

City of Eatonton Council Meeting Monday, March 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 Donald Huskins
City Administrator, Dan Elmore

Mayor John Reid called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
Council member Alvin Butts 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 Doster and seconded by Gorley to approve the consent agenda to include KoJack Waller – Request to shoot a film, Katy Smith – BHT, Shelagh Fagan – BHT Beautification, & Willie Frank Thompkins- Eagle Scout Project. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mr. KoJack Waller informed Council that his son would be shooting a musical film on March 28 and 29 in the Eatonton Housing Project and at the old Rock Pantry Store on MLK, Jr. Ave. Permission to use property has been granted by the owners. This film is a school project and the movie will be rated G. Council approved film project.

- Ms. Katy Smith Manager of Better Hometown reported to Council that she attended a Tax Incentives Seminar in Washington, GA. and hosted “How to Reinvent Retail Space”, Webinar explained how to attract more retail businesses into downtown as well as how to use space that is not currently rented.
- Better Hometown will be showcasing Putnam County High School Art work in storefront windows. Proceeds from sales of artwork will be used for Better Hometown Projects.
- Met with Putnam County Elementary School 3rd graders about being an Entrepreneur.
- Worked closely with Stewart Aaron & others for potential uses for the available downtown spaces.
- Smith advised she would be attending BHT Institute in Thomasville, GA next week.
- Smith advised the following three restaurants are scheduled to open in the next few months: Soul Food Restaurant in Café on the Square, Tex-Mex Restaurant below the Eatonton Market, and a Seafood Restaurant.

- A downtown business owners' meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24 at 9a.m.

Ms. Sheila Fagan passed out quotes to Council she received on a two sided parking lot sign. Ms. Fagan recommended that Council select Brown Art Signs as the vendor to provide four parking lot signs at a cost of \$1,000.00 per sign.

Mrs. Sheila Fagan passed out quotes to Council she received on Cauldron Baskets, which will be fitted around existing light poles and filled with flowers. Fagan requested Council purchase 20-30 baskets from Beautification Budget at a cost of about \$3,689.00. Mayor Reid advised Council to let the Beautification Committee review the Cauldron Baskets requested by Ms. Fagan and present a recommendation to Council.

Mayor Reid advised he received an E-mail from Putnam County High School teacher; Mrs. Sandra Parham requesting local government officials attend Business Day at the school.

Boy Scout leader Willie Frank Thompkins, and Boy Scout Reginald Jones presented a layout of Eatonton Eastside Cemetery done as an Eagle Scout project. Council approved the project and thanked Scout Jones for a job well done.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Doster to approve the request made by Gatewood School to use public streets for a 5K-walk/run event. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to approve the Resolution ratifying the action of the Mayor in requesting assistance from Middle Georgia RDC in preparing an application for the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Doster to approve Resolution by Mayor and Council authorizing the submission of a Community Development Block Grant Application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs on behalf of the City of Eatonton, by Associates in Local government Assistance, Inc. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Council Member Chip Walker made the following motion:

That this Mayor and Council now enter into closed session as allowed by O.C.G.A. #50-14-4 and pursuant to advice by the City Attorney, for the purpose of discussing the following: **Potential Litigation.** And that this body, in open session, adopts a resolution authorizing and directing the mayor or presiding officer to execute an affidavit in compliance with O.C.G.A. #50-14-4 and that this body ratify the actions of the council taken in closed session and confirm the subject matter of the closed session were within exceptions permitted by the open meeting law, said resolution to be in an approval form signed by the Mayor and City Clerk. Seconded by Councilwoman Teresa Doster. Motion passed.

Those voting in favor of the motion for the closure: Council members Chip Walker, Alvin Butts, Teresa Doster, James Gorley, James Hall, Derek Hudson and Alma Stokes. Motion carried by 7-0.

Executive Session

Motion was made by Councilman Walker and seconded by Councilman Hall to return to open session. Motion carried.

In open session a motion was made by Doster and seconded by Hall to give permission to City Attorney Chris Huskins to pursue the legal matter discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Administrator Elmore advised Hwy. 16 sidewalks pre-construction conference was last week and DOT is still holding the money for us.

Councilman Hall advised the police department received four new police cars and they are being converted.

Administrator Elmore advised he would be attending the managers' conference in Athens, Georgia next Wednesday thru Friday.

Elmore advised Winchester Drive drainage work continues. The pipes are out the new pipes delivered and we are ready to dig out and put them in place after the rain.

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

John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk