Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr. called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Councilman William Mangum gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Doster to approve the minutes of the last meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Public Comments: Hazel Waller- Permits

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Gorley to hear from all who signed in to speak. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Reading of the Rules for Public Comments: Omitted

Mrs. Hazel Waller talked to Council about the American Legion Post #583 needing a permit to collect donations in the street. Waller advised the American Legion members would like to distribute poppies, and money collected from the poppies would be given
back to help disabled veterans. Waller asked that the American Legion organization be exempted from this fee.

After much discussion, Council decided the Ordinance Committee would review the Parades and Demonstrations Ordinance Section 58-61 through 58-70.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Main Street Report for City Council April 2016

Organization
Eatonton Main Street is designated a Classic Main Street by the Department of Community Affairs.

Eatonton Main Street will be holding a Community Outreach Meeting on Thursday April 21 at the Pex Theater on South Jefferson Ave at 6:30 pm as part of Georgia Cities Week.

The Eatonton Main Street Board discussed the location of the Main Street Office and agreed unanimously that the Office should be relocated to City Hall. The board provided the following reasons:

1. To prevent any discord between the Chamber and Main Street it would be better to move to City Hall.
2. City Hall would be enhanced by having an information kiosk for downtown and the Main Street Manager situated there would provide an opportunity to promote downtown and answer any questions.
3. A Main Street Office in City Hall would mean that the Main Street Office would be on “Main Street.”
4. Main Street has a sign ready to go to advertise the Main Street Office.

Promotion
Main Street has been invited to talk to the Pilot Club at their May Meeting about downtown. Main Street will be featured on Z97 on their Winning Wednesday every third week of the month. Main Street is working with the Eatonton Cotton Warehouse regarding events and use of the Stage.

Design
The Design Committee is in the process of revamping the facade grant application to be more concise.
Economic Vitality
Underground Treasures has not decided on an opening date.
The Eatonton Cotton Warehouse has a provisional opening date of June 18.
Eatonton Main Street has received inquiries about 119 S. Jefferson Ave and 126 N Madison Ave.
I have put them in touch with the relevant parties. 116 W Marion Street has a prospect for leasing the property.
The Eatonton/Putnam County signs arranged for by the Eatonton Putnam Tourism and Arts Partnership (EPTAHP) are now both up on Highway 441 and Highway 44. Main Street is currently researching lighting options. Main Street has also been researching with EPTAHP future sign positions on Highway 16 from Gray and Highway 441 just north of the Putnam/Baldwin County line.
Eatonton Main Street will be approaching the Eatonton Downtown Development Authority to see if they will approach the owners of the Old Moore Gas Building (119 N. Jefferson Ave) owned by Jeanette Moore and the old Communicommm Building (104 E Marion St) owned by H&H Rentals for purchase. These buildings are just two of a number of properties that are in the Eatonton Main Street area that require redevelopment due to their deteriorating condition.

Summary
Eatonton is continuing to attract business interest. Eatonton Main Street will be promoting all activities in downtown Eatonton during April 17 to April 23 as part of Georgia Cities Week.

Discussion and Possible Action on Pilot Club’s Request for Use of Certain City Streets for Annual Dairy Festival Attachment #6B
Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Mangum to approve the request made by the Pilot Club of Eatonton to use certain streets for the annual Putnam County Dairy Festival on June 4, 2016. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to Designate a Meeting Place for the May 16, 2016 City Council meeting Pursuant to Section 2-31 of the Code of Ordinances Attachment #6C
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to table. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Request Technical Assistance from Middle Georgia Regional Commission to Create a Map-Based Management System for the City Cemeteries Attachment #6D
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Gorley to approve the Proposed Resolution authorizing Mayor Rocker to request technical assistance from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to create a map-based digital management system for the City cemeteries plots, maps, and/or records. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Disposal of Surplus Property Attachment #6E
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to approve the Proposed Resolution authorizing the disposal of surplus City property according to § 36-37-6 of the Official Code of Georgia. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.
(Item Description: 1 1995 Elgin Whirlwind Street Sweeper)
Proposed Resolution to Amend Section 6-5 (Distance Requirements) of the Code of Ordinances Attachment #6F
Councilwoman Doster advised that State law no longer imposes distance restrictions on the package sales of beer and wine near churches and she would like to recommend changing the City ordinance to be in line with the State and County Codes.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Mangum to approve the Proposed Resolution to Amend Alcoholic Beverages: Section 6-5 of the City of Eatonton Code of Ordinances. The distance requirements on the sale of alcoholic beverage near churches, school buildings, or other sites shall be governed by the distance requirements set forth in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated §3-3-21 and authorized Mayor Rocker to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a vote of 6 to 1. Councilman James Gorley voted in opposition to the motion.

Committees Reports
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.

Councilwoman Stokes asked if the Senior Citizens and the Arts Foundation could make a monthly or quarterly report such as the report presented by Main Street.

Councilman Gorley advised Police Chief Lawrence held a road block on last Friday night which was State sponsored. Gorley also advised he served in the military and this is the most sacrificing thing a person can do for their country and the fee should not be charged for the Disabled Vets because no law enforcement is involved.

City Administrator’s Report
City Administrator Gary Sanders discussed HB 170 which deals with new impact fees on all vehicles weighting 15,500 lbs and above. The City must pay fees on vehicles by the end of May. Governments are not exempted from the fees.

GMA has scheduled budget workshops in the month of May and June. If you would like to attend let City Hall know.

The Gas Department has installed the gas main in the Sumter Street Station Apartment complex. There are a total of 63 apartments.

City Attorney Christopher Huskins advised the DDA’s lease agreement with Titan has been signed and is back from Savannah.

Councilwoman Stokes asked that the Yarbrough’s family be kept in prayer due to a racing accident.
Mayor Rocker asked if there was any more business to come before the Council; being none, motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk