City of Eatonton Council Meeting  
Monday, December 18, 2017 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
Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Elected Officials Absent:
Councilwoman Teresa Doster
Councilman James A. Gorley
Councilman Charles R. Haley

Staff Members Present:
City Administrator, Gary Sanders
City Attorney, Christopher Huskins
Chief of Police, William Kent Lawrence
Main Street Manager, Andrew Simpson

Staff Members Absent:
City Clerk, Sarah Abrams

Also Present:
Municipal Court Judge, R. Michael Gailey, Jr.

Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr. called the December 18, 2017 Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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

Municipal Court Judge R. Michael Gailey, Jr. administered the oath of office to Councilman William Mangum, Jr. and Councilwoman-elect Janie B. Reid for their upcoming terms beginning January 1, 2018.
Mayor Rocker and Council presented a plaque to Councilwoman Stokes recognizing her years of service as a member of City Council. Council offered words of appreciation and thanks to Ms. Stokes.

Motion was made by Mr. Mangum and seconded by Ms. Stokes to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2017 meeting. Motion carried by a vote 3-0. Mr. Butts abstained because he did not attend the meeting.

Public Comments: Police Chief William Kent Lawrence
Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Walker and seconded by Mr. Mangum to hear public comments from Chief Lawrence. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

Reading of the Rules for Public Comments: Omitted

Chief Lawrence offered words of appreciation to Councilwoman Stokes for all that she has done for the community during her time on City Council and wished everyone a safe and Merry Christmas.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Proposed Resolution to Appoint Members to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council Attachment #8A
Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Walker and seconded by Mr. Mangum to approve the Resolution appointing the Mayor and City Administrator to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council for 2018. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

Proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the Regional Commission for Website Services Update Attachment #8B
City Administrator Sanders advised that the original memorandum of agreement with the Regional Commission for developing and maintaining the City’s website is expiring soon. The proposed MOA will renew the agreement for an additional three years. The annual fee will remain $1,260 and includes a site redesign.

Motion was made by Mr. Butts and seconded by Mr. Mangum to authorize the Mayor to execute the memorandum of agreement with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission for the redevelopment and maintenance of the City’s website and for other purposes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

Discussion and Possible Action on Membership and Pledge Agreement for Participation in the Georgia Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative Attachment #8C
City Administrator Sanders advised that the Georgia Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative (GPERI) is a public-private partnership between emergency responders and Georgia pipeline operators to improve pipeline safety. The initiative provides improved training, cooperation, and communication between pipeline operators and emergency responders.

City Administrator Sanders further advised that participation in GPERI will satisfy a portion of the Public Service Commission’s regulatory inspection of the City’s Public Awareness Plan. Gas Superintendent Charlie Bales fully supports participation in GPERI.

Motion was made by Mr. Butts and seconded by Mr. Mangum to authorize the Mayor to execute the membership and pledge agreement with the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs for participation in the Georgia Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Amend the Balanced Budget for CFY 2017 Attachment #8D**

City Administrator advised that amendment #2 to CFY 2017 budget is for minor year-end clean up and to make adjustments for the receipt and expenditure of certain grant revenues by the Public Works Department.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Walker and seconded by Mr. Mangum to approve the Resolution amending the balanced budget for CFY 2017 as required by O.C.G.A. §36-32-3 and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

**Main Street Report Attachment #8E**

Main Street Manager Simpson presented the Main Street recap and program review for 2017, along with video presentations highlighting the Briar Patch Arts Festival and the Sister Cities Program. Simpson advised that the Sister Cities Program is $300 per year and is coordinated through the U.S. Department of State. The program provides a vital link for foreign investment in Eatonton; program participants in another country will be advocating specifically for the City of Eatonton.

A 501-c-3 Non-Profit Corp. Designated by the Georgia Dept. of Community Affairs for the City & County

Main Street Report for City Council Meeting Tuesday December 5 2017 - November Recap
Organization
Eatonton Main Street is still looking for applicants to the board. A working board is required by the Department of Community Affairs, as part of the annual assessment to maintain Main Street designation.

The Christmas decorations committee have raised thousands of dollars in donations for decorating light poles.

I attended the rural prosperity summit in Tifton on Wednesday November 29 and Thursday November 30.

**Promotion**
Several merchants held an open house on Saturday November 18. Merchants were also encouraged to participate in Small Business Saturday on November 25.

**Design**
There is one facade grant pending for the Facade Grant program.

**Economic Vitality**
Downtown Eatonton continues to attract interest in bringing merchants into the Downtown. However, buildings like Moore LP Gas (107 N. Jefferson Avenue), China Chef (104 N. Jefferson Avenue) Communicomm/Charter Building (104 E. Marion St) and 112 W. Marion Street prevent a vibrant Downtown from putting down roots and taking hold and are off-putting for new businesses due to the buildings not being compliant with building codes/planning and zoning regulations. (Sec. 14-31. Adoption by Reference. Georgia Uniform Codes Act, O.C.G.A. § 8-2-25, 14-68. - Complaint in rem in municipal court; procedure; lien; appeal and Sec. 75-343 District Requirements {e})

112 W. Marion Street is being used as a storage facility by the building owner which is incompatible with the zoning code. Sec. 75-342. - Uses allowed. The Pex Theater which holds The Country Kitchen had its marquee badly damaged by heavy rain. The rear of the restaurant is open to the elements. Both the rear and marquee have still not been repaired.

On Cloud 9 celebrated their 7th anniversary with Ribbon Cutting on Monday November 6.

The Frisk pub opened on Tuesday November 14. They are still waiting on state licenses regarding alcohol consumption.

The Music Store next to the Pex Theater opened on Wednesday November 15.

Cucos Mexican Restaurant reopened on Monday November 27.

Two buildings were purchased one in June 2016 and one in October 2016. The old Yarbrough Flowers building, and the old Trent Brown law office building. I have been given opening dates of towards the end of 2017, but again nothing firm as to what businesses are going to open.

Summary
The entertainment for Christmas in the Briar Patch is as follows ...

12:00 - Opening of Christmas in the Briar Patch.12:05 - Duke Elton. 1:00 - Eatonton Harmonettes. 2:00 - Amy Rae. 3:00 - The New Silveraires. 4:00 - Franklin Washington. 5:00 - Christmas in the Avenue Choir.

Cadence Fox is the Grand Marshall for the 2017 Light Up the Night Christmas parade. I am also looking at entertainment during the parade as well as floats. I am continuing to recruit vendors for the Festival, but I am looking for parade entrants. The Holiday Decorating Contest has been advertised on Facebook and an insert was in the utility bill. I contacted the Messenger to see if they would run the contest as a story to encourage involvement.

Zoning: None

Committee Reports

Mayor Pro Tem Walker thanked Ms. Stokes for her years of service and wished her a happy retirement. He extended his condolences to Ms. Abrams and the Gorley family for their loss and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Walker and seconded by Ms. Stokes to pay the bills if and when the funds become available. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

Mr. Butts offered his congratulations to Mr. Mangum on his re-election and his thanks to Ms. Stokes for the time she spent serving on Council and the things he learned from her. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and he hopes they have safe holidays.
Ms. Stokes offered her condolences to the Gorley family. She wished everyone happy and safe holidays. She has enjoyed her time of service and will miss being on Council, adding that she will still be in touch. She also inquired about the yard sale on Highway 44 and expressed that she wants to see this situation through.

City Administrator Gary Sanders reported:

1. The Middle Georgia Transportation Roundtable met on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 to approve the investment list and to set an election date for the Regional TSPLOST. Each Councilmember has an information packet at your seat.

2. Those council members who were re-elected in November need to complete another Affidavit of a Candidate’s Intent Not To Exceed $2,500 on or before January 8, 2018.

3. City Hall will be closed next Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26 for the Christmas Holidays.

4. He would like to extend his sympathies to the Gorley family and ask that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

5. He would like to thank Ms. Stokes for her years of service to the City of Eatonton and for the things that she has taught him during his time here.

City Attorney Huskins shared that he will always be indebted to Ms. Stokes for her service. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Mayor Rocker wished a Merry Christmas to all.

Mayor Rocker asked if there was any more business to be discussed before we adjourn. Being no further business, motion was made by Walker and seconded by Mangum to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

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Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Gary Sanders, City Administrator