Elected Officials Present:
  Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr.
  Councilman Alvin Butts
  Councilman James A. Gorley
  Councilman Charles R. Haley
  Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
  Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Elected Officials Absent:
  Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr.
  Councilwoman Teresa Doster

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

Staff Members Absent:
  City Attorney, Christopher Huskins

Mayor Pro-Tem, Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr. called the July 3, 2017 Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation was given by Councilman James A. Gorley.
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Butts to approve the minutes of the last meeting which was held on June 19, 2017. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilman James A. Gorley abstained because he was not present at the last meeting.

**Public Comments: Mr. Rufus Adair – Strom Water**
Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to hear from Mr. Rufus Adair on storm water. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Reading of the Rules for Public Comments:

City Administrator Gary Sanders read the rules for Public Comments.

Mr. Rufus Adair advised he is a resident of Eatonton and he and his late wife Janice is the owner of the old Eatonton Messenger Building on North Jefferson Avenue. They spent lots of money fixing up the property. The building has sustained storm water damage in the front and in the back. Five or six other businesses are tied into the line. When it rains, storm water from these building floods the property. Street Supervisor Joe Hawkins flushed out the pipes in the front and this helped some. Mr. Adair asked if Council could help with his water issues.

Council discussed concrete poured into the drain to keep storm water from infiltrating the sewer system. This was a consent order from EPD. Mayor Pro-Tem Walker suggested meeting with Mr. Adair and City Administrator Sanders on Wednesday or Thursday to look at the storm water issues.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

**Main Street Report Presented by Main Street Director, Andrew Simpson**

Main Street Report for City Council Meeting Monday July 3 2017 - June Recap

**Organization**

Main Street Board is still looking for applicants to the board.
Promotion

The Ronnie Pittman concert in the Eatonton Cotton Warehouse attracted 150 to 200 attendees.

The Bluegrass Concert was cancelled due to inclement weather and has now been rescheduled to July 22.

United States and Armed Forces Service Flags will be taken down after the July 4th holiday.

Design

Shannon Minchey has asked for a facade grant application for an awning.

Mark Smith currently has a facade grant application.

Economic Vitality

Downtown Eatonton continues to attract interest in bringing merchants into the Downtown. However, buildings like Moore LP Gas (107 N. Jefferson Avenue), China Chef (104 N. Jefferson Avenue) Communicomm/Charter Building (104 E. Marion St) and 112 W. Marion Street prevent a vibrant Downtown from putting down roots and taking hold and are off-putting for new businesses due to the buildings not being compliant with building codes/planning and zoning regulations. (Sec. 14-31. Adoption by Reference. Georgia Uniform Codes Act, O.C.G.A. § 8-2-25, 14-68. - Complaint in rem in municipal court; procedure; lien; appeal and Sec. 75-343 District Requirements {e})

Both 112 W. Marion Street and 106 N. Jefferson Avenue are both being used as storage facilities by the building owner which is incompatible with the zoning code. Sec. 75-342. - Uses allowed.

Spicy Southern Bistro closed on Thursday June 1.

The Pex Theater which holds The Country Kitchen had its marquee badly damaged by heavy rain. The restaurant remains open with people entering from the back entrance.

Southern Delight Cafeteria is open at 104 Oconee Street from 11:00am to 3pm and then 4pm to 8pm. They are closed Monday, and half day Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday.

Eatonton Main Street Director is in contact with Lori Jackson of Tischco regarding a ribbon cutting and engagement with downtown merchants.

Summary

Eatonton Main Street partnering with the Putnam County Charter School System, UGA's Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, the Georgia Writers Museum and the Butler-Baker Alumni Project, Inc. are working together for a public local history event. The event will be funded by a small grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.
There will be an information afternoon on Saturday August 26, between 2 and 4pm at the Georgia Writers Museum.
The recording of Putnam County resident’s oral histories, is currently scheduled for the Briar Patch Arts and Crafts Festival on September 30 and the Butler Baker Alumni October Fest. (The Alumni are working on a date)

**Proposed Resolution to Apply for a Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG)**  
**Attachment #6B**  
City Administrator Sanders advised the Streets Committee met last year and submitted a list of streets for the 2018 LMIG funding approval.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Gorley to approve the proposed Resolution to apply for a Local Maintenance and Improve Grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign letters, applications and such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary for the proper application and administration of the 2018 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) from the Georgia Department of Transportation. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

The following list of streets were identified as priorities for the LMIG funding: **Godfrey Road, Madelyn Avenue, Dickey Drive, Town Creek Road and Sam’s Way**

**Proposed Resolution Requesting Technical Assistance with the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Operation Attachment #6C**

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to approve the proposed Resolution and authorize Mayor Rocker to request assistance with the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Operation from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Sign a Letter of Engagement with David Giddens, CPA for Auditing Services Attachment #6D**

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Gorley to approve the proposed Resolution and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign a Letter of Engagement with David Giddens, CPA for Auditing Services and other such supporting material as shall be necessary for the proper conduct of the Annual Audit for the City of Eatonton, CFY 2017. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Issue a Call for a Referendum on a Level 1 Freeport Exemption for Fulfillment Centers Attachment #6E**

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Butts to approve the proposed Resolution to issue a Call for a Referendum on a Level 1 Freeport Exemption for Fulfillment Centers and authorize
Mayor Rocker to sign the Resolution and all supporting documents. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

*A Special Election Referendum on a Level 1 Freeport Exemption for Fulfillment Centers will be held in conjunction with the 2017 Municipal General Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.*

**Proposed Referendum for Level 1 Freeport Exemption for Fulfillment Centers**

( ) YES    ( ) NO

“Shall the City of Eatonton be authorized to enact a Level 1 Freeport Exemption to exempt from City ad valorem property tax goods, wares, and merchandise held by one in the business of making sales of such goods when such goods are held or stored at a business which is used to pack, ship, store, or otherwise process tangible personal property sold be electronic, Internet, telephonic, or other remote means provided that such a business location does not allow customers to purchase or receive goods onsite?”

**Addition to the Agenda**

Mayor Pro-Tem Walker advised receiving an additional item to come up.

**Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to add the additional item to the agenda -Transfer of Property to the Eatonton Downtown Development Authority. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

Council advised when the City transferred the property on Enterprise Hill to the Eatonton Downtown Development Authority the road was not included in the transfer. Also, Council discussed the butterfly and vegetable gardens lots located on the property. Two deeds are necessary to clean up title issues following a recent survey of the property.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Stokes to approved the transfer of property to the Eatonton Downtown Development Authority and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign the quit claim deeds. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Committee Reports:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Walker wished all a safe 4th of July.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Mangum to pay the bills if and when the funds become available. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Councilman Gorley also wished all a safe 4th of July Holiday.

Councilman Haley advised he would like to attend the meeting between Mayor Pro-Tem Walker, City Administrator Sanders and Rufus Adair this week on the drainage issues.
City Administrator Gary Sanders reminded Council to remember the Call meeting of the Board of Commissioners and City Council to discuss a TSPLOST on Tuesday, July 11 at 9:00AM here in the Commissioners’ meeting Room.

City Hall will be closed tomorrow, Tuesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

City Administrator Sanders advised he would be attending the Municipal Election Official Certification training next Thursday and Friday, July 13 and 14.

Councilwoman Stokes made comments on City Marshal Dianne Veal Code Enforcement Report. City Administrator Sanders advised Councilwoman Stokes that the Code Enforcement report reflects 12 months’ activities and completed cases will begin to roll off the list.

Mayor Pro-Tem Walker asked if there were any other business to be discuss. There being no further business, motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk