



TOWN OF EVA
P.O. BOX 68
11 ADAMS ROAD
EVA, ALABAMA 35621

MAYOR
Kent Chambers
TOWN CLERK
KIMBERLY CRYER

The minutes of the regular meeting of Eva Town Council were held on September 8, 2026, at 6:30 PM.
Present: Mayor Kent Chambers, Council Members: Martin Nelson, Teri Bailey, Wes Stephens, Ron Ryan, Shelia Dudley and Town Clerk Kimberly Cryer, Assistant Clerk Alex Baker

Guests: Josh Livingston, Jason Holmes, Ripley Fowler, Tania Fowler, Jon Caden Burgess, Betty Ryan, Blaire Drummond, Ron Puckett, Alan Host, Roger Burrow, Nathan Holmes, Marcy Holmes, Julie Mooney, William Riley, Kevin Bailey, Christopher Mason, Elijah Mason, Jeff Frost, Ray Long, Michael Drinkard

The mayor called the meeting to order. Kimberly Cryer did a roll call; All present; Mayor Kent Chambers informed all present that we open our meetings with prayer; Councilmember Martin Nelson led in prayer. Councilmember Wes Stephens then led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Chambers introduced Ray Long, Commissioner, and Ron Puckett, Sheriff, and thanked them for coming out. Mayor Chambers stated that rumors spread fast around here and explained that the Commissioner and Sheriff are here to help answer any questions that they have about the police contract. Mayor Chambers personally thanked Officer Riley for everything he does for the Town of Eva and stated that he does a great job. Mayor Chambers stated that he would start off the questions with – Officer Riley gets pulled from Eva to work other areas, emergencies and needing back up is okay, but if we are paying the deputies salary, we need him to be in Eva. Ron Puckett thanked the Mayor/Council for letting them come to the meeting and that the County cherishes their relationship with the Town of Eva. Ron Puckett said we will see a change in the deputy leaving Eva and stated that the deputy will not be scheduled to work central when he is scheduled to be in Eva. He stated that when the deputy is scheduled to be in Eva, the deputy will be in Eva. Councilmember Stephens stated that Officer Riley is well qualified and well known here in Eva and that he does a great job and wants it to be known we are not here to discuss Officer Riley, we are here to discuss the contract. Councilmember Stephens then thanked Officer Riley for his quick response earlier today at the school. Councilmember Stephens said he had some questions about the schedule/hours and stated how crime doesn't always happen during the day and would like to see him maybe work some swing shifts. Ron Puckett stated that he and Mayor Chambers spoke about this and that the mayor can set the hours of the deputy. Officer Host, with the Sheriffs Department, stated that he wanted to point out that when Officer Riley is not in the area other deputies are covering the area. Councilmember Stephens asked how it will affect the Town of Eva if we don't sign the police contract. Ray Long, Commissioner, stated that he is not an expert by no means, but he thinks it is required by a municipality to provide police protection. Mayor Chambers stated that the Alabama League of Municipalities told us that it is not required to provide police protection. Ron Puckett stated that if the contract did not go through that they would still provide police protection and patrol the area. Councilmember Nelson said that we don't have police protection 16 hours out of the day, given that Officer Riley is only here 8 hours out of the day and stated that for those 16 hours we aren't covered. Councilmember Nelson also asked why the Town of Eva supplies the Uniform for the deputy and why the price keeps increasing every year. Ron Puckett stated that the only thing that increases every year is the salary and that he hopes it continues to increase each year, because they want their deputies to get a



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raise. Ray Long stated that some things are not included in that price like the vehicle liability insurance, the fee that it costs when arresting someone in the town, and other things that they could charge us for, but they don't. He stated that this coming year they are giving the deputies a total of 7% raise and that is where the increase comes from. Ray long said that in reality we aren't paying everything that we could be paying and stated that the County helps out the Town of Eva a lot, \$250,000 a few years back for sewer, we give the library money every year and stated that the County is not trying to find pennies off of this contract and that the County likes the partnership that they have with the Town of Eva. Councilmember Nelson asked why a state trooper patrols here in Town. Ron Puckett stated that he is glad that they do because they are close by if something were to happen and then explained that they patrol the rural roads of Alabama. Councilmember Stephens asked what the limits are of the SRO Officer at the school. Ron Puckett stated that their job is to protect the schools and that the school systems pay for them to be there, and that they cannot help with traffic. Mayor Chambers stated that the police contract is \$81,732, so that the public is aware of the amount. Councilmember Dudley asked because we have the contract is that why county doesn't charge us the other costs. Ray Long stated that the county helps Eva a lot, \$250,000 for sewer and gives money to the library every year and that county is our best friend. He stated that \$81,732 is the best deal to get a sheriff for and that the hours are left up to the sheriff and the mayor as long as the deputy is getting 8 hours. He said that the Town of Eva is getting more than what they are paying for. Councilmember Nelson asked why they did away with substations. Ron Puckett stated that was before his time. Ray Long stated that if he had to guess it was because of funds. He stated that his general fund budget is about \$35 million and the deputies get half of his general fund budget. He said that whatever they get is what they have to operate with, same as the Town of Eva, whatever y'all get is what y'all have to operate with. Councilmember Nelson asked Ron Puckett how many deputies they have currently. Ron Puckett stated that they have 48 total, 28 of those deputies are road deputies. Ray Long stated that Ron Puckett does a great job. Councilmember Bailey asked if the Town pays for the vehicle, then why does the Town not get to keep the vehicle. Ron Puckett said that he thinks that was the Town's decision. Mayor Chambers stated that it is in the contract that it is Morgan County's responsibility to provide the vehicle, and told Ray Long and Ron Puckett what paragraph it was in. Councilmember Ryan said that the contract stated that the sheriff has overall control over the deputy and asked if the deputy is pulled say a certain percentage of the time can the town be reimbursed for that time or make up for it by sending another deputy out to cover Eva. Ron Puckett stated they cannot reimburse, but said that yes, they will have the area covered. Ron Puckett stated that he appreciates the Town of Eva and wants to work with us as a team. He stated that he believes we have the best deputy and if any needs are not getting met to reach out and he will try to meet those needs. Councilmember Ryan stated that it is the council/mayors job to look at every dollar spent and wanted Ray Long and Ron Puckett to know that they aren't picking on them, that they are just looking out for the town. Ray Long stated that we may want to look into getting our own police department as the town grows, and that way we would have total control. He stated that every municipality is on the same team and we all must work together, again we give y'all \$250,000 2 years ago, we give \$1,000 for frontier days, \$2,500 to the library. He stated that they want to help and believe him, that \$81,000 dollars is a good deal for what we are

Finance, Education, & Library
Ron Ryan

Police, Fire, & Grants
Wes Stephens

Council Members
Utilities & Streets
Teri Bailey

Sanitation & Buildings
Martin "Bear" Nelson

Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries
Shelia Dudley



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getting. Councilmember Bailey stated that she appreciated them coming and answering all their questions. Mayor Chambers thanked them for coming and then asked the public if there was anything they wanted to say or ask. Jason Holmes said to sign it. Nathan Holmes and Roger Burrows agreed with Jason Holmes. Mayor Chambers asked the council if someone wanted to make a motion to pass the police contract. Councilmember Stephens so motioned; Councilmember Bailey seconded; all ayes-motion carried.

Mayor Kent Chambers requested a motion to approve the minutes of August 11, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, Councilmember Ryan so motioned; Councilmember Dudley seconded; all ayes-motion carried. Mayor Kent Chambers requested a motion to approve the minutes of September 1, 2026, Special Called Meeting Minutes, Councilmember Stephens so motioned; Councilmember Bailey seconded; all ayes-motion carried. Mayor Kent requested a motion to approve the minutes of September 1, 2026, Work Session Minutes, Councilmember Stephens so motioned; Councilmember Ryan seconded; all ayes-motion carried.

A. FINANCE, EDUCATION & LIBRARY- MR. RYAN

- Councilmember Ryan stated that the Eva Volunteer Fire Department has a CD that is up for renewal on September 15th and Jason Holmes wants to roll that CD over and when it gets time to purchase equipment, leave \$500 in the CD to keep it open, and deposit the rest into their checking account at Premier Bank. Councilmember Dudley asked if the CD is a liquid CD. Kimberly Cryer, Town Clerk, stated that it is a 3-month liquid CD and that you could take money out or add money to it every 7 days. Councilmember Ryan so motioned; Councilmember Stephens seconded; all ayes-motion carried.
- Councilmember Ryan stated that they went over the budget at the work session but will hit the high notes. In the general fund, interest income has increased significantly, and salaries will increase as well. He stated that health insurance and RSA have been added into the budget. In the sewer fund, maintenance and repairs have gone down and that income is up and that the sewer fund is doing better than expected. He stated that not much has changed in the library fund. In the activity's association fund, there will be an increase in revenue and refs/umpires will be added in due to not paying refs/umpires out of the concession stand cash anymore and giving them 1099s. Mayor Chambers requested a motion to approve the budget. Councilmember Ryan so motioned; Councilmember Bailey seconded; all ayes-motion carried.
- Councilmember Nelson stated that before any money is given to the schools, he would like to research it some more and go to the county and see what they pay for first. Councilmember Ryan stated that Brewer High School is asking for chrome books and tech supplies and Eva School is wanting benches and picnic tables to go around their new playground and if any money is left over, they want to put it



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towards furniture for the library. Mayor Chambers stated that they won't vote on it tonight and give Councilmembers Nelson and Ryan more time to research.

- Julie Mooney, Librarian, stated that the library is doing great and that they had 486 patrons come in the library in the month of July and right at 500 in the month of August and how excellent that is for a small town. Announced that the tractor club is bringing tractors for the kids to Shorty Ryan Park on September 15th for story time, October 15th at 6:00pm is Authors Night at the library and they will have Elaine Caudle their to read her book about therapy and will bring her therapy dog, November 29th at 4:30pm is the tree lighting and they will need help with it if anyone could help. She also stated they will need help on November 19th when the trees are delivered. Mayor Chambers encouraged the council to buy a tree and that he just purchased one himself today.
- Councilmember Ryan stated that we received two bids for the library lift project, one from Dunlap \$351,600 and one from CSA \$227,321. Mayor Chambers asked if there was any discussion. Councilmember Nelson asked where they were going to get the money to pay for this project. Mayor Chambers said that half of it is already covered, and that Senator Orr is looking into helping get us more money and we are waiting to hear back from Representative Stadthagen to see if and how much he can help. Councilmember Ryan motioned to accept CSA's bid at \$227,321; Councilmember Dudley seconded;

• Mayor Chambers	Yea	Council Member Bailey	Yea
• Council Member Dudley	Yea	Council Member Ryan	Yea
• Council Member Nelson	No	Council Member Stephens	Yea

B. UTILITIES & STREETS – MRS. BAILEY

- Councilmember Bailey stated that Kimberly Cryer and Alex Baker took the 4-way decorative signs to Brewer and the welding department fixed them for free and that Kimberly Cryer and Alex Baker have been painting them to make them look good to put back up at the 4-way. Councilmember Bailey stated that she still wants to buy new signs next year but thinks these will do for the time being.
- Councilmember Bailey stated that Sanders Road has been paved and thanked Matthew Frost Commissioner for all he does. She stated once it cures the striping will go down.

C. PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERIES – MRS. DUDLEY

- Councilmember Dudley stated that TVA came out and told us what we need at the ballfields for LED lights and that both her and Councilmember Bailey are looking into funding options.

D. POLICE, FIRE & GRANTS – MR. STEPHENS

-No update to report.



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E. SANITATION & BUILDINGS- MR. NELSON

- No update to report.

F. HEARINGS ON PETITIONS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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G. AUDITING ACCOUNTS – MOTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS & PAY BILLS

- The mayor requested a motion to pay bills. Councilmember Bailey so motioned; Councilmember Ryan seconded; All Ayes-motion carried.

H. RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS & OR BUSINESS - Mayor Chambers

I. NEW BUSINESS - Mayor Chambers

- Mayor Chambers stated that we had someone request records and it was discussed at the work session to put a records request form and fee into place for future requests. He asked the Council what their thoughts were on this. Councilmember Stephens said that he recommends doing it and that it is in line with other municipalities and what they have in place. Councilmember Stephens so motioned; Councilmember Dudley seconded; all ayes-motion carried.
- Stated that the ladies came to him about a pretty good idea and that he will let Kimberly Cryer, Town Clerk, talk about their idea. Kimberly Cryer said that we want to start doing welcome baskets for people who move into the town limits. The basket will include business cards from businesses inside the town limits so they know what all the town has to offer, it will have informational letters in them about events, groups to join, council meeting dates and times, who to call if they have a sewer problem, air evac, etc. It will also include some goodies but will not cost more than \$10 a basket. We want the mayor or council to deliver these baskets to them so they can introduce themselves and welcome them to the Town of Eva. All the council said they liked this idea and think it would be great for new residents. Councilmember Bailey so motioned; Councilmember Dudley seconded; all ayes- motion carried.
- Mayor Chambers stated that more and more people are driving on the walking trail and that a few Sundays ago he seen 6 or 7 cars parked down by the pavilion. He said that they are looking into getting bollards for the walking trail to try to prevent people from driving down it. He stated that the bollards will be removable so that maintenance can still get down there and for other special occasions when it is necessary. Mayor Chambers asked the council their opinions. Councilmember Bailey said that she thinks they should look into it and see what their best option is. Jeff Frost suggested making sure we research it well and look into requirements as far as if an emergency were to happen to make sure it is still accessible.



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- Mayor Chambers passed out an updated list of projects and ideas, and stated Sanders Road has been marked off.
- Stated that September 21 at 7:00pm is the Frontier Days dinner and council is invited, September 22 is the hayride, September 24 is the community singing at Oden Ridge, September 25 is Music on the Square starting at 6pm, and September 26 is the main event with the parade starting at 11.
- Officer Riley stated that he could come to a meeting and explain to the public what he does on a day-to-day basis so maybe they understand that things are done behind the scenes. He said that he wants to inform them that things are done, that they may not see. Mayor Chambers thanked Officer Riley for all he does and knows that he does a lot for the town.

J. OLD BUSINESS- Mayor Chambers

Mayor Chambers requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Nelson so motioned; Councilmember Ryan seconded; all ayes-motion carried.

APPROVED:

Mayor Kent Chambers

ATTEST:

Town Clerk Kimberly Cryer