City of Eatonton  Council Meeting 05/05/2015

City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 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
   Councilwoman Teresa Doster
   Councilman James A. Gorley
   Councilman Charles R. Haley
   Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
   Councilwoman Alma Stokes

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

Mayor John Reid called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
Invocation was given by Minister Deborah Buckner of New Life Outreach Christian Center.

Motion was made by Stokes and seconded by Haley to adopt the minutes from last meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Councilman Alvin Butts abstained.

Public Comments: None

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Stokes to add to the agenda under Old Business; discussion and the possibility of retaining Seyfarth Shaw for legal services in connection with a USDA Rural Development REDLG Loan for the benefit of Vizitech USA LLC. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Old Business:
Liquor by the Drink, Beer and Wine Pouring License – Edward Hudson of EDH E&L Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Xscape, 106 Oconee Street, Eatonton, GA. Attachment # 2

Motion was made by Mangum and seconded by Haley to deny liquor by the drink, beer and wine pouring license – Edward Hudson of EDH E&L Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Xscape, 106 Oconee Street, Eatonton, GA. based on the state law, attachment # 2. Georgia Code
Title 3, Alcoholic Beverages Chapter 3. Regulation of Alcoholic Beverages Generally, Article 2. Prohibited Acts O.C.G.A. §3-3-21 (2014). Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mayor Reid stated he has asked GMA to look into this issue and move on legislation to get the law changed because it impacts more than just one location in Eatonton and probably other cities as well.

Addition to the Agenda
City Attorney Christopher Huskins discussed the engagement letter that he had requested from Kevin T. Brown for legal representation of the City of Eatonton, Georgia in connection with a USDA, Rural Development REDLG Loan for the benefit of Vizitech USA, LLC. Attorney Huskins asked Council to authorize the Mayor to sign the engagement letter with Seyfarth Shaw LLC. Seyfarth Shaw would provide direct assistance to Attorney Huskins.

Councilman Haley advised Council that without holding a referendum; no bonds could be issued and the City could not pledge City’s funds according to the bank’s attorney. Gorley asked if the contract could be terminated if Council was not satisfied with Seyfarth Shaw work. Huskins also advised Council that all legal fees incurred would be paid by the City and he would contact Kevin to inquire into the estimated number of hours required to complete the loan process. The City is dealing in uncharted waters.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Stokes to authorize Mayor Reid to sign the engagement letter received from Kevin T. Brown of Seyfarth Shaw LLP for legal representation in connection with USDA, Rural Development REDLG Loan for the benefit of Vizitech USA, LLC. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

New Business:

Discussion and Possible Action regarding Adding Clients to the Meals on Wheels Program. Mrs. Janie Reid, Senior Program Volunteer Director presented a copy of several scenarios on spending $7,235.62 in recouped funds from Putnam County which to be used to supply meals to additional clients.

- Spending $7,235.62 through 09/30/15 = 13 additional clients
  Maintaining these additional clients through SFY 2016 would cost approximately $12,893.

- Spending $7,235.62 through 12/31/15 = 8 additional clients
  Maintaining these additional clients through SFY 2016 would cost approximately $5,290.

- Spending $7,235.62 through 03/31/2016 = 6 additional clients
  Maintaining these additional clients through the rest of SFY 2016 would cost approximately $1,984.

- Spending $7,235.62 through 06/30/16 = 4 additional clients
  This would not require any additional funding to maintain the clients through SFY 2016.
Due to the uncertainty of federal and state funding, AAA cannot guarantee availability of funding to assist with the cost of meals provided to the additional clients.

Mrs. Reid advised Council a total of $31,000.00 would be needed to cover participant. Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Stokes to approved funding the program 13 additional client’s meals on wheels and 6 congregate meals through FY 2016.

Councilman Mangum advised the County will lose $175,000 a month in revenue with Georgia Power closing.

**Proposed Text Amendment to Section 2-213 of the Code of Ordinance regarding Zoning Commission Meetings Attachment # 3**
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to approve the proposed text amendment to Section 2-213 of the Ordinance regarding moving the Zoning meeting to the Hut located at 400A West Marion Street, Eatonton, GA. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed Resolution recognizing National Public Works Week Attachment #4**
Motion was made by Stokes and seconded by Gorley to adopt the proposed Resolution recognizing National Public Work Week and authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Committees Reports:**

Councilman Walker expressed words of thanks to City Attorney Huskins for work done on the REDLG Loan.

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

Councilman Mangum advised Streets, Buildings, and Grounds Committee met last Thursday to discuss the sinkhole that developed on Highland Drive near Crestview Drive. The committee decided to proceed with temporary patch, consisting of repacking the hole with gravel and laying asphalt to prevent water from leaking under the steel plates and eroding the road bed again. The Committee will meet again in a couple of months (when the weather is drier and school is out) to discuss plans for a permanent repair. The estimated cost to repair is $50,000 - $70,000.

City Administrator Sanders advised emailing and scheduling a meeting with the Director of Eatonton-Putnam Water Authority to discuss the break in the water line and to share repair cost.

Councilwoman Doster advised Ms. Lisa Jackson Director of Putnam Planning along with herself will request help from Middle Georgia Regional Commission in revising the City Ordinances.
Doster expressed words of thanks to Putnam County on how great the recreation department looks.

Councilman Haley advised the City received a letter from Advance Disposal Services in reference to the City’s garbage contract agreement. There will be an annual CPI adjustment which is 1.6%. The rate increase is effective June 1, 2015.

Councilwoman Stokes advised the National Day of Prayer will be held on the Courthouse Square on Thursday, May 7, from 12 noon through 1:00 pm. Stokes advised Joshua Bell Director of Eatonton-Putnam Library is pleased with the progress being made to the building.

Councilman Gorley advised the Memorial Ride honoring Officer Noel Hawk was held last Saturday May 2, 2015. Riders started at the Hut and finished in Conyers. The event was well attended.

Gorley discussed having no liaison on Council to deal with water issues. There are water issues that need to be addressed which impact the fire department and citizens which the Water Authority feel that these are none issues. Such as removing a fire hydrant and asking the City to pay to have it put back.

City Administrator Gary Sanders reported to Council:

1. The gas line expansion on Harmony Road is going well. The main has been installed and the Gas Department is making final tie-ins today and tomorrow. The pressure and test should be conducted by Friday, with gas on the line by the end of next week.

2. Additional progress has been made on the striping grant project. All of the thermoplastic marking has been done (including the stop bars and railroad/highway crossing). Work on painting the other streets and installing signs is expected to resume in three weeks. We have submitted 3 requests for funds to GDOT totaling $150,600.

3. Paving on Imperial Lakeview Drive and Imperial Avenue was completed on Thursday, which was the final LMIG project for 2015. The contractor also addressed asphalt issues at the parking lot.

4. The solicitation for bids for the preparation of meals for the congregate meals program will begin running in the Eatonton Messenger this week and will run for 4 weeks total. The bid period will commence on Thursday, May 7, 2015 and conclude at 10:00 A M on Monday, June 8, 2015. Bid package will be available for pickup at City Hall.
5. Joe Hawkins requested the GDOT cut the grass on the right-of-way on Highway 44 and Highway 16. These are particularly bad and present a safety hazard. There is no guarantee that GDOT will comply, but we have notified them.

City Administrator Sander advised Council a key to the Hut will be given to Ms. Lisa Jackson for opening the building for zoning meetings. Also the Accounts Payable Clerk position was filled last week. The new clerk is Ms. Reeshemah Ellison.

Mrs. Janie Reid reported DOT approved renaming Rooty Creek Bridge in memory of Mr. Walton.

Motion was made by Stokes and seconded by Haley to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

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John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk