City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 7:00 PM
Putnam County Commissioners’ Meeting Room #203
117 Putnam Drive
Eatonton, Georgia 31024

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 Attorney, Christopher Huskins
    City Clerk, Sarah Abrams
    Chief of Police, William K. Lawrence

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

Invocation was given by Mr. Terrance Waller.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Stokes to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilman Alvin Butts abstained because he did not attend the last meeting.

**Public Comments:** None
**Reading of the Rules for Public Comments:** Omitted

**Old Business:** None
New Business:

Main Street Report for City Council Meeting Tuesday October 3 2017 - September Recap

Organization

Eatonton Main Street is still looking for applicants to the board. A working board is required by the Department of Community Affairs, as part of the annual assessment to maintain Main Street designation. I have sent out three applications, I have received one back, but am looking forward to receiving the other two in September.

I attended the Georgia Economic Developers Association Conference in Savannah. There are a number of initiatives pertaining to rural Georgia. I am going to see if I can attend those conferences and meetings and report back.

Promotion

The Briar Patch Arts Festival on September 30, is expanding this year to include E. Sumter St and E. Marion St.

The sponsors for Eatonton Main Street for the FY 2017/18 are: Bronze Sponsors: David Giddens, CPA, Sanchez and Craig Orthodontics, Country Financial, Eatonton Chiropractic/ A Health Care Center. Silver Sponsors: Maggie Lane. Gold Sponsors: Robert D. Betzel DDS, Briar Patch Office Products, Shoppers Pharmacy, On Cloud 9, Farmers and Merchants Bank, SNJ Environmental, Jones Master Cuts, Vining Ivy Hill Chapel, Sinclair Shooting Sports, Rossee Oil, The Clothing Depot, Edward Jones. The Eatonton Office of Teresa Doster, The People's Bank, McDonalds of Eatonton. Putnam County High School Entertainment Technology crew are our Audio-Visual specialists. Woodmen Life are supplying the trophies for our competition winners (apart from the Halloween Movie, which will be The People's Bank) for our Main Street events over the next 12 months.

Design

I have approached the Eatonton Messenger/Lake Oconee News to start doing articles on the Facade Grant program. We have a number of facade grant projects pending and I believe it can only benefit the economic vitality of Downtown through promotion of what Eatonton Main Street does and the benefit of a downtown looking better.

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})

112 W. Marion Street is being used as a storage facility by the building owner which is incompatible with the zoning code. Sec. 75-342. - Uses allowed. The building housing the former Cucos Restaurant is still undergoing renovations. 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. The marquee has still not been repaired.

The Ribbon Cutting for Sumter Street Station Apartments is postponed until 100% occupation of the apartments.

Woodmen Life has moved to 102 W. Marion St.

Sapphira Hair Studio opened on Thursday September 28 at 110 N. Jefferson Ave.
Summary
Briar Patch Arts Festival has been promoted in both Social Media, Newspapers, Radio Ads and local area hotels. The condition of buildings continues to be a deterrent in creating employment for the Downtown. The State Legislature and its organizations both private and public are looking at ways to improve the economic vitality of rural areas, due to population drift and the increased number of retirees over the next 10 years.

Proposed Authorization of a Tootsie Roll Drive Sponsored by Special Olympics Georgia, Putnam Jasper Support Services, and the Knights of Columbus Attachment #6B
Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to approve the Annual Tootsie Roll Drive sponsored by Special Olympics Georgia, Putnam Jasper Support Services, and the Knights of Columbus on November 3-4, 2017 in downtown Eatonton. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Request by Eatonton FUMC to Close Certain City Streets for First Annual Steeple Chase 5K and Fun Run
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Gorley to approve the request from the First United Methodist Church of Eatonton to close certain streets for their First Annual Steeple Chase 5K and Fun Run. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Councilman Gorley asked Chief Lawrence to be mindful of his budget and be careful about the police department overtime in working these special events.

Proposed Resolution to Ratify the Action of the Mayor in Signing a Temporary Alcoholic Beverage Pouring License Attachment #6D
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to approve the Resolution ratifying the action of the Mayor in signing a temporary alcoholic beverage pouring license for the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce for the annual Taste of Eatonton event at the Plaza on October 2, 2017. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0

Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Submission of a Department of Natural Resources Trails Grant Application Attachment #6E
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Stokes to approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit an application for funding from the Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program, and that the City of Eatonton shall, in the event that the application is recommended for funding, take action to assure that it will finance 100 percent of the total cost and be reimbursed for 80 percent of eligible costs by the Department of Natural Resources. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Gorley to add Putnam Development Authority Donation of 1.13 acre of land to the agenda. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to accept the 1.13-acre parcel of land from the Putnam Development Authority that they wished to donate to the City, which is adjacent to the Briar Patch Trail Park on North Jefferson Avenue. Tax parcel #E001024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

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

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to approve the proposed Resolution authorizing the Mayor to request Technical Assistance from Middle Georgia Regional Commission in preparing and submitting an application for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Grant and to sign contracts, letters and such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary and required for the proper application, receipt, and implementation of such grant as may be received. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Zoning Services Agreement with Putnam County Attachment #6G**

Motion was made by Stokes and seconded by Haley to approve the proposed Zoning Services Agreement with Putnam County for the sharing of costs for administering and enforcement of zoning ordinances, building code, and building inspections in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Putnam County at a cost of $300.00 per month. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Discussion and Possible Action on Memorandum of Agreement with the Ocmulgee Drug Task Force Attachment #6H**

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to approve the Memorandum of Intergovernmental and Interagency Agreement with the Ocmulgee Drug Task Force. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

*City of Eatonton matching fund contribution amount will be $5,000.00 for CFY 2018.*

**Proposed Resolution to Ratify the Action of the Mayor in Signing the Certification for Extension of Existing Service Delivery Strategy Attachment #6I**

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to approve the proposed Resolution ratifying the action taken by the Mayor in signing a certificate for extension of the existing Service Delivery Strategy and submitting it to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Ratify the Action of the Mayor in Signing an Agreement with Georgia Power for the Removal and Installation of Certain Street Lights Attachment #6J**

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Gorley to approve the Resolution ratifying the action of the Mayor in signing an agreement with the Georgia Power Company for the removal
and reinstallation of certain streetlights as part of the Transportation Enhancement/Streetscape project. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Discussion and Possible Action on the Date and Location of the November 7, 2017 Council Meeting.**

City Administrator Sanders asked Council to consider moving the Tuesday, November 7th Council meeting to another date due to a conflict with the November 7th General Municipal Election and that the Putnam County Special Election which will be using this meeting room as a voting precinct. Council expressed its desire to meet on Monday, November 6 instead. Mr. Sanders stated that a resolution will be presented at the October 16th Council meeting for consideration.

**Zoning:** None

**Committee Reports:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Walker made positive comments about Briar Patch Arts Festival. Also, Walker will schedule a Personnel and Finance Committee soon.

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

Councilman Butts inquired if the City received franchise tax from Tri-County EMC this is year. City Administrator Sanders advised yes. *Tri-County EMC Franchise check amount $ 82,606.28 dated 03/1/17.*

Butts advised receiving a request for a streetlight to be installed on Dickey Drive and he advised he would check out and give a recommendation.

Councilwoman Alma Stokes made positive comments to Main Street Director, Andrew Simpson, on the Briar Patch Arts Festival. Also, Stokes asked that the Ellison family be kept in prayer because of a car accident that took the life of a mother and her daughter.

Councilman Gorley asked about the butterfly garden at the Trail Park and the garden upkeep. City Administrator Sanders advised plants will be planted with a buffer between the walking trail and the plants in the garden to minimize any intrusion onto the trail and that the trail will be maintained.

City Administrator Sanders advised Mayor Rocker is attending a workshop in Savannah this week.

City Administrator Sanders reported receiving notification on Friday that the City has been awarded a grant for body cameras by the Office of Justice Program at the U.S. Department of Justice.

City Administrator Sanders advised he would attend the Regional TSPLOST Executive Committee meeting tomorrow at 12:30PM.
City Attorney Huskins reported working on the blight property tax and submitting the information to Councilwoman Teresa Doster.

Mayor Pro-Tem Walker asked if there was any other business to be discussed before we adjourn. There being none, motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

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

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk