

City of Eatonton Council Meeting, Monday, September 15, 2008 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 Powell Griffith, III
Councilman Jim Hall, Jr.
Councilwoman Alma Stokes
City Attorney Chris Huskins
City Administrator, Dan Elmore

Mayor Pro-tem Chip Walker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Mayor Pro-tem Chip Walker gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Gorley to approve the minutes from the last Council meeting held on September 2, 2008. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Motion was made by Stokes and seconded by Doster to approve the consent agenda, which includes:

Shelagh Fagan- Historic Preservation Training
William Thompson, Coley Paschal and Preston Cobb-Occupational Tax Certificate
Bob Hooson-Better Hometown Report

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Mrs. Shelagh Fagan requested Council members attend Historic Preservation Training in Milledgeville, Georgia on October 10th and 11th 2008. The cost per person is \$125.00.

Mrs. Shelagh Fagan talked about the two hour parking signs placed around town and the positive feed back received since signs have been in place; but she stated there needs to be clearer and larger directional signs for the four parking lots downtown. Mrs. Fagan stated she is working on a map to show where these parking lots are located and will leave these with stores merchants. Council advised Mrs. Fagan to check on getting a parking lot sign designed.

William Thompson, Coley Paschal, and Preston Cobb appeared before Council to request Council approve an Occupational Tax Certificate for a car detail shop at 819 Oak Street. Sharon Darlington explained that when the ordinance was written concerning carwashes, the principal structure should be located at least 200 feet from all property lines. This was written for the county ordinance and she would submit changes to be made to the City of Eatonton's Ordinance to Planning and Zoning Board next month.

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Gorley to approve an Occupational Tax Certificate for a car detail shop/car wash at 819 Oak Street. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Bob Hooson updated Council on the activities of Better Hometown. Hooson stated the Better Hometown Board of directors requested he bring before Council and the Board of Commissioners the need to hire a Better Hometown director. Hooson talked about the value of the property located in downtown district and the need to bring in new businesses to fill the vacant buildings, especially in the two blocks surrounding the courthouse. Also need to require owners to have a business plan in place or on file with the City Clerk. Mayor Pro-tem Walker stated that some businesses are failing because of the economy and not from the lack of a business plan. Gorley advised Hooson to schedule a work seminar for small businesses and design a brochure with workable business plans. Walker asked Councilwoman Stokes and her Committee to meet with Bob Hooson and take a look at his proposal.

New Business

Motion was made by Hall and seconded by Doster to approve advertising Occupation license requested made by Darshan Rawal d/b/a Rawal at 124 North Jefferson Avenue to sell beer and wine. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Motion was made by Stokes and seconded by Gorley to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness requested by Jimmy and Nancy Marshall at 106 Church Street for restoration to porch and front gable. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Committee Reports

Councilman Gorley thanked City Administrator Elmore for getting streetlights installed on Madelyn Avenue.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to charge a \$25.00 (twenty five) garbage deposit to all new garbage customers and delinquent accounts effective immediately. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Councilwoman Stokes thanked all for their attendance at the Mayor's Ball on Saturday night, which kicked off Eatonton's Bicentennial Celebrations. Stokes advised other special events planned for the Bicentennial Celebration: Eatonton Got Talent on Friday, September 19, and Legendary Rhythm and Blues Artist Clarence Carter Show on Saturday, October 4th.

Stokes requested Bicentennial Committee members meet at City Hall on Thursday evening.

Stokes advised she received an invitation to attend the Middle Georgia RDC 2008 Annual meeting on Thursday, October 9, at 5 pm.

City Administrator Dan Elmore reported that Better Homes Bureau has started on the renovation to City Hall. The City crew has been cutting down some trees this week. If you receive calls from your constituents about limbs and leaves or bulk goods not being picked up, ask them to be patient as the trucks are in use removing the cut down trees from the streets and transporting them to the county landfill. On last week a tree fell on a house at 300 North Maple Avenue.

Elmore advised Council he has provided them with a mid term SPLOST Report.

Attorney Chris Huskins advised he sent Sara Davis 14 right-of-way deeds for the Willie Bailey Street Project, and all the deed work is now complete. Also Huskins advised he drafted the fuel surcharge add on. The \$12.00 fine increase is dedicated to pay for higher fuel charges.

There being no further business to come before Council, motion was made by Hall and seconded by Gorley to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Chip Walker Mayor Pro-tem

ATTEST:

Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk