

City of Eatonton Council Meeting Monday, November 17, 2008 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 Powell Griffith, III
Councilman Jim Hall, Jr.
(Absent) Councilwoman Alma Stokes
Attorney Chris 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 Hall and seconded by Gorley to approve the minutes from November 4, 2008 Council meeting. 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 the following persons:

Tim Green and Lon Taylor – Wreckers

Mike Phillips and Chuck Phillips – City Limits Hunting

Shelagh Fagan – Parking Lot Signs Quote

Bob Hooson- Better Hometown. Motion was carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Mr. Tim Green addressed Council on behalf of Lon Taylor and himself concerning their wrecker business. He requested Council allow their businesses to unlock vehicles doors, jump-start vehicles and impound some vehicles in their private lot for a fee. Chief Lawrence stated that the wreckers services are called on rotation basics when needed and vehicles are delivered to the City's impound lot. Chief Lawrence further stated that the police department would continue to serve the citizens of Eatonton by jump starting and unlocking vehicle door upon request. Mayor Reid suggested the police committee take a good look at Mr. Tim Green's written proposal before the next Council meeting.

Ms. Shelagh Fagan passed out copies of the proposed parking lot sign along with a quote for the parking signs without installation fees from BrownArt Signs and Graphics. Council advised Ms. Fagan to check with planning and zoning to be sure the size of these signs are not in violation of the sign ordinance requirement, and to get two more local quotes if possible.

Mr. Bob Hooson, Director of Better Hometown presented to Council the following report:

Better Hometown generated 82 hours of volunteer service and was responsible for over \$7000 of investment within the business district.

The Promotions Committee decorated the street corners with hay bales, pumpkins and scarecrows for the fall and Halloween.

Better Hometown supported and participated in the founding of “Forward Eatonton” which is the initiative for economic growth within the City.

Better Hometown held nominations and elections for the executive board positions. As depicted on the reverse of this report, our new chairperson is Shelagh Fagan she is replacing Buddy Nolan. Mr. Nolan will remain on the board. The Vice-chair position is to be held by Carillon Orban in the position previously held by Shelagh Fagan. Edge Farley will continue as Secretary. Marion Mahs will assume the position of Treasurer. Mr. Mahs is replacing Robert Holland who has faithfully served as treasurer for the past two years. Mr. Holland will remain on the board.

At Critter Park, the concrete walkway and steps were completed and are presently waiting for the installation of the center banister. The City sidewalk was also renovated to match up to the stairs.

New Business

Mike Phillips and Chuck Phillips addressed Council concerning hunting in the City of Eatonton. They advised Council that there are 34 members in their hunting club, and they have been hunting for over nineteen years in Putnam County. After Council heard where their hunting camp was located, and the area that they hunted, Council advised them that it was ok for them to continue to hunt on that piece of property.

Councilman Gorley stated that shots are being fired behind his home on George Lawrence Way, which is located in B & W Subdivision off Oconee Spring Road. Gorley was concerned that some hunters had no respect for their property or maybe hunting to close to their subdivision unknowingly. Gorley stated there is about 198 acres of land behind his home that is zoned R-1, which does not allow discharging a firearm. Gorley stated that all the neighbors are concerned about their safety and are not happy with the discharging of firearms. Chief Lawrence advised that he waited for the hunters to come out of the woods but they stated that they were bow hunting. Chief Lawrence recommended contacting the game warden and looking at other cities bow-hunting ordinances.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to amend Section 46-3 Weapons: discharge in city, to remove the word **not** from the first line of paragraph (b). (It shall **not** be unlawful for a person to discharge a firearm.) Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Committees Reports

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

Councilman Gorley advised Council that he met with City Administrator Dan Elmore to walk through City Hall and do a punch list of things that were not completed by the contractor. They found two things that the contractor needed to correct. Gorley also requested security cameras be installed in City Hall.

City Clerk Abrams advised Council members to mark their calendar on the following dates: The Community Wide Vesper Service, Sunday, November 23, 2008 5:00 p.m. at the Plaza Arts Center, and the annual City/County Christmas Dinner Monday, December 8, 2008 at Rock Eagle Dining Hall.

Councilman Griffith stated he talked with Steve Reid, the fire chief about mapping the fire hydrants and his response was that he did not have a map showing the location of the fire hydrants. Council also discussed putting reflector tape on the roadway near the fire hydrants so that they would be easy to locate in the dark.

City Administrator Dan Elmore reported to council that the radio read meters are still being installed. There are about 150 residential meters left to install. The utility billing clerk will run the first billing test as soon as the Eatonton residential meters are complete.

The building and ground crew are installing Holiday lights this week and have finished the fall plantings downtown.

The street department is collecting leaves as fast as they can and we may have to purchase another truck.

Elmore advised that he and several others city employees would be taking the Ready to Work Assessment on Thursday morning at 9:30 a. m.

City Clerk Abrams advised Council members that she placed a copy of the Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report at each council member seat for the December 31 2008 year-end reporting period.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Butts to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk