City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Monday, December 15, 2014 at 7:00 pm
Eatonton City Hall, 201 North Jefferson Avenue, Eatonton, Georgia 31024

Elected Officials Present:
  Mayor John Reid
  Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr.
  Councilman Alvin Butts
  Councilwoman Teresa Doster
  Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
  Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Elected Official Absent:
  Councilman James A. Gorley
  Councilman Charles Haley

Staff Members Present:
  City Administrator, Gary Sanders
  City Attorney Christopher Huskins
  City Clerk Sarah Abrams
  Interim Fire Chief Eugene Hubert
  Police Chief William Kent Lawrence

Mayor John Reid called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Councilwoman Alma Stokes asked for a Moment of Silence in the place of invocation.

Motion was made by Stokes and seconded by Butts to adopt the minutes from December 2, 2014 Council meeting with any necessary corrections and ask Councilwoman Doster and Councilman Walker who were absent from the meeting to vote. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0 with Doster and Walker voting for approval of the minutes.

Interim Fire Chief Eugene Hubert presented the new firefighter’s uniform. Hubert advised firefighters will go to this uniform by the end of the year. Hubert introduced new full time firefighter Brandon Neff; he will start January 3, 2015. Hubert also advised Fireman Santa toy drive received over 160 applications for toys. The Department spent $1,500.00 on toys and the toys will be given away on Wednesday morning at 9:00 A.M. Hubert also reported Fireman Jamie Williams received Fireman of the Year award.

Mayor Reid extended words of welcome to Fireman Neff.

Public Comments: None

Mrs. Carrie Vanderver Director/Project Manager presented the Eatonton Main Street Report.
**Eatonton Main Street Report**  
**December 2014**

Attended Main Street 101 in Carrollton on Dec 9.

Completed all DCA reporting due over maternity leave. Eatonton in good standing and up-to-date on all reporting.

Have registered to attend the 2015 Spring Georgia Academy for Economic Development.

Yarborough’s Florist Shop officially closing doors on Dec 20. Open 9-5 daily until closing. Everything in store for sale! Asking $80,000 for building (includes walk in cooler). Owner selling (not listing with real estate agent). She has agreed to give Main Street/DDA a spare key so that we may show the space to potential businesses.

Rumor of Heavens’ Gate closing is NOT TRUE. Ms. Elaine was aware of the rumor, but has confirmed it to be false.

Christmas in the Briar Patch craft festival canceled due to weather. Rain held out for parade, which was a success.

Working full work-week, but new office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 9a-1p and Thursday 9a-5p. Working from home Monday (full day), Friday (full day), and Tuesday and Wednesday (afternoons). Hours are posted on office door and website.

Hoping to hold a "town hall" meeting in January to raise awareness about Main Street and to facilitate community discussion about what Eatonton would like to see in Downtown. More details to come.

Shelagh Fagan has resigned as Chair of the Main Street Board. Lisa Jackson has been voted to be new chair.

Mayor Reid thanked Mrs. Shelagh Fagan for her service to the Community. Mrs. Fagan advised she would continue to serve on the DDA.

**Old Business:**  
**Revolving Loan Brown Dog Restaurants**  
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to add Revolving Loan to Adam Smith / Brown Dog Restaurants LLC to the Agenda. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.
City Attorney Huskins discussed Revolving Loan to Adam Smith / Brown Dog Restaurants LLC and acquiring personal property as collateral for the loan as a substitute for a second interest on his home. Huskins advised that it is preferable to be the first lien holder on the collateral provided to secure the loan and suggested Council approve Smith’s personal property.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to approve Attorney Huskins making modification to the terms of the Revolving Loan for Adam Smith / Brown Dog Restaurants LLC and replace the previously approved collateral to secure the loan with his personal property. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**New Business**
**Discussion and possible action regarding the abandonment of City property on Baynes Street. Attachment #2**
Council discussed the abandonment of City property on Baynes Street. City Attorney Huskins advised Council that first the property owners on Baynes Street must be notified, and have an appraisal done. This will require investigation work.

Motion was made by Mangum and seconded by Doster to allow the City Attorney to proceed with the process of abandoning City property on Baynes Street. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Councilman Walker advised some people are under a delusion that he took a job in Florida but he has been in training for 4 weeks. Walker wished all a Merry Christmas.

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 Butts and Mangum wished all a Merry Christmas.

Councilwoman Doster advised a new sidewalk will be installed under the EEE Grant and signs.

Councilwoman Stokes expressed words of appreciation for the years of service Mrs. Barbara Trubey performed as an employee for the City of Eatonton. Mrs. Trubey will be retiring at the end of the year and will be missed. Stokes wished Mrs. Glenda Higgins a speedy recovery from her medical illness; she is the sister of City Marshal Dianne Veal.

City Administrator Gary Sanders reported:
Five candidates qualified for the Special Election to fill the vacancy that will be created by Representative Mickey Channell’s resignation. The County will conduct a Special Election on January 6, 2015. Advance Voting began today.
Work on the Willie Bailey Street drainage project began on Monday, December 8. This work will require road closures in the area. The pipe that crosses underneath Willie Bailey Street has been replaced. The contractor will spend this week working along Willie Bailey Street to North Maple Avenue. Crossing under North Maple Avenue will be done after the New Year’s holiday.

The annual SPLOST report is at your seat. It will run in this week’s Eatonton Messenger.

A Public Information Open House was held on Tuesday, December 9, to present GDOT’s proposed Highway 44 widening project in Greene and Putnam Counties. Public comments will be accepted via the DOT website or by mail through Tuesday, December 23, 2014.

The new website went live last Thursday evening, December 11. A lot of work went into it and it’s something we can all be proud of. There will continue to be some tweaking over the next few weeks.

This Wednesday, December 17, at 9:00 AM the Eatonton Fire Department will begin distributing the toys collected during the Fireman Santa toy drive.

City Attorney Huskins wished all a Merry Christmas and thanked the Council for his employment with the City of Eatonton.

Councilwoman Stokes reminded Council the Christmas Lights Decoration Contest will take place tonight. City Administrator Sanders advised Fireman Hubert along with himself would serve as the judges for the contest. A total of 6 entries were received.

Mayor Reid wished all a Merry Christmas and advised looking forward to working with Council next year.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster 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