

City of Eatonton Council Meeting Monday, March 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Eatonton City Hall, 201 North Jefferson Avenue, Eatonton Georgia 31024

Absent: Mayor John Reid
Present: 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 Pro-tem Chip Walker, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
Council member Alma Stokes gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Doster to approve the minutes of the last Council meetings with corrections to amendment, Chapter 75 – 459 subsection (b) by adding the word (finished) and removed (vinyl) and change the word (better) to (cheaper) in reference to the Gas Department Building. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Butts to approve the consent agenda to include Lynward Lindsey - Georgia Power Franchise Tax. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Mr. Lynward Lindsey presented Council with a Georgia Power Franchise Tax check in the amount of \$247,516.08. Council accepted and thanked Mr. Lindsey for presenting the Franchise Tax check to the City on behalf of Georgia Power.
Councilman Hall acknowledged and thanked Mr. Lindsey for the help received from Georgia Power and other emergency responders during the tornado last week.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Stokes to approve a **Resolution** by the City of Eatonton, Georgia **to redirect residual balance of certain items in the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Distribution to the City of Eatonton from Putnam County after the items have been fully funded**, and authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by unanimous vote 6-0. Residual balance of street equipment and sewer items to police vehicles, enabling the City to buy additional police vehicles.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Stokes to approve a **Resolution** by the City of Eatonton, Georgia to adopt a **Safety Manual for all City Employees** and authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Motion was made by Butts and seconded by Hudson to approve a **Resolution** to adopt an **Alcohol Misuse Prevention Plan and Anti Drug Plan for Municipal Gas Utility Workers** and authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by unanimous vote of 6-0.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Doster to approve a **Resolution** by the City of Eatonton, Georgia **to empower the Mayor to work with Putnam County and others to explore a grant application package for the Public Works and Economic Development Act for Infrastructure Improvements within the City of Eatonton and throughout Putnam County** and for other purposes and authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Motion was made by Stokes and seconded by Doster to approve a **Resolution** by the Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia to authorize a **contract for installation of sidewalks and associated work along ST16/44** and authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote 6-0.

Mayor Pro-tem Walker reported that Finance and Personnel Committee met and discussed employee's health insurance. Health insurance premiums are due to increase by 35% in April. The Committee decided to add an HMO as an alternative plan to keep down cost.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Doster to pay bills if and when funds become available. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Councilman Butts requested the street department check out flooding on Oconee Street near Larry Maddox's house. Elmore advised that the City is pursuing a grant to install curb and gutter on Grand Avenue, Putnam, and Oconee Street through a (CDBG) stimulus package.

Councilman Hudson advised he attended the newly Elected Training in Athens and it was extremely informative.

Councilman Hall advised he wanted to reiterate the good job performed by all who were involved in helping out after the tornado, to restore power, clean up and respond to emergencies calls.

City Administrator Elmore advised the street department would close Winchester Drive for up to 60 days to repair the drainage culvert and road shoulder beginning Monday, March 9th. Emergency agencies and the school board have been notified about this change.

Elmore advised that January's budget status report is at each council member seat. So far the City is holding it own. You will see in the projections a 35% increase in health insurance and you will notice workers comp has nearly doubled since last year. Both increases are based on claim experience. Sarah and I have met with the health insurance broker from last year and they will be offering an HMO along with the PPO plans for the City employees. We met with another Worker's Comp vendor last Wednesday. They will bring the proposal to the City on Thursday.

Elmore advised he would be attending a grant meeting at Middle Georgia RDC in Macon on Thursday. Registration for GMA Conference in Savannah will open on Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Clerk Abrams advised Council members that Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports are at Council member's seats and due after March 31, 2009; also their Financial Disclosure Statements are due.

Motion was made by Stokes and seconded by Hall to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Chip Walker Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

Sarah E. Abrams