City of Eatonton Public Hearing

2015 Budget Amendment #1

Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Eatonton City Hall, 201 North Jefferson Avenue, Eatonton, Georgia 31024

Elected Officials Present:
   Mayor John Reid
   Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr.
   Councilman Alvin Butts
   Councilman James A. Gorley
   Councilman Charles R. Haley
   Councilman William Mangum, Jr.

Elected Official Absent:
   Councilwoman Teresa Doster
   Councilwoman Alma Stokes

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

Mayor John Reid called the Public Hearing to order on the 2015 Budget Amendment #1 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Reid called on City Administrator Sanders to give an overview on the 2015 Budget Amendment #1.

City Administrator Sanders advised Council that this proposed amendment is to clean up and balance the FY 2015 Budget in the amount of $372,100 because of a short fall in revenues and an increase in the medical insurance, overtime wages, and to account for grants revenue. The budget will be balanced with a proposed transfer of funds from the Gas Fund.

No one signed in to speak on the Budget Amendment #1.

Mayor Reid asked if anyone wished to address Council in reference to the budget amendment.
Jeff Warren, staff member from the Eatonton Messenger asked how much does it cost to house prisoners. Sanders advised expense runs about $18,000 to $22,000 or about $25.00 a day and medical expenses.

Mayor Reid closed the Public Hearing on the 2015 Budget Amendment #1.

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John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk
City of Eatonton Public Hearing

FY 2016 Budget

Elected Officials Present:
  Mayor John Reid
  Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr.
  Councilman Alvin Butts
  Councilman James A. Gorley
  Councilman Charles R. Haley
  Councilman William Mangum, Jr.

Elected Official Absent:
  Councilwoman Teresa Doster
  Councilwoman Alma Stokes

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

Mayor Reid called the Public Hearing on the 2016 Budget to order at 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Reid called on City Administrator Sanders to give a review on the proposed FY 2016 Budget.

Administrator Sanders advised the total proposed budget for FY 2016 is $6,101,287. This budget includes an increase of 25% for medical insurance, $50,000 donation due to the Library by the end of 2016, $50,000 for the prison, and a $16,000 subscription based upgrade to the clerk’s financial software. There is a decrease in the estimated tax levy of about $100,000.

Mayor Reid called on Kenny Thigpen to make public comments on the budget.

Fireman Kenny Thigpen asked Council to include new fire protective clothing for the firefighters in the FY 2016 Budget as required by O.C. G.A. § 25-3-22 through §25-3-25. Mayor Reid advised Thigpen that money has been allocated for the fireman protective clothing. Thigpen advised the burn season will start in November and they would like to get outfitted. Fireman Thigpen invited Council and the Mayor to attend the firefighters drill.

Mayor Reid called on Mrs. Roddie Ann Blackwell for public comments on the FY 2016 Budget. Mrs. Blackwell thanked Council for their support of the Chamber of Commerce and for the funds received from the collection of Hotel Motel Tax which help to support tourism. Mrs. Blackwell also expressed words of gratitude for being included in the
budget. Mrs. Blackwell advised the Chamber is working to get a movie studio to locate here.

Mayor Reid asked if anyone else would like to speak on the proposed FY 2016 Budget. There being no further comments; Mayor Reid closed the Public Hearing at 6:57 p.m.

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John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk
City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Eatonton City Hall, 201 North Jefferson Avenue, Eatonton, Georgia 31024

Elected Officials Present:
Mayor John Reid
Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr.
Councilman Alvin Butts
Councilman James A. Gorley
Councilman Charles R. Haley
Councilman William Mangum, Jr.

Elected Official Absent:
Councilwoman Teresa Doster
Councilwoman Alma Stokes

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

Call to Order
Mayor John Reid called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Invocation
Councilman William Mangum, Jr. gave the invocation.

Approval of the Minutes Attachment #1
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to adopt the minutes from July 20th Council meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilman Alvin Butts abstained.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Walker to adopt the minutes from the July 22nd Special Called SPLOST Work Session with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilman Alvin Butts abstained.
Public Comments:
Mayor Reid advised the following persons have signed in to make public comments:
Mrs. Joann Jones - Senior Citizens and Pastor James Kilgore of New Life Outreach Christian Center.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Haley to hear from all. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

City Administrator Gary Sanders read the rules for making public comments.

Mayor Reid advised that Council would hear from Mrs. Jones first, then from Pastor Kilgore when the item on the agenda to abandon a portion Agnes Jenkins Lane is discussed.

Mrs. Joann Jones talked about the number of years she worked with the Senior Citizens Program and she asked Council to continue to do good about the senior citizens and make sure they are treated right.

Old Business: None

New Business:
Proposed Resolution to appoint an Election Superintendent and an Absentee Ballot Clerk for the November 3, 2015 Municipal General Election Attachment #2

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Haley to approved the proposed Resolution by the City Council of Eatonton to appoint Sarah Abrams to serve as the Election Superintendent and Lisa Yates as the Absentee Ballot Clerk for the November 3, 2015 Municipal General Election and authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilman James Gorley abstained.

Proposed Resolution to abandon a portion of Agnes Jenkins Lane Attachment #3
Pastor James Kilgore of New Life Outreach Christian Center talked to Council about his church starting a clean up project to make the area near his church a safe environment for the community and is in the process of purchasing some additional property on Agnes Jenkins Lane. Kilgore asked Council to abandon the portion of Agnes Jenkins Lane labeled “Parcel B” on the attached Plat (recorded on page 267 of the Plat Book 34 with the Clerk of Superior Court). The amount of land is less than a 10th of an acre.

City Attorney Huskins advised there is a process to abandoning the property along with an appraiser and administrative fee.

Motion was made by Mangum and seconded by Walker to accept the proposed Resolution and authorize the Mayor to sign to abandon “Parcel B” on the attached plat recorded on Page 267 of the Plat Book 34 with the Clerk of Superior Court and is hereby
declared abandoned and shall no longer be a part of the Municipal Street System of the City of Eatonton. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Attorney Huskins was directed to follow through with Mr. James Kilgore on the process to abandoning the road.

**Discussion of City Council Meeting Rules & Decorum**
Councilman Mangum advised he would like to enter into close session to review how visitors are handled at the Council meeting and regarding council safety. Attorney Huskins advised Councilman Mangum that this is not provided for in the Open Meeting Law. (O.C.G.A. §50-14-2 and 3 of the Open Meetings.)

Councilman Mangum advised we are living in dangerous times and Council should consider moving the meeting to a safe location such as the courthouse which has deputies present and persons attending the meeting must pass through metal detective equipment. Moving to the courthouse would provide a secure place for the meeting. Mangum asked that changes be made before someone gets shot and it is too late.

Mayor and Council discussed various attacks made upon their life for trying to do their job and have never received an apology. Council asked Police Chief William Lawrence to provide an officer and have him present at the Council meetings. Council also asked that research be done on who should act as the sergeant at arms during the meeting. Mayor Reid thanked Councilman Mangum for bringing these issues to their attention.

**Committees 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.

Councilman Butts advised the developer for the Sumter Street apartments decided to use gas in the new complex and has submitted a check to the City for $26,000 for the gas service installation.

**City Administrator Sanders reported to Council:**
- The notice advertising the dates and times of qualifying, as required by O.C.G.A. 21-2-132, will run in the Messenger this week and next.
- The Center for Election System will be at City Hall this Friday, August 7, 2015 to perform a routine update to the software of the touch screen voting machines.
- Clerk Abrams and City Administrator Sanders have completed the continuing education courses required for municipal election.
- One of the air conditioners at the Hut is not working and is beyond repairing. We will be exploring the possibility of replacing the unit.
City Attorney Huskins updated Council on the progress Kevin Brown is making with the Vizitech Loan.

City Attorney Huskins advised Council that DCA has requested an executed copy of the sublease agreement that the City made with Eatonton Putnam Arts Foundation on June 2, 2015 by August 7, 2015. Mayor Reid advised not receiving a copy of the sublease with the changes made at the June 2nd meeting and he asked for a copy of the sublease with the revisions from June 2nd meeting and the changes which was approved at the July 7th, meeting in reference to providing the City Administrator the keys to all the locks. Gorley asked Attorney Huskins what is the status on revising the lease to reflect these changes; 30 days has passed and the revised lease has not been presented back to Council.

Attorney Huskins advised the revisions approved at the June 2nd meeting has been made and the lease was submitted to EPAF attorney for approval.

Mayor Reid called on Councilman Gorley to read the following letter from Georgia Department of Community Affairs:

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July 24, 2015

The Honorable John Reid, Mayor
City of Eatonton
Post Office Box 3820
Eatonton, Georgia 31024-3820

Re: CDBG 04rd-x-117-2-3030
Lease/Sublease agreements

Dear Mayor Reid:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires our Department to maintain accurate and complete documentation of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). Accordingly, our Department has recently noted that certain file information regarding the City’s CDBG number 04rd-x-117-2-3030 (which funded the Senior Citizen’s Center) needs completion. Specifically, prior to August 7, 2015, please provide a final, signed copy of the following:

1. The lease agreement between the City of Eatonton and The Eatonton-Putnam Arts Foundation, and

2. The sublease agreement between The Eatonton-Putnam Arts Foundation and the City of Eatonton/Eatonton-Putnam Senior Services Program

Should the City have questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact our Compliance Manager. The Compliance Manager, Michael Casper, may be contacted at either michael.casper@dca.ga.gov or (404) 679-0594.

Sincerely,

Sned Robinson, Director
Office of Community Division

SR/mc
cc: Gary Sanders, City Administrator
    Laura Mathis, Middle Georgia Regional Commission
    Brent Allen and Glenn Misner, DCA
Councilman Haley advised this issue is taking up too much of our time; there are so many other issues we are facing in our community.

Administrator Sanders advised the June 2nd revisions approved by Council at that meeting was made to the sublease the next day and was prepared to be sent to DCA that day.

Attorney Huskins advised Mayor Reid to sign the EPAF sublease which was approved by Council on June 2nd or he would have the City Administrator to sign the sublease in order to get it to DCA in a timely manner.

Huskins advised that he has prepared copies of the sublease with a place for the Mayor signature as well as a copy that the City Administrator can sign.

Councilman Haley excused himself and left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

City Administrator Sanders advised City Attorney Huskins that the sublease can be e-mailed or faxed to DCA as well as mail an original hard copy of the sublease agreement by the due date.

Mayor Reid advised he would contact DCA before signing.

Mayor Reid asked if there was any other business to be conducted for the good of the City, there being no other business; Motion was made by Butts and seconded by Walker to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

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John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk