City of Eatonton Council Meeting  
Tuesday, February 20, 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.  
(Late)  
   Councilman Alvin Butts  
   Councilwoman Teresa Doster  
   Councilman James A. Gorley  
   Councilman William Mangum, Jr.  
(Late)  
   Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Elected Officials Absent:  
   Councilman Charles R. Haley

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

Mayor Walter Rocker called the February 20, 2017 Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation was given by Councilwoman Teresa Doster.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Walker to approve the minutes from February 6, 2017 Council meeting. Motion carried by a vote of 3-0. Councilwoman Teresa Doster abstained from voting because of not attending the last meeting. Councilman Butts, Councilwoman Alma Stokes and Councilman Charles Haley were absent when the vote was taken.

Public Comments  
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to hear from all who signed in to speak under Public Comments. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.
Police Chief William Kent Lawrence reported an accident which occurred on Church Street last Friday, February 17, 2017. A child on a bicycle was hit by a car. The State Patrol was called to work the accident. The child is ok, out of the hospital and doing better. The City will be working on the road and sidewalk in the near future. Someone has requested speed breakers.

Also, Chief Lawrence expressed words of thanks to Mayor Rocker, Councilman Mangum and all who attended the recognition program with him at the State Capitol last Thursday. Chief Lawrence was recognized for his 30 years of service with the Eatonton Police Department and for working on the Jackson Case.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to add Terrance Waller to the agenda. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Mr. Terrance Waller talked to Council about the number of SPLOST projects and amount of funds set aside to spend on these projects.

New Business:
Main Street Director Andrew Simpson presented a Special Presentation on the Fire and Ice Festival. Mayor Rocker advised Simpson to put the restaurants on notice that they should be able to handle the crowds; there was a one hour wait for service on the day of the festival. Simpson advised that Smith’s was closed between 3 and 5 PM and Country Kitchen was closed that Saturday. Also, Simpson advised Council that Spicy Southern, a new restaurant, opened on North Jefferson Avenue.

Proposed Resolution Recognizing Georgia Cities Week Attachment #6B
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to approve the Proposed Resolution by the Council of the City of Eatonton recognizing Georgia Cities Week, April 23-29, 2017 and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Discussion and Possible Action on SPLOST #7 Projects Attachment #6C
City Administrator Sanders discussed SPLOST #7 projects that have not yet been started. City Administrator Sanders recommended scaling back these projects because of the shortfall of SPLOST revenue collections over the five year period. Just over $3.5 million was collected of the anticipated $6 million.

City Administrator Sanders presented estimates for the following scaled back SPLOST projects:
- Re-roof the Old Water Works Building - $14,200
- Re-roof the City Shop Complex - $26,400.
- Paving at Hut Park - $21,000
Funds will be allocated for the Tanker Truck in SPLOST #7 and SPLOST #8 in order to make the acquisition.
Council discussed if replacing the roofs on these building provides the city with an income return from the repairs. City Administrator Sanders advised this will stop the water damage from infiltrating the structure and we will need to get an estimate to rehab the entire facility.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to scale back the SPLOST projects as discussed and to accept the three bids to re-roof the old water works building, to re-roof the shop complex, and to pave the parking lot at the Hut Park as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

**Historic Preservation Request by Dennis and Dottie McClain for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 412 North Madison Avenue Attachment #6D**

Motion was made by Mangum and seconded by Doster to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness applied for by Dennis and Dottie McClain for specified renovations at 412 North Madison Avenue as recommended by the Historic Preservation Committee and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

**Zoning** None

**Committee Reports**

Councilman Walker advised the Financial Committee met the other day and their next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 22, 2017.

Motion was made by Councilman Walker and seconded by Councilwoman Doster to pay the bills if and when the funds become available. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Councilman Butts reported that the City had a gas leak near the Wal-Mart Store on Highway 129. Councilman Butts thanked City Administrator Sanders for providing him with the information on the leak and keeping him updated. City Administrator Sanders advised Gas Superintendent Charlie Bales and Gas Tech Jesse Cason kept watch over the hole all night. The leaking line had to be unearthed around 14 feet in order to make the repairs.

Councilwoman Doster Advised planning a meeting in the near future to look over the Historic Preservation Code.

Councilwoman Stokes advised the Council received an invitation to attend the NAACP Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2017.

Councilman Gorley acknowledged Police Chief William Kent Lawrence and the invitation to Atlanta last week to the State Capitol to be recognized by the Georgia’s Senate and House of Representatives in reference to his work on the Jackson Case.
City Administrator Sanders advised that he would be attending the Main Street 101 Class on Tuesday, February 28 in Athens and the Municipal Gas Authority’s Regional Meeting on Thursday, March 2 in Buford.

City Administrator Sanders advised that this Wednesday, February 23, has been targeted as the start date for the demolition of the old Big Chick property on East Sumter Street.

City Administrator Sanders advised bids for the TE/Streetscape Project will be opened at 11:00 AM next Monday, February 27 at City Hall.

City Administrator Sanders advised the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee will meet at 4:30 PM tomorrow afternoon at the Putnam County Commissioner’s Meeting Room.

City Administrator Sanders advised Open Enrollment for health insurance begins tomorrow. A representative will be at City Hall tomorrow to assist with the process.

Mayor Rocker asked if there was any more business. There being no further business, motion was made by Walker and seconded by Gorley to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

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Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk