City of Eatonton Council Meeting  
Monday, August 15, 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.  
  (Late) Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Elected Officials Absent:  

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

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

Invocation was given by Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr.

Motion was made by Butts and seconded by Mangum to approve the minutes of the August 2nd Public Hearing on FY 2016 Budget Amendment #1 with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilwoman Teresa Doster and Councilman James A. Gorley abstained due to being absent from the meeting. Councilwoman Alma Stokes was not present at the time of the vote.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Walker to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held on August 2nd on the proposed FY 2017 Budget with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0. Councilwoman Teresa Doster abstained due to being absent from the meeting. Councilwoman Alma Stokes was not present at the time of the vote.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Gorley to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on 8/2/2016. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.
Councilwoman Teresa Doster abstained due to not attending the meeting. Councilwoman Alma Stokes was not present at the time of the vote.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing on the proposed City of Eatonton Millage Rate Increase. Meeting was held on August 4th at 9:00 AM. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilman Alvin Butts, Councilman Charles R. Haley and Mayor Pro-Tem Walker abstained due to being absent from the meeting.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Walker to approve the minutes from the August 11th Public Hearing on the proposed City of Eatonton Millage Rate Increase which was held at 12:00 PM. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilwoman Teresa Doster, Councilman Alvin Butts, and Councilman Charles R. Haley abstained due to being absent from the meeting.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Mangum to approve the minutes from the August 11th Public Hearing on the City of Eatonton Millage Rate Increase, which was held at 6:00 PM. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Councilman Alvin Butts abstained due to being absent from the meeting.

**Public Comments: None**

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

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

**Andrew Simpson, Main Street Director submitted the following Report to City Council.**

**Organization**
The Main Street Board has two new members, Cindy Willis from the Pilot Club and Colby Hunter from the Uncle Remus Library. They attended their first meeting in August and we welcome them aboard.

I am sad to let you know that a former Main Street board member Marion Mahs has died. I, unfortunately did not meet him, but Lisa Jackson our Board Chair spoke very highly of his contributions to Main Street.

**Promotion**
The Kids Expo and Movies on the Court House Lawn gained an attendance of 400. Copperwood Pizza from Eatonton and Scoops of Madison were very well received.
The Briar Patch Arts Festival is desperately short of Arts and Crafts Vendors. I will be attending festivals in Stone Mountain and Watkinsville and attending the Harmony Crossing and Monticello Farmer's Market to see if I can attract more Arts and Craft Vendors. The Georgia/Florida game and the Pine Tree Festival in Sparta is causing vendors not to come, which is why I am having a tailgating party after the event and moving the event itself to the Saturday before the Taste of Eatonton in 2017.

Main Street is in the planning stages of a Valentines Event and Community Dinner event for 2017.

The water tower project is on hold.

**Design**
The Design Committee has two facade grant applications distributed to Merchants, awaiting return.

Main Street is partnering with various City Departments on enhancing downtown decorations.

Main Street Director is in contact with High Schools and the Ritz Carlton Recreation Department regarding the painting of merchant windows.

**Economic Vitality**
The Eatonton Cotton Warehouse and the Pex Theater has a work hold order on them.

Inquiries into retail and office space have slowed down.

I am continuing to recruit businesses to movie nights and festivals to see if they would like to either relocate or open a new business in Eatonton. I am asking current businesses to see if they would like to contribute in some way to our festivals either by participating or sponsoring.

**Summary**
I am continuing to reach out to recruit new businesses into the downtown. I am also seeking partners in creating a more family friendly and interactive environment for the citizens of Eatonton, Putnam County and beyond in our showcase events on the Putnam County Court House Lawn. Our beautification of the downtown via planters and painting of store front windows is a way forward in creating a vibrant downtown, alongside our continued working together with other City Departments.

**Proposed Resolution to Appoint Members to the Downtown Development Authority**
Attachment #6B
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to approve the proposed Resolution in re-appointing Roddie Anne Blackwell and Adam Smith to the Eatonton Downtown Development Authority for a term of four years. Their term will expire August 31, 2020. Mayor Rocker is authorized to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Name Individuals to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee**
Attachment #6C
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Mangum to approve the proposed Resolution to appoint the following community residents identified on the attached list to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee for 2016-2017 and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign the resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0. Councilman James A. Gorley abstained because his name was included on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee list.

List of individuals nominated and invited to serve on the Joint Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee for 2016-2017 as appointees of the City of Eatonton.

1. Roddie Anne Blackwell
2. Chandra Brown
3. Keith Fielder
4. James A. Gorley
5. Maurice Hill
6. Lisa Jackson
7. Rev. Simone Jones
8. Pastor James Kilgore
9. Terrance Nelson
10. Cooper Rainey
11. Scott Reaves
12. Tara Rocker
13. Lyn Romine
14. Tracy Stickley
15. George Thompkins

Proposed Resolution to Request Technical Assistance from Middle Georgia Regional Commission in Preparing a USDA Rural Facilities Grant Application Attachment #6D

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Walker to adopt the proposed Resolution authorizing Mayor Rocker to request Technical Assistance from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission in preparing and submitting an application for a USDA Community Facilities Grant and to sign such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary and required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Discussion and Possible Action on Revisions to GIRMA Intergovernmental Contract Attachment #6E

Attorney Christopher Huskins advised reviewing the recommended revisions to the GIRMA intergovernmental contract outlined in red, and advised these changes are needed to reflect the current law and bring the contract up to date and clarify some of the language. Attorney Huskins recommended approval.
Motion was made by Mangum and seconded by Doster to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the (GIRMA) Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency approval and ratification of revisions to the GIRMA Intergovernmental Contract. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Adopt City of Eatonton FY 2016 Budget Amendment #1 Attachment #6F**

City Administrator Sanders advised this amendment is to clean up the budget for year ending 8/31/2016. Budget Amendment #1 increases expenditures and revenues by $118,000 to account for grant revenue and reclassifies $135,500 in Senior Program expenditures from Economic Opportunity to Public Health and Welfare.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to adopt the City of Eatonton FY 2016 Budget Amendment #1. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Adopt City of Eatonton FY 2017 Budget Attachment #6G**

City Administrator Sanders advised Council the proposed FY 2017 Budget was at their seat. After reviewing the FY 2017 Budget Councilman Haley discussed making cuts to the budget. Mayor Rocker suggested cross cutting. Attorney Christopher Huskins advised the City is getting a less percentage of the sales tax collected. The money is being cut each year. With the closing of the Georgia Power plant there is even less tax collected. Councilman Haley talked about needing businesses to locate here and also suggested working on the budget as a group next year.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to adopt the City of Eatonton FY 2017 Budget. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**City of Eatonton FY 2017 Budget Total $5,963,422**

**Zoning:** None

**Committee Report**

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to pay the bills if and when the funds become available. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Councilman Butts advised the clean up day spearheaded by his church has been rescheduled for October.

Councilwoman Doster thanked Councilman Butts and Councilwoman Stokes for working on the ordinances. In addition, Doster expressed words of appreciation to Main Street Director Andrew Simpson for the success of the movie night event and the huge crowd that attended.
Councilwoman Stokes also congratulated Main Street Director Andrew Simpson on the movie night success.

Councilman Gorley read a letter received from Mr. Tom and Mrs. Sandra Rosseter expressing words of gratitude to firefighter Kathy Yates and Fire Chief Eugene Hubert for rescuing them on July 9, 2016 when their brick porch collapsed and they fell with it.

Councilman Gorley advised interviews will be scheduled to fill the position in the Fire Department this week.

City Administrator Gary Sanders advised the office of Congressman Jody Hice will host a Grants and small Business workshop tomorrow, August 16th in Watkinsville. The workshop will feature speakers and representatives from federal agencies, state departments and small business. This event is free and open to the public.

The workshop will take place at the Oconee County Civic Center and will last from 10:00AM to 12:30 PM.

Administrator Gary Sanders advised he would be attending the American Gas Association Member meeting in Winder at 10:00 AM on Friday, August 26. Topics: pipeline safety; preserving and enhancing the direct-use of natural gas; natural gas vehicles; and gas supply.

Mayor Rocker asked if there was any further business to be discussed; being none, motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

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Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk