City Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Eatonton City Hall, 201 North Jefferson Avenue, Eatonton, Georgia 31024

Present:
Mayor John Reid
Mayor Pro-tem Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr.
Councilwoman Teresa Doster
Councilman Charles R. Haley
Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Elected Official Absent:
Councilman Alvin Butts
Councilman James Gorley

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

Mayor John Reid called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Mayor John Reid called for a Moment of Silence for the Invocation in the absence of Councilman Alvin Butts.

Motion was made by Councilman Haley and seconded by Councilwoman Doster to adopt the minutes of the last meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Public Comments:
- Steve Hersey - SPLOST#8
- Shelagh Fagan – Porch Removal COA
- Eugene Hubert – ISO

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to hear from all who signed in to speak. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Mayor Reid advised we will follow the agenda as outlined and speakers making public comments will be called to speak when their item appear on the agenda. Mayor Reid advised Council would hear from Interim Fire Chief Eugene Hubert at this time who was not speaking on an agenda item.
Interim Fire Chief Hubert advised Council that he has been with the Emergency Services of Eatonton for over 35 years, and this year the City ISO rating dropped from a 7 to a 4. In return this means a savings of about $150.00 to $200.00 per home owner insurance. As Mayor Reid stated about 3 months ago, “this has been a work in progress”. The purchase of a ladder truck, the addition of full time fire department was the start. On May 26, 2015 the City received a letter from ISO, Dominic Santanna, Manager that our new classification would be changed from a 7 to a 4, and tonight, September 1, 2015 at 12 midnight the new classification rate becomes effective.

Interim Fire Chief Hubert expressed words of thanks to Mayor and Council for their support and help with the improvements made to the fire department and thus enabling funds to be giving back to the community by putting money back into the tax payer pockets through lower insurance rates.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

**Proposed Resolution for COA for demolition of porch at 201 North Madison Avenue by Joseph Burke Attachment #2**

Mrs. Shelagh Fagan represented the Historical Preservation Commission and advised the Commission approved the request to remove the porch at the old Blackwell house located at 201 North Madison Avenue and was thrilled this project was moving forward.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the COA, to remove the existing porch at 201 North Madison Avenue and place pressure treated tongue and groove wood as decking for a future porch and authorize Mayor Reid to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Request Technical Assistance from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission for the Development of Marketing Material for the Downtown Development Authority Attachment #3**

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Doster to approve the Resolution to request Technical Assistance from Middle Georgia Regional Commission for the development of marketing materials for the Downtown Development Authority and to authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Designate a Venue for the purpose of allowing the carrying out of Open Alcoholic Beverages for Consumption on the Premises Attachment #4**

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the Resolution designating a venue for the purpose of allowing the carrying out of an open alcoholic beverage for consumption on the premises for City and Eatonton Main Street sanctioned
events only, also incorporate a plat of the property, and authorize the Mayor to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Designated venue for the purpose of allowing the carrying out of open alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises**
- Pursuant to Section 35 of Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances the grounds contiguous to the old Putnam Christian Outreach building presently known as the Artisans Village located on East Marion Street and Maple Avenue, including the grounds upon which the City center performance stage will be constructed, shall be a designated venue for the purpose of allowing the carrying out of open wine and malt beverages for consumption on said premises for City of Eatonton Main Street sanction events only.

**Discussion and Possible Action Regarding SPLOST #8 Attachment #5**
Steve Hersey, Chairman of Putnam County Board of Commissioners discussed SPLOST #8. Hersey asked Council to present the City’s finalized project list and vote to ask the County Commissioners to delay the referendum from the November 3, 2015 General Election to the Presidential Primary election in March 2016. This would provide time to revisit the terms of the SPLOST; 3 years versus 5 years. If the referendum fails this November, it cannot be on the ballot again until next November; if approved, it would become effective October 2016.

Attorney Huskins stated that he spoke with GMA legal council at length whether or not it was legal to accept the $75,000 from the County on behalf of EPAF and they could not find any reason why the City could not.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to accept the $75,000 proposal from Putnam County for Eatonton Putnam Arts Foundation / The Plaza. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Explanation: Plaza Center Equipment $75,000.00 Line array sound system with stage monitors and speakers; cinema projector and screen.**

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to adopt Alternate #2 SPLOST Project List based on three year projections - $1,860,000. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**SPLOST#8 – Alternate#2**
Based on 3 year projections -$1,860,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Items</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Roads/Bridges/Sidewalks</td>
<td>$790,000 road bridges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Road Maintenance Equipment</td>
<td>$105,200 road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Tanker Truck Fire</td>
<td>$200,000 4000 gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Fire Fighting Equipment</td>
<td>$ 59,800 turnout and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Police Cars</td>
<td>$ 90,000 police cars</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Police Equipment $ 25,000 body and dash cameras
7. City Shop Vehicle Lift $ 30,000 heavy duty vehicle lift
8. Gas Line Expansion $400,000 gas line
9. Plaza Arts Center $ 80,000 exterior repairs and windows
10. Prison $ 80,000 abatement, renovation, and repairs

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Doster to ask the County to consider moving the SPLOST #8 Referendum to March 2016 instead of November 2015 timeframe. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Proposed Resolution to Adopt Millage Rate for 2015
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Mangum to approve the millage rate for 2015 and authorize Mayor Reid to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

The City adopted a 7.50 Millage rate for 2015.

Committees Report:
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 5-0.

City Administrator Gary Sanders reported:
- The existing structures on the site for the Sumter Street Station Apartments are scheduled for demolition on or around September 7. Soon after, land clearing will begin.

- The installation of crossing gates at the railroad tracks on Sumter Street is nearing completion.

- The advertisement for the Main Street Manager position will begin running this week.

- City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 7 for Labor Day.

- Clerk Abrams and Administrator Sanders will attend the Governmental Accounting and Reporting Issues Seminars on September 17 and 18 in Athens.

City Clerk Abrams reported Wednesday is the last day to qualify for a seat in the November 3rd Municipal General Election. Qualifying will open at 8:30 am and close at 4:30 pm.

Executive Session: Personnel

Motion was made by Councilman Harvey Walker, Jr.
That this Mayor and Council now enter into closed session as allowed by Chapter 14 of Title 50 of the Georgia Code and pursuant to advice by the City Attorney, for the purpose of discussing the following: Personnel.

Motion Seconded By: Councilwoman Teresa Doster. Motion Approved.

Those voting in favor of the motion for closure: Council Members Harvey Walker, Jr., Charles Haley, Teresa Doster, William Mangum and Alma Stokes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Motion was made by Councilman Walker and seconded by Councilwoman Doster to return to Open Session. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Motion was made by Councilman Walker and seconded by Councilwoman Doster that the Resolution by the Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel be approved and authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Resolution by the Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Eatonton City Council as follows: At the meeting held on the 1st day of September, 2015, the Council entered into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. At the close of the discussions upon this subject, the Council did vote to re-enter into open session and herewith takes the following action in open session:

(1) The actions of the Council and the discussions of the same regarding the matter set forth for closed session purposes are hereby ratified.

(2) Each member of this body does hereby confirm that to the best of his or her Knowledge based upon the advice of the City Attorney, the said subject matter of the meeting and of the closed session portion was devoted to matters within the specific relevant exception(s) as set forth above.

(3) The Mayor, or the presiding officer, is hereby authorized and directed to execute an affidavit, with full support of the members of this Council, in order to comply with O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b).

(4) The affidavit shall be included and filed with the official minutes of the meeting and shall be in a form as required by the statute, which shall be substantially as follows:

Approved this 1st day of September, 2015

Attest ___________________     ___________________

City Clerk                            John Reid, Mayor
No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Mayor Reid asked if there was any other business to be conducted for the good of the City, being none; Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Haley to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

________________________
John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____________________________
Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk
Affidavit

Before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths appeared Mayor John Reid, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

(1) I am competent to make this Affidavit and have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein.

(2) Pursuant to my duties as Mayor, I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Eatonton City Council held on the 1st day of September 2015. A portion of said meeting was closed to the public.

(3) It is my understanding that O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

   When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the person presiding over such meeting or, if the agency's policy so provides, each member of the governing body of the agency attending such meeting, shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exceptions.

(4) The subject matter of said meeting, or the closed portion thereof, was devoted to matters within exceptions to public disclosure provided by law. Those specific relevant exceptions are identified as follows: Meeting closed to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(2) Personnel.

This affidavit is executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b) and; is to be filed with the official minutes for the aforementioned meeting.

This 1st day of September 2015-

Mayor John Reid

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This ______day of __________, ______

Notary Public