

City of Eatonton Council Meeting Tuesday, November 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  
Councilman Jim Hall, Jr.  
Councilman Derek Hudson  
Councilwoman Alma Stokes  
City Attorney Chris Huskins  
City Administrator, Dan Elmore

Mayor John Reid called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Councilman Alvin Butts gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Stokes and seconded by Butts to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion carried by a vote 6-0. Councilman Hall abstained.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to approve the consent agenda to include Executive Session - Property Acquisition and Katy Smith – Better Hometown Report. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mrs. Katy Smith invited Council to attend a Training Seminar hosted by Eatonton Better Hometown on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 8pm at the Plaza Arts Center in Eatonton.

Mrs. Smith advised the Briar Patch Arts Festival held on Saturday, October 31, 2009 was a big success. Smith reported the feedback she received from the merchants was nothing but positive. Smith thanked Council for their support of the festival.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to approve Occupational Tax Certificate requested by Patricia Slavens of MCLK, Inc d/b/a El Giro of Eatonton to sell liquor by the drink, beer and wine at 102 North Jefferson Avenue, Eatonton, GA. Motion carried by unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Hudson and seconded by Stokes to approve proposed 1/3-page article advertising in the Chamber of Commerce Resource Guide. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Butts and seconded by Gorley to accept the proposal to participate in the Gas Hedge Program with the Municipal Gas Authority. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

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 inquired about an E-Mail he received from the City Administrator concerning possibility of supplying gas to Sinclair Water Authority. City Administrator Elmore advised Georgia Power Company is applying for a grant, which would be used to supply Sinclair Water Authority with natural gas as an alternate source of power. The City of Eatonton could bid on being the gas supplier.

Mayor Reid stated, "Atlanta Gas Light would like to purchase the City of Eatonton Gas System". Mayor Reid advised he let it be known that the City was not interested in selling the Gas System.

Councilman Gorley advised on last Friday he checked out various projects going on within the City. The Street Department was operating both leaf machines. The City Hall roof was being fixed and paving on Hwy. 16. Gorley also acknowledged the excellent job that Hawkins is doing as street supervisor for the City.

Mayor Reid advised he received a request for a streetlight to be installed on Cooper Drive. Elmore advised Tri-County EMC is working on the request to install streetlights on Main and Loblolly Drive.

Councilman Hall advised that Fire Chief Steve Reid has received a lot of applications for the six-full time fire fighter positions. The Fire Chief will oversee the hiring.

Administrator Elmore reported:

The Gas building renovations are well underway. The building will be used to house Family Connections/food bank. The electrical, flooring and interior painting are about complete.

The Gas storage shed demolition is about complete. Mr. Lee Roy Stapp purchased the building and it should be gone by the weekend.

The buildings at 103 Wayne Street are for sale. So far the City hasn't had any takers although there has been a small handful of lookers.

Gregory Bridge Company paved Winchester Drive this week. The street should re-open tomorrow.

The City Hall had to have some emergency roof repair and the Eatonton Early Childhood Day Care Center. City Hall roof repair is about complete and the Day Care Center should be complete next week.

Attorney Chris Huskins updated Council on the Katherine Rogers Case. Huskins advised GIRMA, our insurance agency is providing the City with legal counsel. Attorney Tom Richardson of Macon is representing the City interest.

City Attorney Huskins advised Mayor Reid that he would respond to a letter that the Mayor received.

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: **Property Acquisition.** 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 Councilman Hall. 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.

***Executive Session***

Motion was made by Councilman Walker and seconded by Councilwoman Doster to return to open session. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

In Open Session motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Butts to authorize the Mayor to take action discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mayor Reid adjourned the meeting.

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John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk