City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 2, 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
   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

Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr. called the May 2, 2017 Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation was given by Councilman William C. Mangum, Jr.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Doster to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on April 17, 2017. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Public Comments: None
Reading of the Rules for Public Comments was omitted.
Old Business: None

New Business:

Main Street Director, Andrew Simpson
Main Street Report for City Council Meeting Tuesday, May 2, 2017 - April Recap

Organization
The Main Street board welcomed Tommy Cook to the Main Street Board.

Eatonton Main Street has retained its status as a Classic Main Street.

Completed Eatonton Main Street Registration on Georgia Secretary of State website for 2017.

The Eatonton Main Street Board vacancies will be advertised in the Eatonton Messenger.

Promotion
Eatonton Main Street is working with the Putnam Development Authority and the Chamber of Commerce to create a promotional video that would highlight Downtown Eatonton.

There has been increased participation and interest in Georgia Cities Week.

Eatonton Main Street is hosting a Jazz Concert featuring The Jazzminds and The Putnam County High School Jazz Band on Saturday May 20.

Design
The Athens Design Studio proposal document for the E. Sumter Street commercial corridor was delivered. This will be presented at the City Council Meeting. Lyn Romine is the Design Ambassador for the Downtown. Lyn has met with building owners and merchants regarding Facade Grant possibilities and the donated paint from Sherwin-Williams.

Economic Vitality
Downtown Eatonton continues to attract interest in bringing merchants into the Downtown. However, buildings like Moore LP Gas (107 N. Jefferson Avenue) Communicom unrelated to 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.

Summary
I will be presenting the E. Sumter Street Commercial Corridor Package at the City Council Meeting.
The most common response from the Community Survey Questionnaire regarding what people do not like about Downtown are empty buildings. However; vacancy rate is between 10 and 12.5 percent. Perception has become reality; whereas, the truth of the matter is our available inventory is rather low. With the promotional video filming and the publicity that it would derive, this should change the perception.

I believe that the perception is due to the ratio of professional businesses/personal services versus retail. I am very pleased that we do have a mixed economy, where different types of merchants can thrive and feel welcome. I would like to see more retail in the Downtown to change the perception of empty buildings as it is often stated "there is nothing beyond the Courthouse". I would like to encourage building owners to take advantage of the Facade Grant program and send a broader message that Downtown Eatonton is open for business.

**Special Presentation of Historic Preservation Awards**
Awards were presented by Ms. Lyn Romine, Chairperson of the Historic Preservation Commission to the following individuals in recognizing their efforts in promoting excellence in Historic Preservation.

**Residential Awards:**
Larry and Diane Folk for the Wilkins-Cooper-Jenkins-Folk House -circa 1818 & 1886.


**Commercial Awards:**
Kevin and Sarah Tomson-Hooper for 118 Marion Street - Artisans Village Art Gallery, circa 1886.

Stew Aaron and Dan Lowery for 116 -118 N. Jefferson Ave. - The Eatonton Cotton Warehouse, circa 1916.

Mayor Rocker thanked the individuals who participated in the Historic Preservation Projects for their hard work in preserving these historic structures.

**Election of GMA District 6 Officers for 2017-2018 Attachment #6C**
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Gorley to approve the slate of Officers nominated as GMA’s District 6 Officers for 2017-2018. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**GMA’s District 6 Slate of Officers for 2017-2018**
*President:* Cameron Andrews, Mayor Pro Tem, Centerville
*First Vice President:* Barbara William, Mayor, Fort Valley
Second Vice President: Ed Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem, Gray
Third Vice President: Shelly Berryhill, Commissioner, Hawkinsville

Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Sign Title VI Assurances and Nondiscrimination Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation
Attachment #6D
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Mangum to approve the proposed Resolution and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign the Title VI Assurances and Nondiscrimination Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Disposal of Surplus Property Attachment #6E
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to approve the Proposed Resolution to Dispose of Surplus property and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Surplus Items for disposal
1 Stone DDR 310 Asphalt Rollers
1 1998 Crown Victoria-2FAFP71W4WX186711
1 1998 Ford F-150- 1FTZF1729XNA51416

Zoning: None

Committee Reports:
Councilman Walker asked Council Committees to meet with their department supervisors and look at the financial condition of their departments and where they stand on their budget. A 2018 Budget work session will be scheduled soon with all committees.

Mayor Rocker asked that the 2018 Budget be reduced by 10%.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Haley to pay the bills if and when the funds become available. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Councilwoman Doster reported meeting with the County Commissioners to adopt a Media Ordinance between the City and the County. Media Ordinance was marked up and sent to the attorney. The County is looking to vote on new ordinance at their May 16 meeting.

Councilman Charles Haley requested City Marshal Dianne Veal submit to Council an updated excel list of the cases she has been working on over the past month.
City Administrator Sanders reported the final engineering plans are near completion for the CDBG project on Church Street. We will be in touch with Carter and Sloope regarding advertisement and bid dates.

Oconee Engineer will be on site at the Plaza next Wednesday, May 10 to begin the condition assessment.

The Local Update of Census Addresses meeting will be held at the Regional Commission on Thursday, May 4 beginning at 9:00 AM. Mr. Sanders will attend.

The Public Safety Committee met today to review the Fire Department and Police Department budget requests. Committee meetings will be ongoing over the next couple of weeks.

Mayor Rocker asked if there was any other business to be discussed this evening. There being no other business, motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Doster to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

_________________________
Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

_________________________
Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk