Mayor Rocker called the December 19, 2016 Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation was given by Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Walker to approve the December 6, 2016 Council meeting minutes with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0. Councilman Alvin Butts was absent at the time of the vote.

Public Comments: Terrence Waller

Reading of the Rules for Public Comments: Omitted

Mayor Rocker called on Mr. Terrence Waller to make Public Comments. Mr. Terrence Waller talked about the City Marshal continuing efforts to clean up the City of Eatonton dilapidated property. Waller advised one case has gone to court and some progress has been made, but there is still more work to be done. Let’s not sit down on it; rather, continue to move forward in all sections of the City. Mr. Waller asked Mayor Rocker to write a letter to the Editor of the Eatonton Messenger to address the current
water issue with the hydrants and leaks in the roads. Although one leak has been repaired, water continues leaking on Spring Street, New Street, and East Street. Waller asked that the Old Putnam State Prison, which is leased by Tytan Pictures, be added to the list of properties that needs to be cleaned up and maintained.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**  
Mainstreet Director Andrew Simpson thanked Mainstreet Board Members for attending the Council meeting tonight.

Simpson showed a special power point presentation detailing Eatonton Mainstreet events held during the year 2016. Simpson also talked about how important it is for board members to attend the mandatory Main Street 101 training.

Mainstreet Board member Cooper Rainey discussed the 2017 Mainstreet Calendar. Mr. Rainey pointed out there are 14 events planned for 2017.

Board member Sarah Thompson spoke on the decorations and downtown planters. Thompson also advised the board is developing a work plan for 2017.

Mrs. Lyn Romine spoke on the facade grant which they provided to local businesses to enhance their building frontage. Mrs. Romine advised the City Code of Ordinance needs to be updated to protect building architecture in the downtown district and it needs more teeth when buildings are being remodeled/revitalized. Romine asked Council to provide additional funding in next year budget for Mainstreet.

Councilman Walker complimented Mainstreet Board on the Christmas Parade along with Councilman Haley who advised all the events attended has been fantastic. Mayor Rocker thanked Mainstreet for sponsoring these events.

**Main Street Report for City Council End of Year 2016**

**Organization**  
The Chair of Main Street Lisa Jackson and the City Administrator Gary Sanders have spoken to the Main Street Board about their responsibilities as board members regarding their attendance at the mandatory Main Street 101 training.

The next mandatory Main Street 101 training is set for Tuesday February 28. The Main Street Board members that do not attend this training are aware that they will be asked to resign, rather than put Eatonton Main Street into a probationary status.
**Promotion**

The crowd for The Polar Express was around 22 people. Eatonton Main Street will be moving the movies inside to the Eatonton Cotton Warehouse due to weather and lighting issues starting in 2017.

The Arts and Craft Bazaar had more vendors than last year with over 30 taking part. All vendors said they were pleased with the response though wished the weather had been warmer. Many people complimented the variety of food vendors and Turkey Legs appeared to be the most favored item.

The Light Up The Night Christmas Parade finished with 31 entrants. The Parade was said by many to be the best ever in Eatonton. The feedback I and others have received has been nothing but positive.

However, one of the entrants stated that a child ran right in front of his vehicle to get candy and he narrowly missed running the child over. The throwing of Candy is currently not allowed under the entry form, but it would appear that further action needs to be taken to prevent a tragedy from occurring.

Mainstreet is seeking to promote a Fire and Ice Festival on Saturday February 11, 2017, at the Community Event Stage and Activity Center. Mainstreet is also seeking to partner with the Eatonton Cotton Warehouse. The Ice Sculpting will take place in the Cotton Warehouse. The Fire performers have an inside alternative and will have an educational aspect to their work for children, which will not involve fire.

Main Street has adopted a 2017 Events Calendar which is attached.

**Design**

The Residential and Commercial Christmas Decorating Contest was a great success. The City of Eatonton did have a number of houses that had great decorations but did not enter.

**Economic Vitality**

Lake Country Physical Therapy has moved their grand opening to January.
Woodmen Life has moved their grand opening to January.
The Eatonton Cotton Warehouse is planning a ribbon cutting in January.

**Summary**

Everyone I have spoken to have been very impressed with the changes that have been made regarding beautification, the increased businesses that are downtown and the variety of events that Eatonton Main Street is putting on. I can only thank the business owners and landlords that have the vision to invest and our sponsors, vendors and attendees for making the events so successful. As Putnam County is having its 210th anniversary of its founding next year, I believe that 2017 is going to be a very special year.
**Eatonton Main Street 2017 Calendar**

1. Fire and Ice Festival - The Community Event Stage and Activity Center - 124A Jefferson Ave, the Eatonton Cotton Warehouse 118 N. Jefferson Ave - 4:00pm to 8:00pm Saturday, February 11.

2. Community Easter Egg Hunt - Putnam County Recreation Department - 140 Recreation Road 10:00am to 12:00pm Saturday, April 8.

3. Georgia Cities Week Concert/City Cook Off Competition - The Community Event Stage and Activity Center 124A Jefferson Avenue behind The Eatonton Cotton Warehouse. 4:00pm to 10:00pm Saturday, April 22.

4. Georgia Cities Week Concert/Celebration of the City - The Community Event Stage and Activity Center 124 A North Jefferson Avenue behind The Eatonton Cotton Warehouse. 4:00pm to 10:00pm Saturday, April 29.

5. Jazz Music Concert - The Community Event Stage and Activity Center 124A N. Jefferson Ave behind the Eatonton Cotton Warehouse. - 7:00pm to 9:00pm Saturday, May 6.

6. Country Music Concert - The Community Event Stage and Activity Center, 124A N. Jefferson Ave - behind The Eatonton Cotton Warehouse. - 7:00pm to 9:00pm Saturday, May 20.

7. *Cars - Movies in The Briar Patch at The Eatonton Cotton Warehouse - 7:00pm to 9:00pm Friday, June 2.

8. Back to School/Movie*Rogue One-A Star Wars Story-Movies in The Briar Patch at The Eatonton Cotton Warehouse. - (Movie will start at 7:00pm) - 5:30pm to 9:00pm Friday August 4.

9. Briar Patch Arts Festival - Putnam County Courthouse Lawn - 10:00am to 3:00pm Saturday, September 30.

10. Georgia/Florida Tailgating Event including Concert - The Community Event Stage and Activity Center 124A N. Jefferson Ave behind The Eatonton Cotton Warehouse - (The Game will begin at 3:30pm) 2:00pm to 7:00pm Saturday, October 28.

11. Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them/Costume Contest - Movies in the Briar Patch at The Eatonton Cotton Warehouse - 7:00pm to 9:00pm Saturday, October 28.

12. Small Business Saturday - Downtown Eatonton - 9:00am to 5:00pm Saturday, November 26.

13. *Frozen - Movies In The Briar Patch - The Eatonton Cotton Warehouse, 118 N. Jefferson Ave. 6:00pm to 8:00pm Friday, December 8.

14. Christmas in the Briar Patch/Arts and Craft Festival/Light Up The Night Parade - 2:00pm to 7:00pm (The Light Up The Night Christmas Parade to begin 6pm on Saturday, December 9.)

*The Movies with an Asterisk are subject to Disney approval. I should have a yes or no by the end of the month. If it is a no I will seek suitable replacements.
New Business:

**Proposed Resolution to Designate a Date and Meeting Place for the January 16, 2017 City Council Meeting Attachment #6B**
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Gorley to approve the proposed Resolution changing the regular Council meeting scheduled for the third Monday in January 2017 to Tuesday, January 17, 2017. Location, the Hut, 400-A West Marion Street and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Fix Qualifying Fees for the 2017 Municipal Election Attachment #6C**
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Butts to approve the proposed Resolution fixing the qualifying fees for the offices to be filled in the 2017 Municipal General Election as follows:

- Councilmember, Ward 1 $198.00
- Councilmember, Ward 2 $198.00
- Councilmember, Ward 3 $198.00
- Councilmember, Ward 4 $198.00

And authorize Mayor Rocker to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Amend Section 3 (Financial Procedures) of the City of Eatonton Financial Policy Manual Attachment #6D**
City Administrator Sanders advised this Resolution will update City of Eatonton Financial Policy and bring it more in line with the State policy by streamlining our budget amendment process.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Gorley to approve the proposed Resolution amending the Financial Procedures of the City of Eatonton so that City Budget amendments are prepared and adopted pursuant to the provision of Chapter 81 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Expenditure of Certain Restricted Funds Attachment #6E**
City Administrator Sanders advised the City has set aside funds in the General Fund to update the computers in the clerk’s office and he was requesting to use approximately $15,000 of these funds to update the equipment/software and obtain associated consulting services as needed.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Haley to approve the proposed Resolution using restricted funds in the General Fund to update computer equipment in the clerk’s office in City Hall and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.
Committee Reports
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Gorley to pay the bills if and when the funds become available. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Councilman Walker wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Butts advised after looking at the request for a streetlight on Pinecrest Drive, his recommendation is to add an additional streetlight on Pinecrest Drive.

Councilman Haley made positive comments on the professional looking spreadsheet report presented to Council by City Marshal Diane Veal on property code violations. Haley advised looking forward to seeing the Marshal’s spreadsheet amended each month. Our top priority is to clean up each street.
Councilman Gorley requested City Marshal Veal present a list that outlines all property issues resolved or a list showing closed cases.

Councilwoman Stokes wished all a Merry and safe Christmas.

Councilman Gorley advised the Eatonton Fire Department, Fireman Santa will be giving out Christmas toys to around 250 children on Tuesday morning at 9:00 AM. Gorley advised Mayor and Council members are invited to attend the event. Gorley also asked that prayers be made on behalf of our police officers and the community.

City Administrator Sanders reported City Hall will be closed on Friday, December 23rd, and Monday, December 26th, for the Christmas Holiday.

City Administrator Sanders reported the City Marshal is evaluating a cloud-based solution for managing ordinance complaints and violations. She will be able to track the entire process from initial report through the court process and incident closure with BICEs software.

City Administrator Sanders reported we are continuing to wait on construction schedules from Southern Asphalt for paving on Lower Harmony Road and MLK, Jr. Drive and from IPR for storm drain rehab on Highland Drive. The cold temperatures and rain will be factors in scheduling these projects.

Mayor Rocker asked if there was any more business to come before the Council tonight. Being no other business, motion was made by Haley and seconded by Walker to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0. Council adjourned at 7:38 PM.

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Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk