City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 4, 2016 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 James A. Gorley
    Councilman Charles R. Haley
    Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
    Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Elected Officials Absent:

Staff Members Present:
    City Administrator, Gary Sanders
    City Attorney, Christopher Huskins
    City Clerk, Sarah Abrams

Mayor Rocker called the October 4th Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation was given by Pastor James Kilgore, Jr. of New Life Out Reach Christian Center.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the minutes of the last meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Council Alvin Butts abstained due to not attending the last meeting.

Public Comments: Lyn Romine – Water hydrants
    Pastor James Kilgore, Jr. – Clean up day

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to hear from all wishing to speak. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Reading of the rules for Public Comments: Omitted
Mrs. Lyn Romine talked about non-working hydrants. She advised there are three hydrants on North Jefferson Avenue on her side of the street that are not working and she expressed words of thanks to Mayor Rocker for speaking up at the Water Authority meeting for her and her neighbors about getting something done to correct the problem. Mayor Rocker advised a crew will start Monday morning repairing the hydrants. Gorley asked if they would repair one section of the city or repair all the non working hydrants. Mayor Rocker advised there are 52 hydrants on the list that are not working.

Councilwoman Stokes asked what are we to do if we have a fire or how will firefighters fight fires?

Pastor James Kilgore, Jr. invited Council and the community to share in a clean up day on October 22, 2016, starting at 10:00 AM. Pastors Kilgore advised he and his members are trying to send a positive message to the neighborhood that the church is there for the community. Mayor Rocker advised this is very encouraging and he would be attending the clean up day and would bring his personal equipment to help clean up the lot next to the church.

Old Business: None

New Business:

**Proposed Resolution to Designate a Meeting Place for the November 1, 2016 City Council Meeting Attachment #6A**

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Gorley to designate the Hut Building as the venue for the November 1, 2016 meeting of the City Council pursuant to Section 31 of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances. Following such date, regular meetings of the City Council shall resume at the Commissioners’ Meeting Room at 117 Putnam Drive Eatonton. Also, authorize Mayor Rocker to sign the Resolution authorizing the change. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Execute a Contract for Technical and Administrative Services with Associates in Local Government Assistance, Inc. Attachment #6B**

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to adopt the proposed Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract for Technical and Administrative Services with Associates in Local Government Assistance, Inc. to perform certain technical and administrative tasks and provide certain services incident to the administration, supervision, and implementation of the FY 2016 Community Development Block Grant awarded to the City of Eatonton. The Mayor shall sign documents and such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary for the property execution of the contract. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.
CDBG Award is for drainage improvement on Church Street starting at Oak Way up to Highway 441 Bypass. Grant amount is $500,000.

**Proposed Resolution to Request Technical Assistance from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission in Preparing a Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Grant Application Attachment #6D**

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Walker to approve the proposed Resolution for the Mayor to request technical Assistance from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission in preparing a Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trail Grant Application and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign contracts, letters and such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary and required for the property application receipt and implementation of such grant as may be received. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Ratify the Action of the Mayor in signing a Certificate of Appropriateness for the Eatonton-Putnam County Historical Society Attachment #6D**

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to approve the proposed Resolution by the Council of the City of Eatonton to ratify the action of the Mayor in signing the Certificate of Appropriateness applied for by James P. Marshall, Jr., agent for the Eatonton-Putnam County Historical Society, for the specified project at the Eatonton Presbyterian Church. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Amend the Natural Gas Consulting Engineering Services Budget with AMEC Foster Wheeler Attachment # 6E**

Council discussed the Amec Foster Wheeler Environment and Infrastructures, Inc request to increase the budget to cover the various engineered gas projects in progress and the reason for the increase. Administrator Sanders advised this is a budgeted item in the FY17 Gas Department Budget.

Motion was made by Butts and seconded Doster to approve the proposed Resolution to Amend the Natural Gas Consulting Engineering Services Budget with AMEC Foster Wheeler with an increase of $10,000 to the existing budget and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign supporting and related documents as necessary to accomplish the goal of this resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Amend Chapter 6 (Alcoholic Beverages) of the Code of Ordinances Attachment #6F**

Council discussed amendments to Chapter 6: Alcoholic Beverages Code of Ordinances. Attorney Huskins advised these changes are to bring the City of Eatonton Code in line with Putnam County Code of Ordinances and to delete items that are obsolete and do not apply to the City Code.
Gorley asked about section 6-18 Hearings (c). Council advised no change was made to this section from the previous Code.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the amendment to Chapter 6 Alcoholic Beverages of the City of Eatonton Code of Ordinances. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Zoning:**

**Committee 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.

Councilman Butts thanked Council for voting for the gas budget contract increase and he asked Council members to participate in the clean up day in Ward 2 on October 22nd.

Councilman Haley discussed Code Enforcement Report submitted by City Marshal Dianne Veal. Haley read out names of person contacted by the Marshal advising them to maintain their property. Some have complied but others continue to ignore the issue. Haley advised the Marshal needs to speed things up. These depilated properties are bringing down the value of their neighbors’ property. City Administrator Sanders advised the City is in the process of cataloging properties in disrepair. Haley asked if Jim Marshall property on Sumter Street was deeded to the City. Attorney Huskins advised working on deeding the property to the City.

City Administrator Sanders advised the City will receive sealed bids for the TE Project Construction of SR 24 to SR 16 to North East Harris Street/Willie Bailey Street. Bid opening date is scheduled for October 27, 2016 at 2:00 PM in City Hall, 201 North Jefferson Avenue, Eatonton, Georgia.

City Administrator Sanders advised the Pre-Disaster Mitigation meeting will be held at Putnam County Commissioners’ Administrative Building, at 2:00 PM, Wednesday, October 5, 2016.

City Administrator Sanders reported Georgia Department of Community Affairs FY 16 CDBG Recipients Workshop will be held in Savannah, Georgia, October 6, and 7, 2016. Administrator Sanders and City Clerk Abrams will attend.

City Administrator Sanders reported Clerk Abrams and Sanders would attend the Department of Audit Seminar in Cumming Georgia, October 11 and 12, 2016.
City Administrator Sanders advised Main Street Director Andrew Simpson requested to move his report to the first meeting of the City Council from presenting it at the second meeting. The proposed change will take place at the 1st meeting of the Council starting December 6, 2016.

City Attorney Huskins thanked the Eatonton Police Department Officers and Staff for apprehending the person responsible for breaking into his car and also for returning to him the stolen items within a week.

Mayor Rocker asked if there was any more business to be discussed. There being no other business. Motion was made by Haley 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