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.

**Zoning: None**

**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.

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Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk