

City of Eatonton Council Meeting Monday, February 16, 2009 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 Jim Hall, Jr.
Councilman Joseph Derek Hudson
Councilwoman Alma Stokes
Attorney Chris Huskins
City Administrator, Dan Elmore

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

Motion was made by Butts and seconded by Doster to approve the minutes of the last Council meetings. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Councilwoman Doster advised Planning and Zoning Committee met on Tuesday to discuss Zoning, Chapter 75 - Section 459 Manufactured housing site requirements subsection (b) underpinning of mobile homes. The Committee recommended that when a Customer makes application to set up any manufactured or mobile home with an interior width measurement of 16 feet or less; it may be skirted with other material approved by the City Council provided the owner of the structure pay an administration fee of \$200.00, or other sum approved by the City Council, for the monitoring and enforcement of this provision.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Hall to adopt amendment to Zoning Chapter 75-459 subsection (b).

(b) Any manufactured home or mobile home shall be completely enclosed (skirted) with materials of brick, block, or concrete.

shall hereinafter read:

(b) Any manufactured home or mobile home shall be completely enclosed (skirted) with materials of brick, finished block, or finished concrete. Any manufactured or mobile home with an interior width measurement of 16 feet or less may be skirted with other material approved by the City Council provided the owner of the structure pay an administration fee of \$200.00, or other sum approved by the City Council, for the monitoring and enforcement of this provision. Failure to use the approved skirting or to keep the same properly maintained and in repair shall be a violation of this section subjecting the owner of the structure to a citation being issued and punishment pursuant to the general penalty provisions articulated in Section 1-12 of this Code of Ordinances. Payment of the administration fee outlined herein shall constitute a waiver of personal jurisdiction by the owner of the structure.

(Added text underlined. No text has been deleted or modified.)

Motion carried by a vote of 6-1, Stokes abstained.

Council discussed scheduling a one-day retreat to plan for the future of the City of Eatonton. The primary focus will be on Downtown Development; the estimated cost is about \$3,500.00.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Stokes to proceed with scheduling a one-day retreat for May 16, 2009 at Rock Eagle. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Ms Shelagh Fagan submitted a Better Home Town report to Council, which contained projects for fiscal year ending 2008 / Feb. 2009.

- Obtained a \$2,000.00 Garden Grant to restore Old Jail Garden
- Held preliminary opening ceremony at Critter Park
- Worked with DOT to remove approx 5 directional signs to reduce clutter next to Courthouse
- Received quotes for parking lot signs
- Acquired the outdoor stage from Horton Homes, and lend it out for performances.
- Participated in the Patriotism Celebration and Vince Dooley Day, provided input and funding for Down Town Business Brochures, decorated downtown for Halloween/Fall, and decorated the Christmas tree on the Square.
- Participated in Clean Up Eatonton Day and worked on the Old Jail Project.
- Initiated & provided facilitation for brainstorming sessions that became the FORWARD Eatonton initiative.
- Voted in new BHT officers of the Board of Directors.
- Hired new program manager (Kathy Smith).
- Moved to new office space at 111 S. Jefferson Ave.

Goal & Objectives:

- Administer 2-5 facade grants for downtown business.
- Purchase plants and install baskets for downtown lamppost.
- Complete current plans, purchase and install fountain at Critter Park.
- Complete parking lot signage project.
- Consider topiaries for Critter Park
- Complete the MS Access Database, used to inventory Tier One downtown buildings & businesses.
- Attract new businesses to downtown.
- Develop “New Business” Package.
- Hold events to raise funds & or promote Community awareness.

Ms. Fagan requested Council write a letter of support on behalf of the Georgia Judicial Museum.

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

Councilman Butts advised the Utility Committee met on last Tuesday to look over the Drug & Alcohol Policy Manual for gas employees, which is recommended to the City by the Public Service Commission. Butts advised there was no change to the manual.

Councilman Gorley advised he walked through the old Gas Department Building next door, the building is in need of some major repair work, it may be cheaper to demolish. Gorley asked Council members to take a look at the building and offer suggestions.

Councilwoman Stokes advised she received an invitation from the Tree Board to attend Arbor Day at the Hut on Friday.

City Administrator Elmore reported:

All properties have been purchased for the Willie Bailey Project and our grant administrator is working on the bid document.

We had an insurance risk review from Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency, (GIRMA) and it was recommended that we adopt an official Safety Policy and Procedure Manual and the Personnel and Finance Committee is reviewing it now.

Elmore presented Council with December's Budget Status Report. He advised Council that they would see in the projections a 35% increase in health insurance and notice the Workers' Compensation has nearly double since last year. Both increases are based on claim experience.

Elmore advised that he and Abrams would be meeting with a new Workers' Compensation vendor on Wednesday. Elmore advised he is also working with our new health insurance vendor to adapt the employee coverage by limiting some options while not increasing out of pocket costs.

Elmore advised Council he also provided them with the latest SPLOST summary.

Elmore advised Council he would be out of the office on Thursday and Friday of this week.

Elmore requested Council members let him know their pleasure, about meeting with the Putnam County Board of Education at the Plaza for a dinner meeting on February 24th.

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

John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk