Elected Officials Present:
- Mayor John Reid
- Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr.
- Councilman Alvin Butts
- Councilwoman Teresa Doster
- Councilman James A. Gorley
- Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
- Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Elected Official Absent:
- Councilman Charles R. Haley

Staff Members Present:
- City Administrator, Gary Sanders
- City Attorney, Christopher Huskins
- City Clerk, Sarah Abrams

Mayor John Reid called the meeting of the Eatonton City Council to order at 7:00 PM.

Mayor John Reid called for a Moment of Silence for the Invocation.

Motion was made by Butts and seconded by Doster to approve the minutes of the last meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

**Public Comments: None**

Reading of the Rules for Public Comments: **Omitted**

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

**Main Street Report**
City Administrator Sanders introduced Main Street’s new manger, Andrew Simpson. Mayor Reid and Council members welcomed Andrew aboard. Andrew Simpson, Main Street Manager presented the following report.
Eatonton Main Street Report

November 2015

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received from the people of Eatonton during my first week here in the Briar Patch. Working through the orientation packet left for me by Carrie which is appreciated and look forward to meeting everyone.

Maintaining weekly blog posts on website, and sharing through social media. Please follow and like us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The more likes and share we get the more further reach Eatonton will have.

Met with Main Street Board and Design members on Tuesday November 10 after 5pm in the Putnam County to help make the luminaries for the Holiday Open House and Christmas in the Briar Patch event.

On Wednesday November 11 at 9am, met with Rebekah Coker to go over the Finance reports and discussed the takeover of Main Street's financials from Carillon Orban.

On Thursday November 12 attended with Lisa Jackson the Main Street Chair, the Main Street 101 Training Class in Atlanta. From 2016, all new Main Street Board Members are to have mandatory training in this class.

Met with the Downtown Design Studio based in Athens about the possibility of a redesign of the Eatonton-Putnam Water Tower. Will be asking for feedback from the City and Water Authority before moving forward.

On Friday November 13 at 9:00 am met with members of the Main Street Board to discuss feedback of the Briar Path Arts Festival. Attendance may have been affected by the weather, a festival taking place in Sparta and the Georgia Football game. Vendors were up on last year, but some vendors placed behind the Court House felt they were at a disadvantage.

On Friday November 13 at 2:00 pm will be starting my tour of downtown merchants. Looking to meet every business owner by Friday November 20.

During my first week continuing to work through the Main Street Annual Assessment and know that we have almost met the goals required for National Accreditation. Submission of the finished assessment to be sent to Georgia Main Street in December.
The Briar Patch Pop Up is open until Saturday, December 19. Located at 121 S Jefferson Ave (Pex Theater Building - Yarborough's Jewelers Entrance) Their hours are: Tuesday - Saturday, 10A - 5P. As of this afternoon the Pop Up Vendors have only collected $36.00 between them. Kim Ruff and myself are to meet with the vendors next week to see how we can improve foot traffic and publicity. Asked that the Eatonton Messenger and Lake Oconee News do stories on the Pop Up. Will discuss the pop up as well as the Holiday events on Z97. I have made the weekly update on the Eatontonmainstreet.com website specifically about the pop up for the week ending November 13.

Upcoming event dates to remember:
Friday & Saturday 11/20-21: Merchants Holiday Open House
Saturday 11/28: Small Business Saturday
Saturday 12/5: Christmas in the Briar Patch and Light Up The Night.

Holiday Open House
Friday November 20th & Saturday November 21st
Specials - Refreshments - Holiday Cheer

Small Business Saturday
Saturday November 28th
SHOP SMALL! SHOP LOCAL!

Christmas in the Briar Patch
Saturday December 5th
Arts & Crafts Bazaar on the Courthouse Square 3-7pm
Lighted Christmas Parade 6pm
Photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus after the parade!

Please support Eatonton by attending our holiday events and shopping at our businesses and our Briar Patch Pop Up.
Plan Implementation Meeting – Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Ms. Crystal Gaillard and Mr. Daniel Dobbins from Middle Georgia Regional Commission met with Council to discuss the City of Eatonton’s Comprehensive Plan. They advised the Regional Commission staff can provide technical assistance to the City with the updating and implementation of aspects of the Comprehensive Plan. The City of Eatonton’s plan was last updated in 2007 and some projects listed have been completed. Ms. Gaillard advised the next update will be due October 31, 2017, and she requested the City get started working on the plan early next year.

Proposed Resolution to Request Technical Assistance from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission in Preparing an Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application Attachment #2
Councilman Gorley advised the City applied for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant last year to help purchase turnout gear for the Fire Department that did not get funded and he discussed applying again this year for SCBAs (air packs). Fire Chief Hubert advised their air packs are at their 10 year mark with about 2 years left on the life of the equipment. Each pack cost about $6,500.00.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Walker to approve the proposed resolution in requesting technical assistance from Middle Georgia Regional Commission in preparing an Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application for air packs and also, authorize Mayor Reid to sign contracts, letters and such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary for the proper application, receipt and implementation of such grant as may be received.
Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Proposed Resolution to Enter into a Lease Purchase Agreement with Community Leasing Partners Attachment #3
Councilman Gorley advised the City approved the purchase of turnout gear through leasing purchases for the fire department contingent upon the passage of SPLOST #8 in November 2015 Special Election. If purchased, the delivery time on the turnout is about 45 to 60 days and cost around $2,600.00 each which will cover firefighters from head to toe; this protective gear should help keep them safe.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Walker to accept Option #2 and adopt the proposed resolution to enter into a lease-purchase agreement with Community Leasing Partners for the acquisition of personal protective equipment (firefighters turnout gear) and authorize Mayor Reid to sign closing documents, contracts letters and such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary for the proper application, receipt and implementation such agreement. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Community Leasing Partners - Firefighters turnout gear
Option #2
Amount financed: $57,762.10


**Committees Report**

Councilman Walker expressed words of thanks to Personnel and Finance Committee members and others who were involved in the process of researching the information on the turnout gear.

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

City Administrator Sanders advised Councilman Butts, chairperson over Public Utilities that the Gas Department installed gas to the Ingles Store in Gray, and the meter is on.

Councilman Mangum discussed a letter received from Eatonton Putnam Water Sewer Authority Director, Donna Van Haute in response to the letter from City Attorney Christopher Huskins requesting the Water Authority repair water line on Highland Drive/Crestview Drive. Mangum asked if the Water Authority would repair the road or who is responsible for fixing the road. After much discussion, Council decided to have City Attorney Huskins write another letter advising the Water Authority to fix the damages made to the road which was caused by a broken water line.

Councilwoman Doster discussed request made by Smith’s Coastal Grill to hold their First Annual BBQ & Oyster Jam, scheduled for Sunday, November 29th at 12:30 PM on the parking lot with live music.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to add Smith’s Coastal Grill BBQ & Oyster Jam to the agenda. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Councilman Gorley voiced concerns about the event taking place when church is in service. Councilwoman Doster advised a zoning and ordinance committee meeting will be set up to address parking lot events and hours of use.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to approve the Main Street event and allow Smith’s Coastal Grill to hold their First Annual Oyster Jam on the parking lot and for the music to start after 2 PM. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Councilwoman Stokes advised collecting donations for the Mayors’ Motorcade. The event is to take place on December 2nd. Council members donated their personal funds to the event.

Councilman Gorley advised Fire Chief Eugene Hubert and the Fire Department firefighters are also, collecting donations for the Fireman Santa Fund. Each year they give Christmas toys to local children in the community who otherwise may be without.
City Administrator Gary Sanders reported:

- We are moving forward with replacing the street sweeper, which is facing costly repairs. We hope to take delivery in the next week or two.

- Street Supervisor Joseph Hawkins will meet with the Railroad Crossing Program Manager on Wednesday at Rock Lane/Forrest Street to try to get this project moving again.

- The Highway 44 widening project is moving forward with an anticipated let date in 2018. Georgia DOT is currently working to confirm existing utilities and relocation plans. Gas Superintendent Bales and Administrator Sanders met with Gas Engineer, Bruce Bagnasco this morning to discuss the project’s impact on our gas lines. More information will be available soon.

- Please remember that City Hall will be closed next Thursday and Friday (November 26 and 27) for Thanksgiving.

City Administrator Sanders advised the flag is at half mast at the request of the President, because of the shooting in Paris.

City Clerk Abrams reminded Council members to complete a new Affidavit of Candidate’s Intent not to exceed $2,500 in contributions and/or expenditures, for their next election cycle.

Mayor Reid asked if there was any other business to be conducted for the good of the City, there being none; motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk