City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 7:00 pm
Eatonton City Hall, 201 North Jefferson Avenue, Eatonton, Georgia 31024

Swearing in of Municipal Court Judge R. Michael Gailey
Swearing in of City Solicitor Russell Thomas

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
   Police Chief William Kent Lawrence

Mayor John Reid called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilman Charles Haley called for a Moment of Silence for the invocation.

Motion was made by Haley, seconded by Doster to approve the September 15, 2014 Council meeting minutes with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Stokes and seconded by Doster to approve the Special Called meeting minutes from September 18, 2014 with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Councilman Alvin Butts abstained.

Public Comments:
Nancy Marshal, Michele Bechtell, Shelagh Fagan, Alan Singer, Robert Holland, Edward Fritzi, Larry Folk and Rufus Adair – Plaza Arts Foundation Sign
Mylle Mangum and Janet Kelhoffer – EPAF Plaza Lease
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to hear from all who signed in to make comments. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Reading of Rules for making Public Comments was not read.

Mrs. Nancy Marshall addressed the Plaza Arts Center newly installed permanent LED sign located on Madison Avenue. Marshall apologized to the community for the rough start, the flashing lights and brightness of the sign. Marshall asked the community to be patient as the sign installer adjusts the fonts and colors on the sign.

Mayor Reid stated “the reading of the rules for making public comments will not be read tonight but comments should be limited to 3 minutes.”

Ms. Michelle Becktell who resides at 400 N. Madison Avenue advised a crime has been committed against her family and neighbors because of the flashing sign that has invaded their privacy and disturbed the peace. Bechtell asked that a cease and desist order be placed on the sign.

Mrs. Shelagh Fagan, Chairperson of Historical Preservation explained the City is exempted from the required Certificates of Appropriateness for the placement of the sign according to O.C.G.A. §44-10-27. Fagan apologized to the residents in reference to the flashing sign and for having a lack of knowledge and not realizing what the sign would look like before it was installed.

Mr. Bob Holland advised the flashing sign is invading his privacy; and Council needs a better place to hold their Council meeting.

Mr. Edward Frizi advised being in agreement with his wife Ms Becktell, that a cease and desist order should be issued on the sign.

Mr. Larry Folk advised the sign is in the wrong location, and could be put on a highway where it would be more visible for people to see. He invested money and time in his property in the Historical District and was opposed to the sign.

Mr. Rufus Adair asked that the sign ordinance be reviewed and updated before someone come in and puts up something inappropriate.

Mayor Reid advised having no idea about the controversy over the sign. He hopes they would work together and find a solution. Council will not discuss the sign tonight; this is not an agenda item. Questions should be directed to the City Administrator.

Mrs. Mangum advised the sign has been dialed down and will be fixed; also made apologies to the community on behalf of EPAF. Mangum advised EPAF satisfied the requirements of Georgia Department of Community Affairs and asked that the lease to the Old Day Care Center be signed.
Mrs. Janet Kelhoffer advised, wanting to hear about the EPAF lease; 100 students signed up for the after school arts program and they need additional space. We would like to move forward favorably.

Old Business:

Consideration of EPAF Lease for use of the Old Day Care Center Attachment #2
City Attorney Huskins advised the City received an approval letter from Georgia Department of Community Affairs on the Continued Use of the Old Day Care Center after the last Council meeting in September and he amended the old lease to reflect 3 conditions and provisions using the wording of DCA. Huskins stated that because of the timing of receiving the lease and where the month came in, it delayed getting the lease before Council for approval of amendments. Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Mangum to approve the amendments made to the EPAF Lease. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

New Business

Proposed Authorization of a Tootsie Roll Drive sponsored by Special Olympics Georgia, Putnam Jasper Support Services and the Knights of Columbus Attachment #3
Motion was made by Stokes and seconded by Gorley to approve the Tootsie Roll Drive sponsored by Special Olympic Georgia, Putnam Jasper Support Services and the Knights of Columbus. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign an Amendment to the area Agency on Aging Contract for SFY 2015 DHS Contract #42700-373-0000030478 Attachment #4
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to approve the proposed Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the Contract Amendment between the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging and the City of Eatonton and other such supporting material as shall be necessary for the proper execution of the amendment. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to sign Memorandum of Agreement with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission for the development and maintenance of a new City website Attachment #5
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the Resolution authorizing Mayor Reid to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with Middle Georgia Regional Commission and the City of Eatonton and other such supporting material as shall be necessary for the property development and maintenance of a new City website. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.
Proposed Resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign the Letter of Engagement with David Giddens, CPA for Auditing Services Attachment # 6

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Haley to approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the Letter of Engagement with David Giddens, CPA for Auditing Services and other such supporting material as shall be necessary for the proper conduct of the Annual Audit for CFY 2014. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Committee Report:

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 Butts advised Councilwoman Doster to check out the progress made on the gas line extension to the Park on Hwy 441.

Councilman Mangum advised approving the suggestion made by Councilman Haley at the last meeting to install speaking and hearing equipment in Council Chambers. City Administrator Sanders advised working on quotes and finding funding for the project.

Mayor Reid suggested putting a New City Hall in the next SPLOST and asked Council the give his suggestion consideration.

Councilwoman Doster advised receiving an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness from Christopher and Brandy Huskins to remove existing sidewalk and replace with new sidewalk at 401 North Madison Avenue.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to add Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness from Christopher and Brandy Huskins to the Agenda. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Mangum to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for Christopher and Brandy Huskins to remove old existing sidewalk and replace with new sidewalk at 410 North Madison Avenue. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Councilman Haley invited the Community to participate in the Beautification Day on Saturday, October 11th from 10:00 AM -2:00 PM. The Beautification Day is sponsored by GICH and Mainstreet.

Haley advised Tax Bills came out and is unfair for the City of Eatonton residents to bear tax burden; it is time to look at consolidation.
City Administrator Gary Sanders reported to Council:
Approximately 2,600 feet of gas line has been installed along Highway 441. Another 1,500 feet next to the orchard has been laid out and fused together and is waiting for the trencher. We expect another crew to be deployed this week.

Advanced Voting will commence this Monday, October 13, 2014 and will continue through Friday, October 31, 2014. Poll Worker training was conducted on September 30, and October 3rd; Logic and Accuracy testing was conducted on October 3rd. A sample ballot is at each seat.

Eatonton Mainstreet and GICH (Georgia Initiative for Community Housing) are teaming up to sponsor a community wide Beautification Day in Eatonton on Saturday, October 11th from 10:00am -2:00pm

Please be reminded of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission’s Annual Meeting that will take place on Thursday, October 9th at Claystone Park.

Advertisement for additional Revolving Loan Fund Committee members will be in the paper in the next week or two.

The City Marshal’s report is at each seat.

Council discussed spreading the word about voting in the City and in the County Election this year. A request was made to place additional advertising in the paper in reference to the City Special Election and voting locations.

City Attorney Huskins advised the Revolving Loan request made by Adam Smith is on track; and the loan request made by Vizitech, from Rural Economic Development, (REDLG); we are waiting on loan documents.

Motion was made by Doster 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