City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 6, 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 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.
Deacon Sharoko Farley of New Life Outreach Christian Center gave the Invocation.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Stokes to adopt the minutes from
December 15, 2014 Council meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a
vote of 5-0. Councilman James Gorley and Councilman Charles Haley abstained.

Public Comments:
Mrs. Janie B. Reid –Renaming of bridge

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to hear from Mrs. Janie B. Reid.
Motion carried by an unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mrs. Janie Reid asked council to support renaming the bridge on Highway 16 East at
Rooty Creek the William Love Walton Bridge. This bridge is not a city or county bridge
but a State DOT bridge. Mrs. Reid advised Representative Mickey Channell supported
the name changing.
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Stokes to add renaming Rooty Creek
Bridge to the Agenda. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Councilman Gorley asked the significance of renaming the bridge; Councilman Mangum
asked if there was a fee associated with the renaming of the bridge. Councilman Haley
advised the City need to have criteria/guidelines for when someone wants to rename
streets and bridges. Mrs. Reid advised the family would pay the fee for renaming the
bridge and was asking for Council support in renaming the bridge. Councilman Walker
advised the renaming would be an honorary contribution to Mr. Walton who was well respected in the community.

Mayor Reid stated going forward that he through Mr. Haley was right is saying we need criteria when someone wishes to rename streets and bridges.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Butts to support renaming the bridge. Motion was amended by Walker and seconded by Butts to give a letter of support in renaming of the Rooty Creek Bridge the William Love Walton Bridge. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Old Business: None

New Business:
Alcohol License by Babu Singh d/b/a Shell Express & Eastside Package Store, 204 East Sumter Street, Eatonton, GA. City Administrator Sanders asked Council to table because of needed information not received by today.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to table the Alcohol License requested by Babu Singh d/b/a Shell Express & Eastside Package Store. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to Fix Qualifying Fees for the 2015 Municipal Election
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to adopt the proposed Resolution to fix Qualifying Fees for the 2015 Municipal Election and authorize Mayor Reid to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to Reaffirm the Tenets of GMA’s City of Ethics Program
Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Walker to adopt the proposed Resolution to reaffirm the Tenets of the GMA’s City of Ethics Program and authorize Mayor Reid to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to Appoint a Member to the Historic Preservation Commission
Administrator Sanders advised receiving two letters of interest to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission. One applicant lives outside the city limits and is not eligible to serve on the Commission.
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to appoint Larry Folk to the Historic Preservation Commission. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Changing the date of the January 19, 2015 Council meeting (MLK Jr. Day)
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to change the January 19, Council meeting date to Tuesday, January 20, 2015. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.
Committees 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 Haley discussed a letter received from Environmental Corporation of America in reference to Georgia Power Company proposing to construct a 180 ft. monopole at a substation on Glenwood Springs Road. The notice is seeking comments regarding the effect of the proposed action on Historic properties in the community. Mrs. Shelagh Fagan was asked to respond to the letter on behalf of the Historical Commission. Mayor Reid asked that a copy of the letter be sent to Rusi Patel at GMA for reviewing and advising.

Councilwoman Stokes advised the MLK, Jr. Holiday will be celebrated with a March to the Court house on Monday, January 19; Stokes asked all to attend. Also Stokes advised Mrs. Barbara Trubey’s last day was Wednesday, December 31, 2014; she will be missed from working at City Hall.

Councilman Gorley advised the Fire Department is working on the ISO Report. One half of the survey is finished. The inspection will be March 10th. The Interim Fire Chief is doing a good job. Also the Fire Department received a letter of thanks from the Housing Authority in reference to containing a fire in a vacant building behind the Housing Authority. Fireman Santa gave out toys to 153 families at Christmas.

Police Chief William Lawrence advised being busy with an on going case being worked by the Police Department and the GBI. Eleven arrests have been made and 50 warrants issued in relation to the case.

City Administrator Gary Sanders reported:
1. Work on the Willie Bailey Street drainage project has resumed. The contractor plans to install the pipes that cross under North Maple Avenue tomorrow. The intersection will be closed tomorrow and periodically, thereafter, until project completion.

2. Approximately 200 feet of 4” gas line is in the ground along Imperial Lakeview Drive. We expect a project completion in 30-45 days for this Change Order project.

3. The comprehensive gas inspection by the Public Service Commission is scheduled for the week of January 26 and will last approximately 3-4 days. During this time, several PSC inspectors, along with their black SUVs, will be at the shop and maybe at City Hall.

4. The regular review of the City’s ISO rating will be conducted on March 10. We are currently working on the pre-evaluation and plan to have the initial paperwork done by January 16 to allow time to identify additional steps that can be taken to reduce the rating during the March 10 review.
5. Sarah and I will be attending Election Training at the Secretary of State’s office in Macon this Thursday, January 8 from 9AM-3PM.

6. The State has entered into a new contract with WEX Bank, formerly Wright Express Financial Service Corporation, for fuel card services. As a result, new fuel cards will be issued to the City. The terms of the City’s agreement will remain the same with the exception of replacing all references to “Wright Express Financial Services Corporation” with “WEX Bank”.

7. The Budget Status Report for September and October are at your seats, November report will be available at the next meeting.

8. Councilwoman Stokes advised the property at the end of Baynes Street has been cleared and a doublewide trailer setup.

City Attorney Chris Huskins advised meeting with the Putnam County attorney on renegotiation of LOST for one and a half hours on Monday. Will update Council with questions the County is asking.

Councilman Haley talked to Attorney Huskins in reference to request made by Dorothy Adams to demolish Charlie Weeks building on East Marion Street and would the client or the estate pay for the removal. Haley advised the removal would be an improvement to the neighborhood.

Councilman Mangum asked City Attorney about the loan to Brown Dog Restaurant. Attorney Huskins advised closing the Brown Dog loan to Adam Smith but waiting on the title to his vehicle for collateral and Mayor Reid has signed all the documents on Vizitech loan; waiting on letter of credit.

City Clerk Abrams advised Council a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement is at their seat; complete and return to City Hall. Also the new Accounts Payable Clerk last day was today.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Stokes 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