

Monday, February 21, 2011 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.  
(Absent) Councilman Alvin Butts  
Councilwoman Teresa Doster  
Councilman James Gorley  
Councilman Jim Hall, Jr.  
Councilwoman Alma Stokes  
City Attorney Chris Huskins  
City Administrator, Dan Elmore

Mayor John Reid called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Teresa Doster gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Stokes and seconded by Gorley to approve the minutes of the last meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Public Comments:**

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to hear from all who wished to address Council. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

City Administrator Dan Elmore read the Rules for Public Comments

The following persons signed in to address Council: Buddy Nolan, Shelagh Fagan, Clint Butler, Arthur Beasley, Bonnie Simmons, Alice Ashurst, DeLacy Leverette, Sammy Blackwell, and Adam Smith - Church at 116 West Marion Street and Sandra Hill – Salon in home at 107 Candler Court.

**Old Business:**

Ms. Katherine Hill of the Putnam County Health Department updated Council on the Water Survey to get people to connect to water system that she and City Marshal Diane Veal did in the Green Acres Subdivision last year. A copy of the finished Survey was sent to Bob Ward at Carter and Sloope and to Mayor Reid. Mayor Reid advised the Survey was supposed to be used to apply for a USDA Grant to help remove people from well water that may be contaminated and hook them up to tap water in this section of the town. The City would have to apply for the grant but will need the support and approval from the Eatonton Putnam Water and Sewer Authority to move forward.

**New Business:**

Mr. Buddy Nolan, Ms. Shelagh Fagan, Mr. Clint Butler, Mr. Arthur Beasley, Ms. Bonnie Simmons, Ms. Alice Ashurst, Ms. DeLacy Leverette, Mr. Sammy Blackwell and Mr.

Adam Smith addressed the request made by Clint Butler for a Conditional Use Permit for a church at 116 West Marion Street. Mr. Buddy Nolan advised Council that he was not in favor of approving a Conditional Use Permit for a church at 116 West Marion Street, because it tends to slow down retail growth. Mrs. Shelagh Fagan advised she was speaking on behalf of Eatonton Mainstreet. Mainstreet would like to work with the owners to rent their building for retail space; she asked that the storefronts be rented to retail businesses and Council stick to the Downtown Business District and the Strategic Plan adopted by the City.

Mr. Clint Butler spoke in favor of the Conditional Use Permit for a church at 116 West Marion Street. He advised they have done a lot of work inside the building and the church would be a major asset to the downtown area. The church would improve having 8 empty buildings downtown. The church would help the people in this community and not present a parking problem.

Mr. Arthur Beasley spoke in favor of the Conditional Use Permit. He advised the church would draw people to the downtown area through its services, music, and outreach ministry.

Ms. Bonnie Simmons advised Council that the Chamber of Commerce is willing to work with the church to find a new location. Mrs. Alice Ashurst, Ms. DeLacy Leverette, Mr. Sammy Blackwell and Mr. Adams Smith asked that the City continue to promote the Downtown Business District and they are not in favor of the Conditional Use Permit.

All persons speaking concerning the request made by Clint Butler for a Conditional Use Permit for a church at 116 West Marion Street concluded making their statement before their time allotted to speak expired.

After much discussion Councilwoman Doster advised we have no recourse because of the Business Overlay Plan adopted by the City.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Hall to deny the request made by Clint Butler for a Conditional Use Permit for a church at 116 West Marion Street. Motion carried by a vote of 4-1. Gorley opposed.

Ms Sandra Hill addressed Council concerning her request for a Conditional Use Permit for a Beauty Salon at her home located at 107 Candler Court.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Hall to accept the Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation for approval of a Conditional Use Permit for a Beauty Solon which was requested by Sandra Hill at 107 Candler Court. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Stokes to advertise the request made by Howard McMichael, Jr. and Howard McMichael, Sr. d/b/a 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Package, LLC for an Occupational Tax to operate a Liquor Store at 880 Oak Street. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Doster abstained.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to approve the proposed **Resolution** to authorize a **Franchise Agreement** contract with **Tri-County EMC** and authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Stokes to approve the proposed **Resolution** to authorize an application for a **Community Development Block Grant** and authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to approve proposed **Resolution** to adopt a fee for the use of **Credit Cards** for payment of City Taxes, Bills and Fees. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to approve request made by Putnam County Solicitor General to repeal the City of Eatonton Ordinance Section. 46-157 Theft By Shoplifting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

### **Committees Reports:**

Councilman Walker on behalf of Council offered words of sympathy to Councilman Butts' family on the loss of their family member.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to pay the bills if and when funds become available. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Councilman Gorley advised the Street Department has been patching roads around town.

Councilwoman Doster advised the Downtown Development Authority will meet in City Hall on Tuesday at 5:15 pm.

Councilwoman Stokes advised Council members that she received her pin numbers from the Secretary of State Office to file her Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports and Personal Finance Report which are required by the State from all Elected Officials.

City Administrator Dan Elmore advised the Gas Line Extension RFP will be opened Thursday afternoon. The Gas line down MLK is being installed this week. The Georgia Initiative Community Housing (GICH) meeting is February 22-23, 2011 in Savannah, GA. The quotes received for paving Carriage Way are in range from \$25,995.00 to \$41,350.00. Sammons Construction submitted the low quote to grade and pave this stretch of road. The transfer of the property occurred last week. We no longer own the property across from the Methodist Church, but now own the property behind the storefronts on North Jefferson Avenue.

Elmore advised Council that a copy of the November's Budget Status Report is at Council seat and also a copy of the Mainstreet Report.

Clerk Abrams advised Early Voting for the March 15<sup>th</sup> Special Election will start Tuesday for Ward I. Abrams asked Council members to return registration forms for GMA 2011 Annual Convention which will be held June 25-28, 2011. Open Enrollment for Dental Insurance will be March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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: **Pending 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. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Doster. Motion passed.

Those voting in favor of the motion for the closure: Council members Chip Walker, Teresa Doster, James Gorley, Jim Hall and Alma Stokes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

### ***Executive Session***

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

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to adopt the Resolution for closing the meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

In open session Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Doster to accept the term of the settlement and authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Hall to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

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John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk

