1. 7:00 PM Call to Order

2. Invocation: Councilwoman Alma Stokes

3. Approval of Minutes: Attachment #1

4. Public Comments:
   Reading of Rules for Public Comments

5. Old Business:
   A.

6. New Business:
   A. Proposed Resolution to Appoint a Member to the Putnam County Board of Health Attachment #6A
   B. Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Sign Letters of Support for the Eatonton Housing Authority Attachment #6B
   C. Proclamation Recognizing February 9, 2017 as Alice Walker Day Attachment #6C

7. Zoning:

8. Committee Reports:
• Finance and Personnel – Council Member Harvey C. Walker, Jr.
• Public Utilities – Council Member Alvin Butts
• Streets, Buildings and Grounds – Council Member William C. Mangum
• Zoning and Ordinances - Council Member Teresa Doster
• Environmental – Council Member Charles R. Haley
• Community Development – Council Member Alma Stokes
• Public Safety – Council Member James A. Gorley
• City Administrator – Gary Sanders
• City Attorney – Christopher D. Huskins
• City Clerk – Sarah Abrams

9. Executive Session:

10. Motion to Adjourn:
City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 7:00 PM
Putnam County Commissioners’ Meeting Room #203
117 Putnam Drive
Eatonton, Georgia 31024

Elected Officials Present:
Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr.
Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr.
Councilman Alvin Butts
Councilwoman Teresa Doster
Councilman Charles R. Haley
Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Elected Officials Absent:
Councilman James A. Gorley
Councilman William C. Mangum, Jr.

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

Mayor Walter Rocker called the January 3, 2017 Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation was given by Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey C. Walker, Jr.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Butts to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2016 Council meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilwoman Teresa Doster abstained because she did not attend the last meeting.

Public Comments: Mr. Terrence Waller
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to hear from all who wished to speak. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Reading of the Rules for Public Comments: **Omitted**

Mr. Terrence Waller extended an invitation to Council to attend the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events on Monday, January 16, 2017. A march will start at 4:00 PM at St. John AME Church on Willie Bailey Street and proceed to the Putnam County Court House Square on South Jefferson Avenue. Another program will be held at St. John AME Church at 6 PM and Waller advised there is room on the program for someone from the Council to speak.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**
Main Street Report for City Council Meeting January 3, 2017

**Organization**
Members of the Eatonton Main Street Board presented the end of year report to City Council on December 19.

The Chair of Main Street, Lisa Jackson and the City Administrator, Gary Sanders have spoken to the Main Street Board about their responsibilities as board members regarding their attendance at the mandatory Main Street 101 training.

The next mandatory Main Street 101 training is set for Tuesday, February 28. The Main Street Board members that do not attend this training are aware that they will be asked to resign, rather than put Eatonton Main Street into a probationary status.

The Department of Community Affairs requested that all Main Street reports including the Annual Assessment of Accreditation be submitted to them by January 15.

**Promotion**
The 2017 Eatonton Main Street event calendar was published. All Facebook event calendars have been updated. The calendar has been sent to Kaitlyn Parham at the Eatonton Putnam Chamber of Commerce.

Mainstreet is seeking to promote a Fire and Ice Festival on Saturday, February 11, 2017, at the Community Event Stage and Activity Center. Mainstreet is also seeking to partner with the Eatonton Cotton Warehouse. The Ice Sculpting will take place in the Cotton Warehouse. The Fire performers have an inside alternative and will have an educational aspect to their work for children, which will not involve fire.

Main Street will also be having a Television Commercial to promote the Fire and Ice event alongside the regular print and radio advertising. Moving forward, we will see if the television commercial can be a valuable asset for our signature events, depending on attendance for the Fire and Ice Festival.

**Design**
Holloway Ace Hardware is helping Eatonton Main Street offset some of the cost of the paint for Facade Grants.

Eatonton Main Street is working with the Athens Design Studio to see how best to improve East Sumter Street.
Economic Vitality
Lake Country Physical Therapy has moved their grand opening to January.
Woodmen Life has moved their grand opening to January.
The Eatonton Cotton Warehouse is planning a ribbon cutting in January.
All ribbon cutting schedules are set by the Eatonton Putnam Chamber of Commerce.

Eatonton Main Street Director met with Terry Schwindler, Director of the Putnam Development Authority to discuss economic vitality in downtown Eatonton on Friday, December 16.

Summary
December saw a record crowd, vendors and entrants for the Christmas Arts Bazaar and Parade.

Eatonton Main Street’s social media, specifically Instagram and Facebook, is seeking increased traffic. Athens Design Studio confirmed that the E. Sumter Street proposal document will be around 20 pages, each page addressing the specific design treatments that were discussed during the site visit. They will send individual design treatments as they complete them so that I can send them feedback and adjust the scope as I desire in consultation with the local building owners and the Main Street Design team.

Councilman Butts asked Mainstreet Director Simpson about bringing more tourism to Eatonton like the groups of tourists in the City of Madison. Mainstreet Director Simpson advised this is more a Chamber of Commerce function. But he would like to see an increase in foot traffic in the downtown business district and get traffic off the bypass and into the downtown area. Also, MainStreet is looking into developing a phone app to help promote Eatonton.

Councilwoman Doster commented on the Christmas Parade and thanked Simpson for the hard work that made it a success. Councilwoman Stokes also made positive comments on the Christmas Parade.

New Business:

Proposed Resolution to Request Technical Assistance from Middle Georgia Regional Commission in Preparing an Application for the DOJ Body-Worn Camera Partnership Program Attachment #6B
Police Chief William K. Lawrence advised this is a matching grant provided by DOJ for Body-Worn Cameras. Some officers have purchased their own body cameras. Chief Lawrence asked Mayor and Council to approve the resolution and submit an application by the February 17 deadline. City Administrator Gary Sanders advised this is a 50/50 matching grant and the City has $25,000 in SPLOST #8 to be used as the City’s matching portion. Also, Councilman Gorley asked that his support for this grant and his desire to submit a competitive application be shared with Council.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Haley to approve the proposed Resolution requesting technical assistance from Middle Georgia Regional Commission in preparing an application for the DOJ Body-Worn Camera Partnership and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary and required by the U.S. Department of Justice. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.
Proposed Resolution to Accept a Gift of Real Property Attachment #6C
City Attorney Christopher Huskins advised researching and fixing title issues with the Old Big Chick Property. James and Nancy Marshall offered to donate the property to the City of Eatonton. We will get a clean title to the property. The Marshall’s will refund the City 100% of the cost associated with researching and fixing the title.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Doster to approved the proposed Resolution to accept a gift of real property known as the Old Big Chick, owned by James and Nancy Marshall, Parcel E006153 comprising 0.058 acres more or less as currently recorded on the Tax Plat Maps for the City of Eatonton in Putnam County, Georgia and authorize Mayor Rocker or his designee to sign related deeds and other such supporting material as shall be necessary for proper transfer of said property. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Proposed Resolution to Amend the Balance Budget for City Fiscal Year 2016 Attachment #6D
City Administrator Sanders advised this FY2016 Budget amendment is to clean up the Budget and reclassify expenditures for the Eatonton MainStreet Program from General Government function to Economic Development function and items in Municipal Court and Eatonton Police Department.
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to approve the proposed Resolution by the Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia to amend the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 to reflect changes and maintain the balance budget as required by the Official Code of Georgia Title 36, Chapter 32 Section 3 and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Proposed Resolution to Amend the Balance Budget for City Fiscal Year 2017 Attachment #6E
City Administrator Sanders advised this amendment is reclassifying expenditures for the Eatonton Main Street Program from General Government function to the Economic Development function and to recognize the drawdown and expenditure of restricted funds for computer upgrades.
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster that the proposed Resolution by the Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia, the Budget for the City Fiscal Year 2017, be amended to reflect such changes and maintain the balance budget as required by Georgia Code and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.
Committee Reports:
Motion was made by Councilman Walker to pay the bills if and when the funds become available. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.
Councilman Butts asked if the City had new gas customers hooking on the Hwy 441 and Hwy 44 gas line. City Administrator Sanders advised a number of new customers have connected to the gas line. The Gas Representative from Municipal Gas Authority is working with area residents/businesses to connect to the line. Also, we are working on a rebate package to get clients to change over to natural gas from electricity and to retain current customers.

Councilwoman Doster expressed words of thanks over the Christmas Parade and thanks to Police Chief Lawrence for working and investigating the many police cases.

Councilman Haley discussed getting the City Marshal to take more action against the tire store next to City Hall on North Jefferson Avenue. The tire store is out of control on tire storage in their parking lot. City Administrator Sanders reported the owner was taken to court and paid a fine last year and further action will be pursued.

Councilman Haley reported that an automobile parked on Wayne Street, near the home of Ms. Mary Hudson, has all the tires flat. Haley advised this auto should either be moved by the owner or towed and impounded.

Councilman Haley expressed words of thanks to Mayor Rocker for working with Eatonton-Putnam Water and Sewer Authority on the issue with the hydrants in the City of Eatonton.

City Administrator Gary Sanders reported making preparation to attend the Middle Georgia Regional Commission’s Leadership Program retreat on Friday, January 6 at Lake Lanier.

City Administrator Sanders reminded Council members that the Putnam Development Authority’s Planning Retreat will be held on Monday, January 9, from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the Regional Commission office. Those who are able are invited to attend.

City Administrator Sanders advised Council that the next regular Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00 PM at the Hut. This was changed due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. You will receive an email reminder before the meeting.

Mayor Rocker asked if there was any more business to be discussed tonight. There being no further business, motion was made by Walker and seconded by Haley to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0. Council adjourned at 7:26 PM.
ATTEST:

Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk

Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor
RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION by the Board of Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia to appoint a member to the Putnam County Board of Health and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Board of Health was created to set fees for environmental and clinical services, to govern the funds, budgets and any personnel issues for the Health Department, and to manage any health issues for Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Board of Health is composed of seven members; and

WHEREAS, one member is to be appointed by the governing authority of the largest municipality in the county and such member shall be a person interested in promoting public health who is a consumer or a nurse licensed under Chapter 26 of Title 43; and

WHEREAS, currently such seat is vacant; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eatonton has duly advertised and solicited letters of interest to fill such vacancy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia that Ms. Charlotte Green is hereby appointed to the Putnam County Board of Health for a term of six years to expire on December 31, 2022.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia on this 17th day of January, 2017.

Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor
City of Eatonton, Georgia

ATTEST:

Clerk, City of Eatonton, Georgia
January 4, 2017

To whom it may concern:

I, Charlotte S. Green, RN would like to accept the position on the Putnam County Board of Health as Consumer or Licensed Nurse as offered to me by Mayor Walter Rocker.

I understand this is a six (6) year position.

Yours truly:

[Signature]

Charlotte Green, RN
RESOLUTION

A Resolution by the Board of Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia to authorize the Mayor to sign letters of support for the Eatonton Housing Authority and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the City of Eatonton seeks to provide quality affordable housing in the City through programs and operations of the Eatonton Housing Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Eatonton Housing Authority has informed the City that it will pursue tax credits and HOME Investment Partnership Program funds to transform the public housing stock in the City of Eatonton; and

WHEREAS, the Eatonton Housing Authority has requested that letters be issued in support of such efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia, that:

THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF EATONTON IS AUTHORIZED TO SIGN LETTERS OF SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF THE EATONTON HOUSING AUTHORITY AND ITS EFFORTS TO SECURE TAX CREDITS AND FUNDING TO TRANSFORM THE PUBLIC HOUSING STOCK IN THE CITY OF EATONTON.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia on this 17th day of January, 2017.

__________________________
Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor
City of Eatonton, Georgia

ATTEST:

__________________________
Clerk, City of Eatonton, Georgia
January 9, 2017

Mr. Carmen Chub
Deputy Commissioner Housing
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, Ga 30329

Dear Mr. Chub,

The Housing Authority for the City of Eatonton will be pursuing tax credits and HOME funds to meet the goal of continuing to provide quality affordable housing to our residents. The availability of HOME funds via a CHDO application would help significantly in furthering our mission of providing quality, affordable housing for our residents. These units are such a vital part of the housing of our low income population in Eatonton and Putnam County.

The Eatonton Housing Authority (EHA) currently manages 114 units of low-income housing with RAD rental assistance that was built in two phases in the 1950’s and 1960’s, and 50 units of Section 8 New Construction housing with project based voucher rental assistance that was built in 1979. All 164 units have HUD long term (20 years) housing assistance payments. In our City of only 7,000 residents, the 164 units of affordable housing represents a large part of all housing that is available to lower income residents. The Housing Authority has always been considered a High Performer in management standards under the Public Housing program. Occupancy of 100% is maintained with a substantial waiting list.

EHA’s RAD and Section 8 New Construction properties are old, obsolete, expensive to maintain, and have limited amenities. It would not be cost effective to renovate the Section 8 buildings and several of the RAD buildings and bring them up to current building codes and standards.

The challenges faced by EHA are not unique to owners of aging, affordable properties. The most effective tool for a rehabilitation or replacement remains the 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credit, but the need for this resource greatly exceeds the annual amount of credits available to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). In 2016, less than a third of the projects that requested tax credits received an award. The 4% tax exempt bond remains another tool to
address the rehabilitation or replacement of aging properties. However, these transactions typically require a significant commitment of soft funds to be feasible, such as HOME or the Federal Housing Trust Fund. The EHA requests that DCA issue a NOFA for HOME funds, with a priority for CHDOs in 2017.

The Eatonton Housing Authority has secured a Development Partner to assist with plans to make changes to improve these units and preserve the assets of this community. Plans are being made to partially demolish and partially renovate the RAD units and to demolish and replace its Section 8 New Construction housing stock with new universal designed and energy efficient housing with modern amenities.

The government of this community is committed to preserving these assets. If further information about our community and this organization/project is needed we will be glad to provide more details.

We would greatly appreciate your support and assistance towards this goal.

Sincerely,

Walter Rocker
Mayor
January 9, 2017

Mr. Philip Gilman
Director, Office of Housing and Finance
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, Ga 30329

Dear Mr. Gilman,

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We would greatly appreciate your support and assistance towards this goal.

Sincerely,

Walter Rocker
Mayor
January 9, 2017

Mr. Drew Swope  
Affordable Housing Finance Manager  
Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
60 Executive Park South, NE  
Atlanta, Ga 30329

Dear Mr. Swope,

The Housing Authority for the City of Eatonton will be pursuing tax credits and HOME funds to meet the goal of continuing to provide quality affordable housing to our residents. The availability of HOME funds via a CHDO application would help significantly in furthering our mission of providing quality, affordable housing for our residents. These units are such a vital part of the housing of our low income population in Eatonton and Putnam County.

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We would greatly appreciate your support and assistance towards this goal.

Sincerely,

Walter Rocker
Mayor
ALICE WALKER DAY
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Alice Talullah-Kate Walker has served as an inspiration and supporter of young people through her encouragement of early reading and literacy programs; and

WHEREAS, Alice Tallulah-Kate Walker was born on February 9, 1944, in Eatonton, Georgia, Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, Alice Talullah-Kate Walker was educated in the Putnam County school system, and graduated from the Butler-Baker High School in 1961, with honors as the Class Valedictorian; and

WHEREAS, Alice Talullah-Kate Walker was the recipient of a State Disability Scholarship to attend college in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Alice Talullah-Kate Walker attended Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, and graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York; and

WHEREAS, Alice Talullah-Kate Walker’s Revolutionary Petunias and Other Poems, published in 1973, won the Lillian Smith Award of the Southern Regional Council; and

WHEREAS, Alice Talullah-Kate Walker’s The Color Purple won the Pulitzer Prize in 1983, the first Black Woman to win the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction; and

WHEREAS, the Eatonton premiere of the Steven Spielberg movie, The Color Purple, was held at the Pex Theater in 1986 and attended by Alice Walker; and

WHEREAS, Alice Talullah-Kate Walker, as an essayist, poet, award-winning novelist, short story writer, social activist, and black feminist, has given voice and acclaim to African-American literary excellence.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EATONTON, do hereby proclaim February 9, 2017 as ALICE WALKER DAY throughout the City of Eatonton, Georgia and urge our fellow citizens to recognize the role of Alice Talullah-Kate Walker in celebrating our literary heritage.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands, and cause the Great Seal of the City of Eatonton, Georgia to be affixed this Seventeenth day of January, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Seventeen.

Mr. Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor

Mr. Harvey Walker, Jr.

Mr. Alvin Butts

Ms. Teresa Doster

Mr. James A. Gorley

Mr. Charles Haley

Mr. William Mangum

Ms. Alma Stokes

ATTEST: Ms. Sarah Abrams
Clerk, City of Eatonton, Georgia