward to discuss this. The department was awarded a $51,000 AFG grant to purchase some SCBA gear. When applying, they had added a provision to cover the cost if the equipment increased in price by the time the grant was awarded. Originally, the proposal began with needing 24 packs, 4 sight masks, and 24 regular masks. They opted to go with half of those, which was 12 packs, 2 sight masks, and ended up having to replace all of the regular masks. Earlier in the year, the council had approved for the fire department to go ahead and purchase 12 packs, 20 regular masks, and 2 sight masks. Through the grant, they were able to get 7 more packs and 1 mask, which came to a total of $49,534. The company actually honored the original quote price instead of charged the new increased price. That left some residual funds ($1,465) that don't need to be left on the table. After this purchase of equipment, it will leave the department still using 5 old packs and 1 mask. There are different ways to apply those funds. The total needed to cover the cost of the final equipment would be $34,078 and then $27,262 after using the final grant money. A mask itself is $1,825. Councilor Snyder asks Barron if there is enough ARPA left to cover the purchasing of the remainder of the equipment at the original cost. Maxwell says if the purchase is postponed, the price will go up to current market prices, which are usually an increase of 5% at a time. Barron doesn't feel comfortable with saying yes or no until the 2027 budget numbers can be locked into place. If they decided to get another pack and no mask, giving them a total of 8 packs and one mask, that would leave it at $5,350 out of pocket. Purchasing 8 masks and 2 masks will require an out-of-pocket cost of $7,275. This amount does not include the required $2,500 match. Councilor Snyder feels that Maxwell should utilize the money as best he sees fit. Barron comments that a couple of hundred dollars can be easily handled but not $30,000 until more numbers can be finalized for the budget. **Maxwell can go ahead and buy an extra mask with the city only adding a little less than $400.** If it is possible to wait on making the final decision for a little while, they may could approve more. Maxwell is unsure of how long he has to take advantage of the current costs offered. **Council unanimously approved on a motion from Councilor Battle and a second from Councilor Sheffield, to purchase another mask with the residual grant money and a small supplement from the city.**

TIA AGREEMENT & RESOLUTION:

Manager Barron presented the request received from GDOT to approve the next round of TIA paving. This round includes the following roads with a maximum allowed cost as follows: Plaza Avenue for $100,709, 14th Avenue for $30,184, Creekside Drive for $58,031, and Creekview Drive for $17,828. If agreeable, the council would need to approve the resolution, and these projects can be scheduled for next year. Councilor Snyder points out that these roads were approved years ago at the beginning of the current TIA band. Barron does not have an updated list of all roads and when they are scheduled to be paved. **This agreement and resolution were unanimously approved to be sent back to GDOT on a motion from Councilor Sheffield and a second from Councilor Battle.**

ALCOHOL LICENSE:

MARATHON EASTMAN LLC: SACHINJUMAR R PATEL @ 108-B 5TH AVENUE:

Clerk Sheffield presented the alcohol application for Mr. Patel's convenience store at the corner of 5th Avenue and Oak Street. The code enforcer has signed off on the zoning and footage requirements. Mr. Patel has completed his background check and has met all requirements for an alcohol license. **With no other questions, Councilor Snyder asked for a vote after a motion from Councilor Sheffield and a second from Councilor Battle. All members approved.**

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

Manager Barron reminded everyone of cut off day tomorrow. He encouraged the public to come out to the park on Friday night and watch Hocus Pocus. He also issued the reminder of Music on Main and Quantum Con next weekend downtown.

NO OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

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

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CHAIRMAN **CITY CLERK**