City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Eatonton City Hall, 201 North Jefferson Avenue, Eatonton, Georgia 31024

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

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

Swearing in of Municipal Court Judge
Mayor John Reid administered the oath of office to R. Michael Gailey, Judge of the Municipal Court of the City of Eatonton.

Swearing in of City Solicitor
Mayor John Reid administered the oath of office to Russell S. Thomas, Solicitor of the Municipal Court of the City of Eatonton.

Mayor John Reid called the Council meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.
Councilman James Gorley called for a Moment of Silence for the Invocation.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Mangum to adopt the minutes from last meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0 with two corrections to the minutes.

Public Comments: None

Reading of the Rules for Public Comments: Omitted

Old Business: None
New Business:
Presentation by Tri-County EMC regarding a proposed solar farm.
Mr. Greg Mullis of Tri-County EMC talked to Council about supporting Eatonton PV Solar Project. Mullis advised this project would be the first of its kind in the area. It would be located on 10 acres near the Tri–County Office, off Recreation Road in Eatonton and will bring jobs and tax revenue to the area. Mullis asked Council for their support to help move forward on this project.

Ms. Lisa Jackson, Director of Putnam Planning and Development, advised there is nothing to address solar energy in the city or county code and have been looking at sample codes from other cities that can be used to draft a code.

Mayor Reid advised meeting with Mr. Mullis last week, and asked Council for their opinion about contacting Middle Georgia Regional Commission to start work on drafting an ordinance.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Butts to authorize the Mayor to approach Middle Georgia Regional Commission to request technical assistance in drafting an ordinance on solar energy. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0. Mayor Reid asked that the letter be ready for him to take to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission meeting on Thursday.

Councilman Haley thanked Ms. Lisa Jackson for helping to make doing business in Putnam County easy, and for serving as the chairperson for Main Street.

Proposed Resolution to accept a contract from Quality Tire Recycling, LLC for the recycling of scrap tires. Attachment #2

City Administrator Sanders advised our contract to recycle scrap tires with Quality Tire Recycling will expire at the end of this month and we have received a contract for renewal; this company is certified, and is a Georgia Department of Natural Resources approved and permitted tire recycler and has proven to be reliable and conveniently located to the City.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to approve the Resolution to accept the contract from Quality Tire Recycling, LLC for the purpose of recycling scrap tires and also authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to approve the submission of A Department of Natural Resources Trail Grant Application. Attachment #3

City Administrator Sanders advised the application for the Trail Park grant will be available next week. If our application is approved, it will be for the 2nd phase of the park which includes expanding the walking trail and lighting.
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the proposed Resolution in the submission of a Georgia Department of Natural Resources Trail Grant Application and authorize Mayor Reid to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Walker to add Special Event Pouring License for the Eatonton – Putnam Chamber of Commerce to the Agenda. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Doster 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 Taste of Eatonton event. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

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

Councilman Butts discussed requests received for a streetlight to be installed on Walnut Way at Hillsdale Drive and on Carriage Way.

Motion was made by Butts and seconded by Walker to install a streetlight on Walnut Way at Hillsdale Drive and install a street light on Carriage Way. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Councilman Haley talked about the City having a policy in place on installing streetlights. Also Haley talked about having a policy in place when someone requests renaming a bridge or changing the name of a street. Administrator Sanders advised he is researching information on these issues.

Councilman Haley asked when the downtown sidewalk project will start. Administrator Sanders advised the project let date is by the end of the year; and a copy of the plans can be viewed in his office.

Councilman Haley asked if the City Attorney received any word on demolishing Charlie Weeks dilapidate property on East Marion Street. Attorney Huskins advised receiving no response from Dorothy Adams on the subject matter.

City Attorney responded to Mayor Reid request from last meeting for an update on the transfer of the Benevolence Lodge on M.K.L. Drive to the City. Huskins advised searching for the deeds and not locating a clear title to the property. Mayor Reid advised the structure needs to be removed before it becomes a hazard to the public. Councilman Gorley talked about reaching out to some of the members of the Benevolence Lodge who are still alive and were affiliated with the organization when it was using the building and see if they have information in reference to the owner of the
property. Mayor Reid advised that Mr. Robert Hargrove indicated that there was
documentation during the first conversation about the lodge and he would follow up with
him.

Councilman Gorley thanked City Administrator Sanders and the Street Department for
cutting bushes beside the road. Gorley then asked City Attorney Huskins how to establish
where the property line is when there is a fence between the properties. Attorney
Huskins advised Gorley a hired surveyor would be the best way to determine where the
property line is.

Gorley reported the Street Department is repairing a sinkhole on George Lawrence Way
this week. Mayor Reid requested the Street Department cut bushes on Golston Lane.

City Administrator Sanders advised Poll Officer Training was held on Wednesday,
October 2nd. Advanced voting will take place in the old gas building next door on West
Harris Street and will begin Monday, October 12th and run through Friday, October 30th,
from 8 AM to 5 PM each day. The Election will take place at the Hut on Tuesday,
November 3, 2015. Sample ballots are available at City Hall.

The county will also have a Special Election at the same time as the city for a SPLOST
Referendum and voters are required to vote at their county precinct. There will be no
voting on Saturday because no Federal or State candidates are on the ballot.

We are moving toward purchasing police cars and possible a street sweeper.
Sanders advised he would attend Trail Park Grant workshop on Thursday.
Reminded Council the Middle Georgia Regional Commission meeting is October 8.

City Attorney Huskins updated Council on the request made by New Life Outreach
Christian Center for the City to abandon a portion of Agnes Jenkins Lane Parcel B Page
267 of plat Book 34 with the Clerk of Superior Court and he requested to add the item to
the agenda. Attorney Huskins advised the property was appraised for $2,000.00 and the
deed work is done. Attorney Huskins advised there is no fee for his work. Council
advised they would accept an offer for the property from New Life Outreach Christian
Center.

Mayor Reid asked if there was any more business to discuss for the good of the City.
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Doster to adjourn. Motion carried by a
unanimous vote of 7-0.

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John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk