

City of Eatonton Council Meeting Tuesday, February 3, 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  
(Absent) 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.  
Minister John Scales gave the invocation.

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

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Doster to approve the consent agenda to include the following persons: Joe Hudson, Jim Shrader, Sandra Rosseter, Shelagh Fagan, and Marianne Tanner - First United Methodist Church Trustees' Request, Brad Waddell and Dan Haley- Variance on Rental Home, Shelagh Fagan – Better Home Town, and Janie B. Reid – Family Connection. Motion carried by unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mr. Joe Hudson, Trustee, of First United Methodist Church addressed Council concerning amendment to the first letter written on behalf of the First United Methodist Church requesting all their property be withdrawn from the Historic District. The purpose of this amendment tonight is to request that the Council approve the withdrawal of all of the church's property except the historic sanctuary and the Taliaferro House. Hudson cited the reason for requesting to withdraw the property was due to a several month delay in being approved for Hardi Board siding on the sanctuary, which resulted in costing the church \$10,000.00 more in repairs.

Ms. Shelagh Fagan advised not compromising the ordinance is very clear.  
Mrs. Sandra Rosseter addressed Council to let them be aware that she was opposed to withdrawing the property from the Historical District.

Mrs. Marianne Tanner advised if Council approves this change, you might as well get rid of the ordinance. Tanner asked Council to consider the importance of the Historic District. Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Doster to table the amendment submitted by Joe Hudson, Trustee, on behalf of the First United Methodist Church to withdraw all their property from the Historic District except the historic sanctuary and the

Taliaferro House, and to turn the request over to Historic Committee to study and take up at a later date. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Dan Haley and Brad Waddell appeared before Council to request a variance to set up a mobile home on Boundry Drive with vinyl skirt underpinning instead of the brick, block or concrete according to the code.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Hudson to table request until Council receives a former recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Board. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mrs. Janie Reid requested the City continue to serve as the Fiscal Agent for Family Connection. Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Stokes that the City of Eatonton continues to serve as the Fiscal Agent for Family Connection Program. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mrs. Janie Reid talked to Council about applying for a Gang Prevention Grant in the amount of \$200,000.00 and a Healthy Marriage Initiative Grant in the amount of \$90,000.00.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Hall to add Gang Prevention and Healthy Marriage Initiative Grants to the agenda. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Stokes to write a letter to Middle Georgia RDC requesting assistance with the writing of the grants and for the City of Eatonton to serve as the Fiscal Agent for the Gang Prevention Grant. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Doster to request Middle Georgia RDC assistance in applying for the Healthy Marriage Initiative Grant on the condition that no local funds are required as a match. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mrs. Janie Reid introduced the following three local ministers in attendance at tonight's meeting: Reverend John Scales, Lewis Parham and Ozzie Hanson.

Ms. Shelagh Fagan introduced Ms. Katie Smith, the New Better Hometown Program Director.

Mayor Reid talked to Council about the Old Gas Building on West Harris Street and preserving the building for an extension of City Hall or for a courtroom.

Mayor Reid asked Council to come up with a date when Council could participate in a weekend or a one-day retreat. Mayor Reid advised Elmore to check on cost and he suggested April 4, 2009 as a possible date for the retreat.

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 Stokes and Hudson, that he scheduled a Public Utilities Committee meeting at City Hall for Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

Councilman Gorley reported the DOT contract on Sumter Street/Hwy 16 East, which included sidewalks from town to Putnam General Hospital, would cost the City in local funds \$11,500.00.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Doster to add /Sumter Street/Hwy 16 sidewalks to the agenda. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded Butts to pay the City cost of \$11,500.00 for the sidewalks on Sumter Street/Hwy 16. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Councilman Gorley requested the status of the guardrails on Oconee Street Elmore advised that due to the economic condition DOT is not going to be able to provide the guardrails at this time

Councilwoman Doster requested a Zoning and Ordinance Committee meeting with Butts and Hall for Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.

Administrator Elmore advised Council that all properties required for the Willie Bailey Street drainage Project have been deeded to City with the exception of one. Carter and Sloope can start work on the project.

Clerk Abrams reminded Council that Financial Disclosure Statement could be accepted now thru July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Reid advised Council that the Eatonton-Putnam Water and Sewer Authority would hold a meeting to discuss water rates on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Arts Center; the time is 8:00 p.m.

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

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John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk