

**Joint Work Session Minutes
Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Tuesday, March 29, 2022**



Commissioners Present:

Dan McCranie, Chairman
Sharon Cobb Flanagan, District 1
Terry L. Niblett, Vice-Chairman, District 2
Brian Watkins, District 3

Also Present:

John P. Harrington, County Attorney
Conner Bearden, County Manager
Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Absent:

Karen Cheek, District 4

City Council Present:

Buddy Pittman, Chairman, District 2
Raymond Mullis, Vice-Chairman, District 3
Sebrina Williams, District 1
Ronnie Woodard, District 4
Jermayne L. Hamilton, District 5

Also Present:

Rita Llop, City Attorney
Spencer Barron, City Manager
April Sheffield, City Clerk
Jesse Bearden, City Engineer
Scotty Whitten, Fire Chief

The Eastman City Council and Dodge County Board of Commissioners held a joint work session at City Hall at 333 College Street on Tuesday March 29, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Buddy Pittman presiding. He led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Chairman Dan McCranie gave the invocation. After a meal, business was discussed as detailed below.

Animal Control

County Manager Conner Bearden discussed the animal control ordinance (currently at Municode for codification) and suggested partnering with the City of Eastman for animal control within a five-mile radius of the city limits (where most of the complaints seem to arise). The boards discussed working together for a few months as a trial run.

Broadband

County Manager Bearden discussed ARPA funds for broadband expansion which had been allocated for use by EMC. Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan also stated other federal grants might become available, and a broadband committee would be beneficial for staying up-to-date regarding future developments.

Parks and Recreation

City Manager Spencer Barron discussed plans for a city park at the Boys and Girls Club site. An architect for the project had been selected at the city council meeting on March 28.

Litter

County Manager Bearden discussed the initiatives taken to reduce litter in the county by utilizing the services of Code Enforcer Allen Mills. He also offered those services to the city, if needed. City Manager Barron discussed excessive dumping at the curbs and issues regarding piles of used tires.



Airport Building Restrictions

Commissioner Niblett discussed the legalities of building in an airport zone. He suggested a joint resolution between the city and county covering the matter, which could be drafted by the airport consultants. City Engineer Jesse Bearden also stated a land disturbance activity permit was necessary for clearing anything over an acre.

Economic Development

Councilor Jermayne Hamilton spoke briefly about John Maxwell Leadership Training.

Economic development and ideas for attracting new businesses was discussed. Developing a GRAD (Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development) site was also discussed.

Adjournment

With no further business to address, the meeting dispersed at 8:20 p.m.

Attested:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

Dan McCranie, Chairman