City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Monday, April 20, 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.
Councilwoman Teresa Doster
Councilman James A. Gorley
Councilman Charles R. Haley
Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Elected Officials Absent:
Councilman Alvin Butts

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.
Councilwoman Stokes called for a Moment of Silence for the invocation.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to adopt the minutes from last meeting with the inclusion of the Boy Scouts names who attended the meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.
Councilman Harvey Walker, Jr. and Councilwoman Teresa Doster abstained.

Public Comments: None

Old Business:
Councilman Mangum and Councilman Haley discussed action taken by Council at the last meeting on the request for 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. City Administrator Sanders advised e-mailing Rusi Patel at GMA for legal advice and will wait to hear from him.

Mayor Reid advised Council this item is not on the agenda for discussion tonight, but can be put on the next agenda.
Main Street received 2015 National Accreditation

Oconee Area Center for Advocacy reported Not Your Mama's Garden Tour was their best yet with 90 attendees and raising $1300 for the organization. Director, Brittany Curry, reported some groups from Atlanta that said they had never been to Eatonton.

Community Easter Egg Hunt was great success! Around 250 attendees. Looking forward to an even bigger event next year.

Attended National Main Streets Conference in Atlanta on March 30 - April 2.

Attended Georgia Downtown Association Meeting on March 29.

Attended GDeC/D Leadership program, March 17.

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.

Clean-up event on Saturday April 18. Cleaned windows, picked up trash, put out pine straw and planted flowers in downtown area.

Provided coloring sheet and Eatonton-specific word search and crayons to Downtown restaurants for Georgia Cities Week.

May 28 - Main Street and Historic Preservation Commission hosting event for National Historic Preservation Month. 5:30 at Plaza Arts Center Banquet Room. Joe Smith, Architect on library renovation, speaking on importance of historic preservation in Eatonton and discussing the library project.

June 4 - Main Street holding its first quarterly round table discussion, based off conversation topics from our January Town Hall Meeting. 5:30pm, Plaza Arts Center Banquet Room. Topic: Community Events

Thank you to the city for putting out the new Spring plantings, for changing out the pole banners and for putting up (and taking down) the egg hunt banner. Also - thank you to the police department for attendance at the egg hunt! And thank you to Gary for representing the City of Eatonton at the Community Clean-up!
Proposed Resolution to appoint a delegate and alternate delegate to the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia’s Election Committee Attachment #2
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley at adopt the proposed Resolution appointing City Administrator Gary Sanders as the voting delegate on the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia’s Election Committee, with authorization to cast all votes to which this City is entitled and Councilman Alvin Butts as alternate voting delegate, and authorized Mayor John Reid to sign. Motion carried by unanimous vote of 6-0.

Proposed Resolution to ratify the action taken by the Mayor in requesting grant writing assistance from Middle Georgia Regional Commission Attachment #3
Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Walker to approve the proposed Resolution ratifying the action of the Mayor in requesting grant writing assistance from Middle Georgia Regional Commission for a 2015 Bullet Proof Vest Grant and authorize Mayor Reid to sign all contacts, letters, and such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary for proper application, receipts and implementation of such grant as may be received. Motion carried by unanimous vote of 6-0.

Mayor Reid advised receiving a request from Farmers & Merchants Bank to hold the 37th 10K Annual Road Race.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Mangum to add request to hold the 37th Annual 10K Torture Trail Road Race to the agenda. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Councilman Gorley advised this request to hold the Annual Road Race is a part of our Community and we should not have to put this request to a vote each year, it should be automatic. City Attorney Huskins advised it is best to put this request to a vote because this Council cannot bind future Board of Councils to such an agreement.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to approve the request made by the Committee for the 10K Torture Trail and Lil’ Torture Trail 37th Annual Road Race to be held on June 6, 2015. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Committee Reports
Councilman Walker advised Josh Bell, Director of the Eatonton Putnam Library is pleased with the work at the Library. Also the new parking lot is being used and is a good addition to the City.

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

Councilwoman Doster advised the Committee will re-bid the stage potion of the parking lot project. The bids came in over budget. Doster expressed words of thanks to Joe
Hawkins, Street Supervisor for the work he did on the parking lot project. Doster also advised the paving crew will return and repave the entrance and exits at the back of the parking lot.

Council discussed the City Streetscape Project which is set to start in the fall and having the parking lot available for customers parking behind the businesses during the duration of the project.

Councilman Gorley advised receiving a letter from Police Chief William Lawrence addressed to Ms. Lisa Jackson in reference to moving the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on the 2nd Monday of the month from the Eatonton Police Department to the Hut because of public safety issues.

City Administrator Gary Sanders reported to Council:

- City Administrator Sanders advised Wednesday afternoon, the Street Department investigated a sink hole that was developing at the culvert on Highland Drive near Crestview Drive. Probing the hole revealed that a leaking water main had washed away a section of roadbed. EPWSA responded and installed a clamp to stop the leak. The hole was filled with gravel and steel plates were placed over the affected sections.

  Administrator Sanders asked that the Streets, Buildings, and Grounds Committee consider meeting this week, if possible, to discuss how they would like to proceed with the repair. We have an estimate to replace the culvert and section of road for between $30,000 - $50,000. Both water and sewer lines are in conflict, so we will need to coordinate with EPWSA.

- Administrator Sanders advised weather permitting; we plan to begin the gas line expansion on Harmony Road next Monday (April 27th). The materials have been ordered and delivered to the shop. The gas superintendent will review the project with the contractor (C&H Pipeline) this week in anticipation of starting next week.

- Administrator Sanders advised Main Street held a downtown cleanup this past Saturday (April 18th) from 9:00AM -12:00 PM to kick off Georgia Cities Week. Volunteers picked up trash, washed windows, spread pine straw, replanted flower boxes and planted a few seedlings around the parking lot. I would like to thank Main Street for coordinating the event and everyone who attended.

- Administrator Sanders advised Police Chief Lawrence has requested that City Council consider moving the Zoning meetings from the Police Department to the Hut due to public safety issues. Zoning meeting are currently held on the
2nd Monday of each month. You have a copy of his request at your seat. Mayor Reid advised request from Chief Lawrence can be placed on the next agenda.

- Administrator Sanders advised there is an old brick gate post at the Hut that we are planning to remove if no one has any objections. The county removed the post on the opposite side of the driveway and the remaining post no longer serves any purpose. *Council voiced no objection to the old post gate removal.*

- Administrator Sanders advised attending Session 3 of the Economic Development Academy in Smarr tomorrow, April 21, from 8:30 AM -3:30 PM.

- City Administrator Sanders discussed the possibility of holding another trash clean up/amnesty week which was an item discussed at the GICH meeting last week. It has been asked that Council consider holding this event during the first week of May, or sometimes soon thereafter. Councilwoman Stokes agreed and supported the City holding another clean up week. Mayor Reid discussed citizens cleaning up before the Dairy Festival.

City Attorney Huskins expressed words of thanks to the Street Department for taking down a dead tree on West Marion Street in front of the Huskins Law Firm. Huskins also reported advanced Disposal snapped the axle on his fifth garbage cart. Mayor Reid advised talking to the owner/manager of the garbage company in reference to service provided by the company.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Stokes to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

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John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk