

City of Eatonton Council Meeting Monday, December 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
Eatonton City Hall, 201 North Jefferson Avenue, Eatonton Georgia 31024

Present: Mayor John Reid
Mayor Pro-tem Chip Walker, Jr.
Councilman Alvin Butts
Councilwoman Teresa Doster
Councilman James Gorley
Councilman Powell Griffith, III
Councilman Jim Hall, Jr.
Councilwoman Alma Stokes
Attorney Chris Huskins
City Administrator, Dan Elmore

Mayor John Reid called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
Council member James Gorley gave the invocation.

Mayor Reid presented Council Powell Griffith with a plaque for serving thirteen years on the City Council. Councilman Griffith resigned from the Council effective December 31, 2008.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Stokes to approve the minutes of the last Council meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to approve the consent agenda to include the following persons: Tom Rosseter- Arts Center, John Whitherspoon – (SDS) Sinclair Disposal Service, Shelagh Fagan - Better Hometown and, Michael Gailey – City Court. Motion carried by unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mr. Tom Rosseter talked to Council about the old Eatonton Grammar School, which was renovated for \$2.8 millions, and now houses the Chamber of Commerce and Eatonton Putnam Arts Center, better know as the “Plaza.” Rosseter expressed words of appreciation to Mayor and Council for their corporation and support over the eleven years it took to complete this project. Council also praised and thanked Rosseter for doing an outstanding job on the building restoration.

John Whiteherspoon expressed words of thanks to Council for allowing Sinclair Disposal Garbage Service to service the City garbage needs. Whitherspoon advised that Sinclair Disposal acquired BFI garbage service last week.

Old Business

Michael Gailey addressed Council concerning Municipal Court issues.
Administrator Elmore read a Resolution to adjust the fees paid to the City Solicitor and Municipal Court Judge.

Motion was made by Walker and second by Hall to adopt the Resolution to adjust fees paid to the City Solicitor and the Municipal Court Judge and authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Administrator Elmore read Resolution to adopt the proposal presented by the Putnam County Solicitor General for Prosecution of Municipal cases in Municipal Court and for other purposes.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Hall to adopt Resolution presented by the Putnam County Solicitor General for prosecution of Municipal cases in Municipal Court and for other purposes and authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Administrator Elmore read Resolution to support the approved Victim and Witness assistance program offered by the Solicitor General of Putnam County and for other purposes.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Doster to adopt the Resolution which support the approved Victim and Witness Assistance Program offered by the Solicitor General of Putnam County and for other purposes and authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0. Adoption of the resolution is based upon Putnam County Board of Commissioners adoption of the same.

New Business:

Bob Hooson submitted the following Better Hometown Town Report:

- BHT Generated 152 hours of volunteer service and were responsible for over \$9500 of investment within the business district.
- Our Committees decorated the Christmas tree on the Courthouse common and participated in the Christmas in the Briar Patch promotions.
- We supported and participated in the meeting of “Forward Eatonton”, which is the initiative for economic growth within the City.
- At Critter Park, the remaining bricks were delivered by the engraver and will be placed along the pathway. A water fountain is being ordered and will be installed, as will the banister for the stairs.
- With mixed emotion I have officially submitted my resignation to the Board of Better Hometown effective as of December 31, 2008. This will be my last report to the City Council. It would not be complete without my saying that it has been a pleasure working with you for the past three and a half years. Greta and I will continue our efforts to bring a YMCA to the region. We wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Mayor and Council thanked Bob Hooson for serving as Better Hometown director and his service to the City.

Shelagh Fagan presented Council with a copy of Better Hometown Budget. Fagan advised that the Better Hometown Board would interview four applicants for the director’s position. Fagan advised that she would present information on parking signs at the next meeting.

Committees Reports:

Councilman Walker advised Police Chief Kent Lawrence is recovering at home from surgery.

Councilman Walker and other Council members thanked Councilman Griffith for his dedicated service to the City Council and citizens of Eatonton, while serving on Council.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Griffith to pay bills if and when funds become available. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Councilman Hall asked status of radio read meters. Administrator Elmore advised the test went very well. Work is complete in Eatonton, crew has moved to Jones County.

Councilwoman Stokes advised that the Christmas Parade was well attended and she has been receiving positive feed back on the event.

Stokes advised Sunday, December 21, is the last Bicentennial Event planned in honor of Eatonton's 200-birthday celebration, it will be held at the Plaza at 5 p.m.

Councilman Griffith advised it has been a pleasure and an honor to work and serve on this Council from 1995 until the present.

Administrator Elmore advised that the City Marshall is working on land acquisition for right-of way for the Willie Bailey Street drainage project.

Elmore advised that Danny Slaughter has scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, to look at security cameras for City Hall.

Elmore advised Council that a copy of the year-end budget for August 2008 and November Budget status report is on their desk for review and questions.

Elmore advised City Hall would be closed on December 25 and 26 for Christmas Holidays and January 1 and 2 for New Year's Holidays.

City Attorney Chris Huskins updated Council on Café on the Square Revolving Loan.

City Clerk Abrams advised Council that their Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report for December 31, 2008 would be due the first of next year.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Butts to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk

