City of Eatonton  
Public Hearing  
Proposed 2018 Budget  
Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at 6:45 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 James A. Gorley  
  Councilman William Mangum, Jr.  
  Councilwoman Alma Stokes

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

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

Mayor Rocker called the Public Hearing on the 2018 Budget to order at 6:48 PM.

Mayor Rocker advised anyone wishing to speak at this Public Hearing should sign up.

City Administrator Gary Sanders advised the purpose of this Public Hearing is to give citizens an opportunity to make comments and give their input on the proposed City of Eatonton 2018 Budget. Council will adopt the FY 2018 Budget at the 2nd meeting in August, which is August 21, 2017.
No one signed in to make comments on the proposed 2018 Budget for the City of Eatonton.

Mayor Rocker closed the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2018 Budget at 6:58 PM.

___________________________
Walter C. Rocker Jr., Mayor

Attest:

___________________________
Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk
Elected Officials Present:
   Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr.
   Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr.
   Councilman Alvin Butts
   Councilman James A. Gorley
   Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
   Councilwoman Alma Stokes

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

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

Mayor Walter C. Rocker Jr. called the August 1, 2017 Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation was given by Mayor-Pro Tem Harvey “Chip” Walker, Jr.
Motion was made by Stokes and seconded by Mangum to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on July 17, 2017. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Public Comments: None

Reading of Rules for Public Comments Omitted

Old Business:

Tabled Item – Request by Dr. Joe and Brenda Preston for a side yard setback variance at 409 West Marion Street. Presently zoned R-1. [Map E006, Parcel 109]

Motion was made by Mangum and seconded by Walker to add Tabled item – Request by Dr. Joe and Brenda Preston for a side yard setback variance at 409 West Marion Street. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Council discussed Dr. Joe Preston request to place a shed 3 feet from his right-side property line. Eatonton Planning and Zoning Commission approved a 10-foot variance, being 10 feet from the right-side property line. At the Council meeting held on June 19th, Mr. Preston appealed the decision of the Zoning Commission because he requested 3 feet off the property line. Council decided to table this item to give Putnam County Planning Director, Lisa Jackson time to research information pertaining to Mr. Preston variance and other questions.

City Administrator Sanders advised there is no further release in the code; all new structures must comply with the new code. Mayor Rocker asked if Mr. and Mrs. Preston had been given notification on new information. City Attorney Huskins advised Council to give Mr. Preston notice before Council take action.

Motion was made by Mangum and seconded by Walker to table the request by Dr. Joe and Brenda Preston for a side yard setback variance at 409 West Marion Street. Presently zoned R-1. [Map E006, Parcel 109] Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

New Business:

Main Street Report Attachment 6#A

Main Street Report for City Council Meeting Tuesday August 1 2017 - July 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.

Promotion
The Bluegrass Concert featuring Piney Woods and The Suggins Brothers attracted 20 people. Main Street does not raise enough sponsorship to pay for a Porta Potty and facilities for the Event Stage. Main Street can use the Event Stage in conjunction with the Eatonton Cotton Warehouse but not as a standalone location due to the restroom issue. The Stage itself faces the Sun making both the entertainers and instruments hot. Performances are therefore affected.
If all vendor applicants commit to the Briar Patch Arts Festival, all slots will be filled 2 months before the Festival.

The Harlem Georgia Merchants Association visited Downtown Eatonton. I took them to various locations. I believe that the visit was a fact finding mission for Main Street designation. They are also visiting Greensboro and Madison.

The Hwy 441 billboard will be renewed and I am looking at opportunities to divert tourist traffic into Downtown.

Design
Mark Smith (Old World Finance Location) has submitted a facade grant application for his W. Marion St. property.

Sara and Buddy Nolan (Maggie Lane) have submitted a facade grant application for their Jefferson Ave. property.

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) Communincomm/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})

Both 112 W. Marion Street and 106 N. Jefferson Avenue are both being used as storage facilities by the building owner which is incompatible with the zoning code. Sec. 75-342. - Uses allowed.

The building housing Cucos Restaurant is still being renovated. A possible August reopening date was suggested. The scaffolding blocking the sidewalk is an issue for pedestrians causing them to go into the street.

I held talks with a prospective business owner & a building owner to discuss a location for a new business.

The Pex Theater which holds The Country Kitchen had its marquee badly damaged by heavy rain. The restaurant remains open with people entering from the back entrance. The marquee has still not been repaired. In the words of the restaurant owner, the marquee damage has "killed them financially".

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Sumter Street Station Apartments has been put back to sometime in August.

Summary
Eatonton Main Street partnering with the Putnam County Charter School System, UGA's Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, the Georgia Writers Museum and the Butler-Baker Alumni Project, Inc. are working together for a public local history event. The event will be funded by a small grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. An information afternoon is scheduled at the Writers Museum on Saturday August 26, between 2 & 4. The recording of Putnam County residents oral histories, is currently scheduled for the Briar Patch Arts and Crafts Festival on Saturday September 30 and the Butler Baker Alumni October Fest. (The Alumni are working on a date)

Proposed Resolution to Appoint a Qualifying Officer for the November 7, 2017 Municipal General Election Attachment #6B
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Butts to approved the proposed Resolution naming Sarah Abrams as the Qualifying Officer for the Municipal General Election to be held on November 7, 2017 and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Qualifying period will be 8:30 AM on Monday, August 21 through 4:30 PM on Wednesday, August 23, 2017.
Resolution to Propose Amendments to Chapter 75 of the Code of Ordinance
Attachment #6C
Motion was made by Mangum and seconded by Gorley to approve the proposed Resolution that the following (Development Standards) amendments to Chapter 75 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Eatonton, Georgia are hereby proposed to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review and recommendation and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Apply for a Safety and Liability Management Grant Attachment #6D
Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Butts to approve the proposed Resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for a Safety and Liability Management Grant offered by the Georgia Municipal Association for 2017 and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign contracts, letters and such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary for the proper application, receipt, and implementation of such grants as may be required. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Historical Preservation- Request by Michele Bechtell for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 202 North Madison Avenue – Vernacular Cottage Attachment #6E
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Stokes to accept the recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission, which approved the request made by Michele Bechtell for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 202 North Madison Avenue to install a wooden picket fence, 42 inches in height on the northern border of their property. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Zoning: None

Committee Reports;

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Gorley to pay the bills if and when funds become available. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

City Administrator Sanders advised:
The Pre-Construction meeting for the Streetscape project is scheduled for 10:30 AM on Monday, August 7 at the Hut. At conclusion of this meeting, around 11:45 AM, we are planning a meeting with members of the public and affected property owners to share construction schedules and to answer questions.

The Executive Committee of the TSPLOST Roundtable will meet at 9:00AM on Wednesday, August 4 to finalize the list of projects for inclusion on the regional TSPLOST referendum.

City Administrator Sanders advised he would be attending the final Regional Commission’s Leadership program Thursday, August 17.
City Administrator Sanders advised we will hold a pre-bid conference for the CDBG project on Church Street on August 10 at 11:00AM at City Hall. Bids will be opened on Friday, August 25 at 11:00 AM also at City Hall.  

City Administrator Sanders advised we are still awaiting the 2017 preliminary digest. It will be forward to Council as soon as it is received.  

City Administrator Sanders advised Councilwoman Doster requested a Zoning and Ordinances Committee meeting for Tuesday, August 8 at 5:00 PM.  

Mayor Rocker asked if there was any other business to be discuss before adjourning.  

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Gorley to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.  

Council adjourned at 7:17 PM  

_______________________________  
Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor  

ATTEST:  

______________________________  
Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk