

City of Eatonton Council Meeting Tuesday, December 2, 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.
(Absent) 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 Teresa Doster gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Stokes to approve the minutes from November 17, 2008 Council meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Motion was made by Griffith and seconded by Gorley to approve the consent agenda to include the following persons:

Shelagh Fagan – Better Hometown
Brian Irish – Briarpatch Trail and Farmers Market
Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Ms. Shelagh Fagan advised Council that Bob Hooson resigned as director of Better Hometown affective the end of this year; he served for three and one half years. The Better Hometown Board is advertising for his replacement. Mr. Steward Aaron gave Better Hometown office space on South Jefferson Avenue in one of his empty storefront. Fagan requested Council allow the Better Hometown Board to hold their monthly meeting at City Hall on the second Monday of the month at 9 a.m. Fagan advised that the County would not be funding Better Hometown next year.

Mayor Reid recommended Better Hometown Board meet with Councilwoman Stokes and her committee and bring recommendation back to Council concerning requests made by the Board.

Brian Irish talked to Council about naming Jefferson Avenue Briarpatch Trail and putting signs along the bypass advertising downtown sites in Eatonton to visit to draw more people into downtown. He would like to see the City put more focus on Jefferson Avenue and Oak Street. Irish also talked about opening a Bakery and a Farmers Market on West Marion Street in the spring of next year.

Mayor Reid advised Mr. Irish that he appreciated his presentation..

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Hall to approve Occupation License to sell beer and wine requested by Jogmaya d/b/a Discount Tobacco at 124 North Jefferson Avenue. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Michael Gailey addressed Council concerning Eatonton Recorder's Court issues. Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Doster to table this discussion and have the Public Safety Committee to study Gailey's requests and make recommendation to full Council. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded Walker to adopt Resolution to amend the code of ordinance of the City of Eatonton to provide a new article IV in Chapter 70, Utilities, Identity Theft Prevention Program to comply with Federal Regulations and authority the Mayor to sign it. Motion carried by a unanimous Vote of 6-0.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Griffith to put up a streetlight on Chandler Drive if and when pole is installed. Motion carried with five voting for the light installation and Hall abstaining.

Councilman Gorley advised that Better Home Bureau has satisfied the contract agreement for restoration work done to City Hall also Gorley advised the City has purchased some new equipment.

Councilman Hall advised that Chief Lawrence will under go surgery on Monday, December 8, 2008, and he also welcomed Councilwoman Stokes back from her surgery.

Councilwoman Doster advised that the Downtown Development Authority would be placing tarps on the roofs of some of the houses on Enterprise Hill.

Councilwoman Stokes advised the Bicentennial Committee would meet on Thursday afternoon at City Hall to finalize the Christmas Parade and Christmas tree lighting scheduled for Saturday, December 6, 2008.

Stokes advised she received the following invitations:

City and County Christmas Dinner Monday, December 8, 2008 at Rock Eagle Dining Hall.

Ferst Foundation of Putnam County is hosting a dedication ceremony December 11, at 4:30 p.m. to officially open the renovated and upgraded Children's Library at the Eatonton Putnam Library.

December 21, 2008 the last Bicentennial Celebration will be held at the Arts Plaza. Stokes asked that the Council and the community support these activities planned for the City of Eatonton Bicentennial.

Stokes advised the calendar at each Council member seat is from Associate in Local Government.

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 6-0.

Administrator Elmore advised that a copy of the October's budget status report is at each council member seat.

Mayor Reid advised Council that he received a letter of resignation from Councilman Powell Griffith III from Board of Council affective December 31, 2008. Councilman Griffith represent Ward I.

Councilman Griffith elaborated on how he has enjoyed serving on the Board of Council from 1995-2008 and he wished Council the best.

Mr. Brian Irish was not clear on how his idea was received which he talked to Council about tonight therefore, Mayor Reid advised him to bring a written plan back and present it before the Council. The Downtown Development Authority, Better Hometown and Forward Eatonton maybe interested in getting involved with his suggestions in naming Jefferson Avenue Briarpatch Trail and bringing more tourists into the downtown district.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Griffith to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk