City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 7:00 PM
Putnam County Commissioners’ Meeting Room #203
117 Putnam Drive
Eatonton, Georgia 31024

Elected Officials Present:
    Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr.
    Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr.
    Councilman Alvin Butts
    Councilwoman Teresa Doster
    Councilman James A. Gorley
    Councilman Charles R. Haley
    Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
    Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Elected Officials Absent:

Staff Members Present:
    City Administrator, Gary Sanders
    City Attorney, Christopher Huskins
    City Clerk, Sarah Abrams
    Chief of Police, William K. Lawrence

Mayor Rocker called the September 6th Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation was given by Councilman William (Bill) Mangum, Jr.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the minutes of the last meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Public Comments: None

Reading of the rules for Public Comments: Omitted

Old Business: None

New Business:

Proposed Resolution to Adopt Millage Rate for 2016 Attachment #6A
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to approve the proposed Resolution adopting a net millage rate for 2016 and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign the Resolution
for the Gross millage rate of 17.720 mills to be rolled back by anticipated Local Option Sales Tax collections equivalent to 8.220 mills resulting in a net millage of 9.50 mills. Such net mill rate shall hereby be assessed and levied in the City of Eatonton, Georgia for the year 2016. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Request Technical Assistance from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission in Preparing a Department of Economic Development Tourism Grant Attachment # 6B**

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Gorley to approve the proposed Resolution by the Council of the City of Eatonton, GA in requesting technical assistance from Middle Georgia Regional Commission in preparing a Georgia Department of Economic Development Tourism Grant application on behalf of the Downtown Development Authority and Eatonton Putnam Tourism Arts Heritage Partnership, Inc., and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign all such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary and required. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Ratify the Action of the Mayor in Signing a Letter of Support for the Eatonton Mural Project Attachment #6C**

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the Resolution ratifying the action of Mayor Rocker in signing a Letter of Support on behalf of the Georgia Writers Museum for a Vibrant Communities Grant for the Eatonton Mural Project. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Discussion and Possible Action on Leasing the Old Senior Citizens Center on Waterworks Drive Attachment #6D**

Administrator Sanders advised receiving a letter of interest from Jennifer Carawan of Lake Country Physical Therapy. This is in reference to a renting/leasing agreement for the old Waterworks Building, located at 457 B East Sumter Street. They would like to use this building to provide physical therapy and wellness to patients. Councilman Gorley asked if the City could enter into a long term lease. City Attorney Huskins advised he would look into this. Mayor Rocker referred the rental/leasing of the Old Waterworks Building to the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

**Proposed Resolution to Appoint a Member to the Eatonton-Putnam Water Sewer Authority Board Attachment #6E**

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Haley to approve the Resolution appointing Judson Doster to the Eatonton–Putnam Water and Sewer Authority Board for a term of four years. Term will expire on September 1, 2020. Also, authorize Mayor Rocker to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Councilwoman Teresa Doster abstained.
Proposed Resolution to Participate in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Attachment #6F
Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Doster to approve the proposed Resolution for the City of Eatonton to participate in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program as provided by the Georgia Department of Human Services and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign letters and other supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary for the proper receipt of such funds as may be required. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Downtown Development Authority Attachment #6G
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Walker to approve the proposed Resolution by the Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia authorizing the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Eatonton Downtown Development Authority and sign forms, modifications and any related documents necessary to the consummation of the transaction contemplated by this Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.
(Contract not to exceed $41,000.00)

Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Execute a Contract with the Eatonton-Putnam Arts Foundation Attachment #6H
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to approve the proposed Resolution by the Council of the City of Eatonton authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract for services with the Eatonton-Putnam Arts Foundation, Inc. and sign any forms and any necessary related documents to the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.
(Contract not to exceed $51,000.00)

Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Execute a Contract with the Eatonton -Putnam Chamber of Commerce Attachment #6I
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the proposed Resolution by the Council of the City of Eatonton, GA authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract for services with the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce and to sign forms, modifications and any related documents necessary to the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.
(Contract amount is not to exceed $11,500.00)

Proposed Resolution to approve A Temporary Alcoholic Pouring License Attachment #6J
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Mangum to approve a Temporary Alcoholic Beverage Pouring License for the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce for
consumption on the premises at its facility located at 305 North Madison Avenue on October 3, 2016. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed Resolution Authorizing the City of Eatonton to Contract for Funding under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century Attachment #6K**

City Administrator Sanders advised this is for the TE/Streetscape Project. The grant is $250,000.00 and the local match is $62,500 which is a total of $312,500.00. Bid for the project will let in October.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the proposed Resolution authorizing the City of Eatonton to Contract for funding under the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21) and authorize Mayor Rocker to execute the contract on behalf of the City of Eatonton, Georgia with the Department of Transportation for aid in financing construction, and all other activities incidental thereto, of the Transportation Enhancement Activities and all other provisions as set forth in the contract. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Execute a Right-of-Way Mowing and Maintenance Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation Attachment #6L**

Motion was made by Doster and seconded Walker to approve the Resolution by the Board of Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia to authorize the Mayor to execute a Right-of-Way Mowing and Maintenance Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

*(Solicitation/Contract No/PI0011702, Putnam County, SR 24 from SR 16 to North of East Harris Street/Willie Bailey Street)*

**Request for Retail Package Sales of Beer and Wine License by George and Gennie Walker d/b/a Zippys 2 LLC at 105 Gray Road, Eatonton, Georgia Attachment #6M**

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the request made by George and Gennie Walker, d/b/a Zippys 2 LLC retail package sales of beer and wine license at 105 Gray Road, Eatonton, GA. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Zoning: None**

**Committee Reports:**

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to pay the bills if and when the funds become available. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.
Councilwoman Doster advised the Historic Preservation Board held their first meeting with their new Chairperson.

Councilman Haley asked that City Marshal Dianne Veal, Code Enforcement Report be a continuing rolling list of cases in progress and completed. Haley asked if anything has been done to Charlie Weeks old property owned by Dorothy Adams over on East Marion Street. Haley and Stokes discussed neighborhoods with tall grass. Some property owners grass has not been cut since last year and this is not fair to their neighbors. Haley suggested the City Marshal take a more aggressive stance on cleaning up.

Councilman Gorley advised Council to read the letter at their seat which was received from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, advising that Police Chief William Kent Lawrence was nominated for the prestigious Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP) Chief of the Year Award. Council congratulated Chief Lawrence on his nomination.

Councilman Gorley advised the Fire Department held their Annual Boot Drive over the Labor Day weekend. Gorley asked Fire Chief Hubert to give an update. Fire Chief Eugene Hubert advised that due to the bad weather on Friday, they only held the drive on Saturday; they collected just over $3,649. Another Drive will be scheduled later in the year.

City Administrator Gary Sanders reported to City Council:

1. Main Street’s Strategic Planning Meeting will be held at 9:00 AM tomorrow morning, September 7, here in the Putnam County Administration Building.

2. A Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan update meeting will be held tomorrow, September 7, 2:00 PM in the Putnam County Administration Building.

3. Please be reminded of the book signing and lecture event with First Lady Sandra Deal this Friday at 12:30 PM at the Writer’s Museum.

4. The GA DNR Trail Grant pre-application workshop on Monday, September 12. Mr. Sanders advised he would attend.

5. The Eatonton-Putnam County Library will dedicate the Alice Walker Reading Center at 2:00 PM on Thursday, September 22.

6. A CDBG recipient workshop will be held October 6-7 in Savannah. Please let Ms. Abrams or him know if you are interested in attending.
Councilman Butts asked if the road striping was complete. Administrator Sanders advised Councilman Butts that the striping was complete.

Councilman Haley asked that Council hold a work session on the Budget. He felt there were items in the Budget that could be cut.

Councilman Butts invited Mayor and Council to participate in a clean-up day for Ward #2. The clean-up day will be held on Saturday, October 22 from 10 AM to 12 PM. All interested persons are to meet at New Life Outreach Christian Center located at 206 Agnes Drive.

**Executive Session: Personnel**

Motion was made by Councilman Harvey Walker, Jr. That this Mayor and Council now enter into closed session as allowed by Chapter 14 of Title 50 of the Georgia Code and pursuant to advice by the City Attorney, for the purpose of discussing the following: Personnel.

Motion Seconded By: Councilwoman Teresa Doster. Motion Approved.

Those voting in favor of the motion for closure: Council Members Harvey Walker, Jr, Alvin Butts, Teresa Doster, James A. Gorley, Charley R. Haley, William Mangum, Jr. and Alma Stokes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Councilman Walker and seconded by Councilwoman Doster to return to Open Session. Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Councilman Walker and seconded by Councilwoman Doster that the Resolution by the Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel be approved and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Resolution by the Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Eatonton City Council as follows: At the meeting held on the 6th day of September, 2016, the Council entered into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. At the close of the discussions upon this subject, the Council did vote to re-enter into open session and herewith takes the following action in open session:

(1) The actions of the Council and the discussions of the same regarding the matter set forth for closed session purposes are hereby ratified.

(2) Each member of this body does hereby confirm that to the best of his or her
Knowledge based upon the advice of the City Attorney, the said subject matter of the meeting and of the closed session portion was devoted to matters within the specific relevant exception(s) as set forth above.

(3) The Mayor, or the presiding officer, is hereby authorized and directed to execute an affidavit, with full support of the members of this Council, in order to comply with O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b).

(4) The affidavit shall be included and filed with the official minutes of the meeting and shall be in a form as required by the statute, which shall be substantially as follows:

Approved this 6th day of September, 2016

Attest ___________________    ______________________
City Clerk              Walter C. Rocker, Jr. Mayor

In Open Session
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Gorley to reinstate all Department Heads with the exception of City Clerk Sarah Abrams. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Haley to reinstate Sarah Abrams as City Clerk. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Council James A. Gorley abstained.

Mayor Rocker asked if there was any other business to be conducted for the good of the City, being none; motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

________________________
Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

_____________________________
Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk
Affidavit

Before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths appeared Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr., who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

(1) I am competent to make this Affidavit and have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein.

(2) Pursuant to my duties as Mayor, I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Eatonton City Council held on the 6th day of September 2016. A portion of said meeting was closed to the public.

(3) It is my understanding that O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the person presiding over such meeting or, if the agency’s policy so provides, each member of the governing body of the agency attending such meeting, shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exceptions.

(4) The subject matter of said meeting, or the closed portion thereof, was devoted to matters within exceptions to public disclosure provided by law. Those specific relevant exceptions are identified as follows: Meeting closed to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(2) Personnel.

This affidavit is executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b) and; is to be filed with the official minutes for the aforementioned meeting.

This 6th day of September 2016

__________________________________________
Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This ______day of ________, ________

__________________________________________
Notary Public