City Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 5, 2014 at 7:00 pm
Eatonton City Hall, 201 North Jefferson Avenue, Eatonton, Georgia 31024

Present:

   Mayor John Reid
   Mayor Pro-tem Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr.
   Councilman Alvin Butts
   Councilwoman Teresa Doster
   Councilman Charles R. Haley
   Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
   Councilwoman Alma Stokes
   Councilman James A Gorley

Staff Members Present:

   City Administrator, Gary Sanders
   City Attorney Chris Huskins
   City Clerk Sarah Abrams
   Police Chief William K Lawrence

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

Councilman William Mangum gave the Invocation

Motion was made by Councilwoman Doster and seconded by Councilman Gorley to adopt the minutes of the last meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Councilman Harvey Walker abstained.

Public Comments: None

Old Business:

Resolution to authorize Election Superintendent to call and conduct Special Election regarding additional Tax Exemption Attachment #2

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to approve Resolution authorizing Election Superintendent to Call and conduct Special Election regarding additional Tax Exemption and authorize Mayor Reid to sign necessary documents contingent upon the 3% of the assessed value is in line with the County Tax. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Butts to call for the Special Election. Motion carried by a unanimous vote 7-0.
New Business:

Discussion of Chamber of Commerce’s request to install City Welcome Signs *Item A*

Mrs. Roddie Ann Blackwell, Director of Eatonton Putnam Chamber of Commerce talked to Council about a proposal to install welcome signs at the Putnam County line and at the Eatonton City limits. Mrs. Blackwell advised Council that she was looking to place these signs on private property with the approval of the property owner. Each sign would cost approximately $4,000.00 and would be about 12 ft in length. EMC has donated $15,000.00. Suggestion has been made in reference to using bricks from the building torn down, to make way for the parking lot. Blackwell advised the City put $3,000.00 in the 2014 Budget last year and requested the City put the same amount in the FY15 Budget. Funds would be allocated toward the signs. Also Blackwell asked Council to suggest locations for placement of signs in the City. All suggestions should be sent to City Administrator Gary Sanders before the next meeting. City Attorney Huskins advised Council to get an easement from property owners who allow Welcome Signs to be placed on their property.

Councilman Mangum advised Mrs. Blackwell to use new sealed bricks because the older bricks deteriorate faster from the outside weather conditions.

**Proposed appointment to the Downtown Development Authority *Attachment #3***

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Mangum to appoint Walter C. Rocker III to the Downtown Development Authority and authorize Mayor Reid to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed Resolution to name Election Superintendent, a poll Manager and an Absentee Ballot Clerk for the November 4, 2014 Special Election *Attachment #4***

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Haley to approve Resolution naming Sarah Abrams, Election Superintendent, Barbara Trubey- Jackson, Poll Manager and Lisa Yates, Absentee Ballot Clerk for the November 4, 2014 Special Election and authorize Mayor Reid to sign necessary documents. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Councilman James Gorley abstained.

**Proposed Resolution to apply for a SAFER Grant *Attachment #5***

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Stokes to approve proposed Resolution which authorize Mayor Reid to request grant writing assistance from Middle Georgia Regional Commission for a SAFER Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and to sign letters applications, contracts and such supporting documents as shall be necessary. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Councilman Chip Walker welcomed City Administrator Sanders to his new job position with the City. 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 7-0.
Councillwoman Doster advised work continues on the parking lot.

Councilwoman Stokes advised receiving an invitation to attend the Pilot Club Civic Night Dinner on September 2nd. Please RSVP by August 21. Event will be held at the Masonic Lodge at 6 PM.

Councilwoman Stokes advised meeting with DCA and Eatonton –Putnam Arts Foundation at the Plaza on August 1, at 10:00 AM to discuss technical assistance offered by DCA regarding the repurposing request for the old Day Care Center.

Stokes advised attending Mr. Dan Elmore Retirement Celebration on July 30 at the Plaza. Stokes expressed words of gratitude for Mr. Elmore’s service to the Council and the Citizens of Eatonton.

Mayor Reid advised Council about receiving a message from DCA on Friday evening in which he stated DCA are looking to expedite the repurposing request for the old Day Care Center process and was pleased with what they saw on their visit.

Attorney Huskins asked if the City needed to provide a letter to DCA. Mayor Reid advised Huskins, that Robert Smith with Middle Georgia Regional Commission would submit information to DCA on behalf of the City.

Councilman Gorley reported the Fire Department has completed testing 250 hydrants. Gorley asked who owned the hydrants because the grass needed to be cleaned from around some of them. Gorley advised he had some personnel issues which needed to be addressed and to move forward on by September. Gorley called on Chief Lawrence to report on the Police Department. Police Chief William Lawrence advised Council one officer submitted his letter of resignation last week and another officer has been hospitalized since Sunday. Officer is expected to be out on sick leave for 6-8 weeks.

Police Chief Lawrence introduced Officer Michael Garner, a newly hired Police Officer. Officer Garner addressed Council with words of appreciations for employment with the Eatonton Police Department and being able to serving the citizens of Eatonton.

Administrator Gary Sanders reported the Rooty Creek Clean Up that was scheduled for July 25 was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. The event will be rescheduled for later this month or in September.

We held the bid opening for the striping grant this afternoon at 1:00 PM. TMI submitted the lowest bid of $255,708.20.

We are still working to get the necessary easements for the gas line to Rock Eagle.

The current Tax Digest and 5 year history of levy ad is scheduled to appear in this week’s Eatonton Messenger. The Digest is down this year by approximately 1.7 million. Since
the Budget does not contain a millage rate increase, the net tax collection will decrease by $12,762.

City Attorney Huskins reported filing easements on the gas line extension to Rock Eagle Technology Park. Huskins also advised following up with Adams on Week’s property cleanup. Huskins reported receiving positive result on Vizitech USA loan Letter of Condition, project is moving along well.

City Clerk Abrams thanked Council for their condolences during her loss of her family member.

There being no further business; Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to adjourn.

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John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk