City of Eatonton Council Meeting  
Monday, November 17, 2014 at 7:00 pm  
Eatonton City Hall, 201 North Jefferson Avenue, Eatonton, Georgia 31024

Elected Officials Present:  
Mayor John Reid  
Councilwoman Teresa Doster  
Councilman James A Gorley  
Councilman Charles Haley  
Councilman William Mangum, Jr.

Elected Official Absent:  
Councilman Alvin Butts  
Councilwoman Alma Stokes  
Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr.

Staff Members Present:  
City Administrator, Gary Sanders  
City Attorney Donald Huskins  
City Clerk Sarah Abrams  
Police Chief William Kent Lawrence

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

Invocation was given by Mr. Joshua Bell, Director of Eatonton Library.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to approve the minutes from the last Council meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a vote of 3-0. Councilman Charley Haley abstained.

**Public Comments**: Mike Mize, Shelagh Fagan, Janet Kelhoffer and James Nolan - Library

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Doster to hear from all who signed in to make public comments. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

**Reading of Rules for Public Comments**: The reading of Rules for Public Comments was read by City Administrator Gary Sanders.

Mayor Reid stated speakers would be called to speak in the order that they registered.
Mr. Mike Mize talked about how the renovation grant would create more space, bring more technology and make the Library building ADA compliant by bringing it up to code. Mr. Mize requested Council support the funding for library.

Ms. Shelagh Fagan talked about the library being a City owned facility and 90% of the changes would be to the interior of the building.

Ms. Janet Kelhoffer asked the City Council members to support the library.

Mr. James Nolan asked the City Council to support the library and allocate funds for the needed improvements because the library serves the whole community and most companies which may be looking to relocate to an area look to see if towns have a library and a hospital when considering locating their business to that particular area.

Mayor Reid thanked the speakers for their input and comments in reference to funding for the library.

New Business:

MainStreet Report
Mrs. Carrie Vanderver advised recently returning back to work and did not prepare a written report, but advised the Merchants Open House will be held Friday and Saturday, November 21, and 22, 2014. Vanderver asked Council and the community to support the Downtown merchants.

Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to request the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to complete an application for a Congregate Meal Program Grant Attachment #2

City Administrator Sanders called on Mrs. Janie Reid to address the Congregate Meal Program. This program provides meal to seniors with a daily meal.

Mrs. Janie Reid talked to Council in reference to the Meals on Wheel and Congregated Program and presented Council with the following written report:
MEALS ON WHEELS

- Currently serving 48 clients - 19 live outside city limits and 29 within Eatonton city limits.
- Serving 1 Private Pay
- Route A & Route B each delivers 24 meals each day
- Both routes covers a total of 89 miles each day, 445 miles weekly and 1780 monthly
- Still have 12 on waiting list but hope to bring them on by December 31, 2014. We have enough funding to do so plus an additional $7000.00+ that Putnam County had to pay back because of inaccurate reporting, this money is being held by AAA and must be used for home delivered meals only. It takes approximately $1400 to serve each client yearly therefore with the $7000.00 we could bring on another 5.
- Beginning July 1, 2014 – October 30, 2014; we delivered 3988 meals
- We had to go through 2 very detailed inspections. Don’t have the official report from either but prior to the actual inspection we had to do several things. Most of this was work on the equipment in the building to bring it up to par, we had to be inspected by the local health department first because AAA had to have a copy of their report and if we didn’t have that we were cited. The local department cited us verbally and those things were corrected immediately with the exception of installing a three compartment commercial sink – we have 60 days to comply. AAA has not sent a report of their findings yet. I am to ride the route twice monthly and visit the Irvinton Kitchen at least 4 times a year, in addition to training and other mandatory meetings at the Region Commission.
- AAA is currently reimbursing us at 5.43 per meal however that figure should be 5.51 (I notified them on Friday of this and they are making the corrections and the 4 month total will be on the next check from them to us). Middle Flint is billing us at $4.50 each meal. (which is $1.01 over received for each meal for operations).
- All reports are up to date and they have been submitted for reimbursement.

CONGREGATE PROGRAM

- Approximately 50 who applied to participate, average of 34 actively participating (22 residing inside the city and 14 outside city limits. This number will increase once we begin to serve meals on site.
- Still continue to feed them each day (pot luck, community organizations, donations, etc.)
- Active Computer Class on site taught each Wednesday
- Active Low Impact Aerobic Class on site taught by a certified personal trainer from BodyPlex twice a month
- Active Line Dancing Class taught on site twice a month by a trained instructor from Hancock County.
- Several in-county field trips - transportation provide by Putnam Transit (if and when transit is available)
- Made some cosmetic improvements to the room (installed carpet)
- Thanksgiving Dinner will be on Thursday at noon – you all are invited

Needs:
- 2 - 15 passenger van for field trips
- Paid Activity Person (15 hours each week – 60 hours each month)
  No city money is being spent on any of these activities.
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to adopt the resolution authorizing the Mayor to request the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to complete an application for a Congregate Meals Program and also authorize Mayor Reid to sign letters, applications, contracts and other such supporting material as shall be necessary for the proper application for the execution of the grant for such program. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

**Discussion and possible action regarding the Eatonton – Putnam County Library Board of Trustees’ request for MR&M Project Funding Attachment # 3**

Mayor Reid advised meeting with members of the Library Board and he expressed concerns over the $50,000 funding request received after the adoption of the City Budget for FY 2015. The request is not included in this budget but could be put in next year’s budget. Those in attendance were receptive to receiving funding by August 31, 2016.

Councilman Haley advised the funds are not in this budget, but we must find a way to make the $200,000 improvements to our library building.

Motion was made by Mangum and seconded by Gorley to approve funding in the amount of $50,000.00 for the Eatonton Putnam Library in next year’s Budget. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

**Discussion and possible action regarding a request from Putnam County to Renegotiate Local Option Sales Tax allocations**

Mayor and Council discussed renegotiating the Local Option Sales Tax allocations between the City and County. Mayor Reid advised the county appointed two commissioners to serve on a renegotiating committee and they are asking the City to appoint two members to meet with their committee. Gorley advised he saw a no win-win situation; take no action.

City Attorney Donald Huskins advised Council to have the City and County Attorneys schedule a meeting and discuss (LOST) Local Option Sales Tax. After much discussion; no action was taken by Council.

**Proposed Resolution to appoint Board Members to Eatonton Housing Authority Attachment #4 Motions** was made by Doster and seconded by Mangum to reappoint to the Eatonton Housing Authority Board members Amy Lowery to serve a 4 year term which expires November 2018 and Betty Gulley to serve a one year term which expires November 2015. Also authorize the Mayor to sign the Resolutions. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.
Committee Reports:
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to pay the bills if and when funds become available. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

Councilwoman Doster advised the contractor is working on the parking lot, also the Downtown Development Authority next meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday.

Councilman Haley thanked Administrator Sanders for managing the garbage crisis during his absence. Haley advised Council that they must find a way to help the retail business and support the stores in the downtown business district.

Mayor Reid reported the following events for Councilwoman Stokes:
- 2014 Mayors’ Christmas Motorcade - Central State Hospital December 2, 2014 at 1:30 pm. Councilwoman Stokes will pick up donation box from City Hall next week.
- The dedication and re-naming of Plum Street and a portion of Putnam Avenue to Robert Reid Sr. Drive will take place on Saturday, November 22, at 12 noon at St. John AME Church.

Councilman Gorley advised the Fire Department responded to several fires in the City and County, with 1 person in the county having injuries. Gorley advised the Fire Department will be interviewing applicants for the firefighter position.

Gorley called on Police Chief William Lawrence, who introduced Nasser Thompkins his newly hired staff employee. Thompkins thanked Council for hiring him and giving him an opportunity to serve the citizens of Eatonton.

City Administrator Sanders advised about 800 ft. left to complete the gas line expansion on Highway 441. Gas should be on the line by November 21.

The City held a Special Election on November 4, 2014 and the official result are as follows:
Question 1 ($10,000 homestead exemption) – 426 Yes 56 No
Question 2 (freeze for seniors) – 406 Yes 63 No
Question 3 (3% max increase on homestead valuation) – 394 Yes 79 No

You are all invited to attend the unveiling ceremony of Robert Reid Sr. Drive on Saturday, November 22, at 12:00 P.M.

The parking lot and East Marion Street have been paved. Striping at the parking lot may be completed by the end of the Week if the weather permits. We plan to begin the project on Willie Bailey Street next. If there are no rain delays or other issues, the project will take 2-3 weeks. There will be road closures in the area during this time.
The budget status report for FY 2014 is at your seat.

The Grant application for Phase 2 of the Trail Park will be submitted by November 26.

Mr. James Nolan asked Council to help the retail by supporting the downtown merchants. The Special Election and the passing of the homestead tax questions will put an extra burden on the retailer and more tax on non homesteaders.

Mayor Reid advised Mr. Nolan that the homestead exemption is already in place for the school and county and we are trying to get in line with them. This was intended to bring consequences that affect retail.

City Attorney Donald Huskins advised he was glad to fill in for his son, Attorney Christopher Huskins tonight. Huskins expressed words of appreciation over the Veterans Wall Memorial, particularly Bob Landau and cooperation from the City and County.

Mayor Reid advised the Veteran Wall Memorial is a great asset to our community, and the Park is much appreciated.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Doster to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk