City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Monday, September 19, 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.
  Councilwoman Teresa Doster
  Councilman James A. Gorley
  Councilman Charles R. Haley
  Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
  Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Elected Officials Absent:
  Councilman Alvin Butts

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 September 19, 2016 Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Councilwoman Alma Stokes called for a Moment of Silence for the Invocation.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to approve the minutes of the last meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Public Comments: None

Reading of the rules for Public Comments: Omitted

Old Business: None

New Business:
Main Street Director Andrew Simpson presented the following Main Street Report

**Organization**
Main Street has approached the Putnam County High School to have high school representation on the board to enable a connection with the future of Putnam County. With great regret I must announce the passing of Craig Baker. Mr. Baker was a great supporter of Main Street in general and the Christmas Parade specifically. His contribution and advice will be missed.

**Promotion**
Eatonton Main Street will be purchasing a billboard on Highway 441 facing North just after Central Georgia Technical College to direct travelers into downtown Eatonton. The purchase will run for 12 months. There will also be a purchase of 2 short term billboards facing North and South at the Southeastern Portable Buildings Inc. location on Highway 441. Main Street will be monitoring the attendance at the Briar Patch Arts Festival to see if this advertisement will show an improvement in crowd numbers.

The Briar Patch Arts Festival is still desperately short of Arts and Crafts Vendors. Currently we are at 25, which is less than half of the vendors of the Briar Patch Arts Festival last year. I visited the Yellow Daisy Festival last weekend and the comments were that 'vendors prefer a two day festival', and 'Why are you scheduling it on the day of the Georgia/Florida Game?' I will be attending festivals in Madison, Watkinsville and in Milledgeville to see if I can get more Arts and Craft Vendors. I hope doing the following a) having a tailgating party after the event and b) moving the event itself to the Saturday before the Taste of Eatonton in 2017, as well as increased advertising will increase vendor and crowd numbers.

Main Street has agreed to partner with the Recreation Dept. to purchase a big screen and projector to show movies, if our request to Tytan Creates to supply one is not successful.

Eatonton Main Street is seeking contributions and sponsorship for Flags to fly on Memorial, Independence and Veterans Day in downtown Eatonton.

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

The Scarecrow Contest judging begins on October 11 and finishes on October 21.

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

**Economic Vitality**
The Pex Theater space occupied by The County Kitchen hope to be opened by early October.

The Folk Art venue hopes to be opened by the end of October.

**Summary**
Our beautification plans of the downtown via planters, painting of store front windows and providing flags for Memorial, Independence and Veterans Day, is a way forward in creating a vibrant downtown, alongside our continued partnership with other City Departments.
Councilman Haley asked Main Street Director Andrew Simpson about the number of vendors participating in the Arts Festival. Director Simpson advised at the time of this written report, there were 25 vendors; but, today the number has increased to 30. Director Simpson advised he is considering changing the date of the festival next year so as not to conflict with the Georgia / Florida game day.

Council also talked to Director Simpson about the price, and number of flags needed along with hardware to mount on light poles. Main Street Director Simpson advised he is working on quotes. The price ranges from $33.00 up to $86.00 per flag. Main Street is looking for a product that will hold up for more than one year, and in the price range around $46.00. This price will include the pole. Gorley asked if the hardware used previous to put up the flags could be reused to save on expense. Simpson advised he would look into this.

Special Presentation by Fire Chief Eugene Hubert
Fire Chief Eugene Hubert recognized Lt. Tim Fuller’s 18 ½ years of service rendered to the Eatonton Fire Department and the citizens of this county. He presented him with a plaque and wished him the best on his moving and retirement.

Councilman Gorley offered words of congratulations to firefighter Tim Fuller and asked that a group photo be taken.

Fire Chief Hubert acknowledged Carl Buckner, Jr.’s service of 16 years with the Eatonton Fire Department. Buckner was moved up in rank and installed as a 3rd Lieutenant with the department.

Proclamation Recognizing September 17-23, 2016 as Constitution Week
Attachment 6C
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to approve the Proclamation recognizing September 17-23, 2016 as Constitution Week in Eatonton, Georgia and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign the Proclamation. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Proposed Resolution to Approve the Amended and Restated Gas Supply Contract with the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia  Attachment 6D
City Attorney Huskins discussed this item. Attorney Huskins advised this contract is to make clear and clarify some of the previous language in the contract. Other Municipal members of the Gas Authority will adopt this amended contract which expires December 31, 2050.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the Amended and Restated Gas Supply Contract with Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.
Proposed Resolution to Apply for a Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) from the Georgia Department of Transportation Attachment 6E
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Walker to table the proposed Resolution to apply for a Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Proposed Resolution to Approve the Submission of a Department of Natural Resources Trail Grant Application Attachment 6F
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Gorley to approve the submission of a Department of Natural Resources Trail Grant application by moving forward with diligence to prepare or have prepared, all appropriate documentation required for an application to be submitted to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources by the deadline, and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary and required in preparing such application. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Proposed Resolution to Ratify the Action of the Mayor in Signing the Letter of Engagement with David Giddens, CPA for Auditing Services Attachment 6G
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to approve the proposed Resolution ratifying the action of the Mayor in signing a Letter of Engagement with David Giddens, CPA for Auditing Services for CFY2016. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Proposed Resolution to Allow the Placement of a Historical Marker on City Property Attachment 6H
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Doster to approve the proposed Resolution allowing the Eatonton-Putnam County Historical Society to place a Historical Marker on City property at the site of the former Barnes Tavern and Hotel, as outlined in its proposal, recognizing the Birthplace of Joel Chandler and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0. (In front of Blackwell Furniture Store located on North Madison Avenue)

Historic Preservation – Request by Mr. James P. Marshall, Jr. for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a Historical Marker at the Bronson House Attachment 6I
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Doster to approve the proposed Resolution by the Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia to approve a certificate of appropriateness for the Eatonton-Putnam County Historical Society to install a Historical Marker at the Bronson House and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0. (Bronson House located at corner of West Harris Street and 114 North Madison Avenue)

Zoning: None
Committee Reports
Councilman Chip Walker offered words of thanks and best wishes to Firefighter Tim Fuller in his future endeavors.

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 6-0.

City Administrator Gary Sanders reported:

1. The Georgia Department of Transportation issued the City’s authority to advertise for construction bids for the TE/Streetscape Project. The ad will begin running in this week’s paper.

2. Administrator Sanders advised attending the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing workshop in Gainesville Tuesday through Thursday. This is the introductory workshop that some of you have previously attended.

3. The Eatonton –Putnam County Library will dedicate the Alice Walker Reading Center at 2:00 PM on Thursday, September 22.

4. The Ethen Richardson Foundation will host an official attempt to break a Guinness World Record for childhood cancer awareness on Sunday, September 25 beginning at 1:30PM at the Putnam County Middle School. The goal is to have just over 4,200 people create a mosaic of a gold ribbon

5. As a reminder, the CDBG recipient workshop will be held October 6-7 in Savannah. Please let Mr. Sanders or Mrs. Abrams know if you are interested in attending.

Mayor Rocker asked if there was additional business to be discussed tonight. There being none, motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Walker to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

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Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk