City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 7:00 pm
Eatonton City Hall, 201 North Jefferson Avenue, Eatonton, Georgia 31024

Elected Officials Present:
   Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr.
   Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr.
   Councilman Alvin Butts
   Councilwoman Teresa Doster
   Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
   Councilman Charles R. Haley
   Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Elected Officials Absent:
   Councilman James A. Gorley

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

Mayor Walter Rocker, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Ms. Lisa Jackson, Director of Putnam County Planning and Development, gave the invocation.

Swearing in of Council members Alvin Butts, Charles R. Haley, and Harvey C. Walker was performed by Municipal Court Judge R. Michael Gailey, Jr.

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

Public Comments: None

Reading of the Rules for Public Comments: Omitted

Old Business: None
New Business:

Alcohol Package Sales License – Balderbhai Patel of Maamadi LLC d/b/a Lucky Lotto Store & Tobacco Mart, 820 Oak Street, Eatonton GA Attachment #3

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Haley to approve Alcohol Package Sales License requested by Balderbhai of Maamadi LLC d/b/a Lucky Lotto Store & Tobacco Mart at 820 Oak Street, Eatonton, GA. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Proposed Resolution to Amend Chapter 2, Section 31 (Regular Meetings) of the City of Eatonton Code of Ordinances Attachment #4

Mayor Rocker discussed moving the City Council meeting from City Hall, located at 201 North Jefferson Avenue to Putnam County Administrative Building located at 117 Putnam Drive to provide more space.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to adopt the proposed Resolution amending the City of Eatonton, Code of Ordinance, Section 2-31 making a text change in designating City Council meeting place and authorize the Mayor to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a vote of 4-2. Councilman Butts and Councilwoman Alma Stokes voted against the text change.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Georgia Cities Week Attachment #5

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to participate in the Georgia Municipal Association Georgia Cities Week - April 17-23, 2016 this year. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Discussion and Possible Action on Naming a Voting Delegate to the GMA Special Membership Meeting Attachment #6

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Doster to name Councilman James Gorley as the City of Eatonton Voting Delegate and the GMA President as Proxy. Motion carried by an unanimous vote of 6-0.

The Georgia Municipal Association Special Membership Meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual Mayors’ Day Conference, Sunday, January 24, 2016 at the Atlanta Hilton Hotel. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a new GMA Third Vice President.

Proposed Resolution to Appoint a Member to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Attachment #7

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to approve the proposed Resolution appointing Mayor Walter C. Rocker to serve on the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council as the Municipal Representative and authorize the Mayor to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by an unanimous vote of 6-0.
Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Sign a Memorandum of Understanding with DCA for Participation in the Georgia Classic Main Street Program for 2016 Attachment #8
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the Proposed Resolution and authorize the Mayor to sign and approve a Memorandum of Understanding with DCA for Participation in the Georgia Classic Main Street Program for 2016. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Changing the Date of the January 18, 2016 Council Meeting (Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Day)
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Walker to change the Regular Council meeting scheduled for Monday, January 18, to Tuesday, January 19, 2016 because of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

First Reading of Proposed Chapter 53 (Solar Energy) of the City of Eatonton Code of Ordinances Attachment #9
Ms. Lisa Jackson, Director of Putnam County Planning and Development, advised working with Middle Georgia Regional Commission to develop the Solar Energy Ordinance.
City Attorney Christopher Huskins advised ordinance requires two reading before adoption. Huskins gave the first reading of Chapter 53: Solar Energy.

Proposed Resolution to Apply for a Community Development Block Grant Attachment #10
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to approve the proposed Resolution authorizing submitting to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs a FY 2016 Community Development Block Grant Application and such supporting collateral material as shall be necessary and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Proposed Resolution to Amend the Natural Gas Consulting Services Budget Attachment #11
Administrator Sanders advised due to extensive amount of consulting services provided in connection with GDOT Permit for Ingle’s in Gray and GA DOT’s SR 44 Widening project and services anticipated to be provided between now and the agreement renewal date of 2/17/2016, the engineering consulting has requested the budget for miscellaneous additional services be increased from $20,000 to $30,000.

Motion was made by Butts and seconded by Haley to approve the proposed Resolution to Amend the Natural Gas Consulting Engineering Services Budget Contract with AMEC Foster Wheeler and for other purposes and authorize the Mayor to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.
Committee Reports
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to pay the bills if and when funds become available. Motion carried by unanimous vote of 6-0.

Councilman Butts asked when the bales of hay put out by Main Street to decorate the town for Fall will be removed from the old Badcock property on Sumter Street.

City Administrator Sanders reported:
- The white ribbon on the front door of City Hall was placed in memory of City Employee William Frank Roberts who passed away early Monday morning. Visitation is Wednesday, January 6, from 1 pm -3 pm, with the funeral to immediately follow.

- The advertisement announcing the EPWSA Board vacancy ran in last week’s paper. Council will be able to make its appointment at the February 2 meeting.

- The grant application for Phase 2 of the Trail Park was submitted to the Department of Natural Resources on Friday, December 18. We expect awards to be announced in April.

- Fire Chief Eugene Hubert and City Administrator Sanders met with Daniel Dobbins from the Regional Commission on December 22 to discuss the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application, which will be submitted mid-January 2016.

- Administrator Sanders advised he would be attending the Middle Georgia Regional Commission’s Stakeholder Meeting which is scheduled Friday, January 8.

Executive Session:
Motion was made by Councilman Harvey Walker, Jr. That this Mayor and Council now enter into closed session as allowed by Chapter 14 of Title 50 of the Georgia Code and pursuant to advice by the City Attorney, for the purpose of discussing the following: Property Transfer.

Motion Seconded By: Councilwoman Teresa Doster. Motion Approved.

Those voting in favor of the motion for closure: Council Members Harvey Walker, Jr., Alvin Butts, Teresa Doster, Charles Haley, William Mangum and Alma Stokes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Motion was made by Councilman Harvey Walker and seconded by Councilwoman Teresa Doster to enter into Open Session. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster that the following Resolution be accepted which was for the purpose of discussing Transfer of Property. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

**Resolution by the Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Eatonton City Council as follows: At the meeting held on the 5th day of January, 2016, the Council entered into executive session for the purpose of discussing Transfer of Property. At the close of the discussions upon this subject, the Council did vote to re-enter into open session and herewith takes the following action in open session:

1. The actions of the Council and the discussions of the same regarding the matter set forth for closed session purposes are hereby ratified.

2. Each member of this body does hereby confirm that to the best of his or her Knowledge based upon the advice of the City Attorney, the said subject matter of the meeting and of the closed session portion was devoted to matters within the specific relevant exception(s) as set forth above.

3. The Mayor, or the presiding officer, is hereby authorized and directed to execute an affidavit, with full support of the members of this Council, in order to comply with O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b).

4. The affidavit shall be included and filed with the official minutes of the meeting and shall be in a form as required by the statute, which shall be substantially as follows:

   Approved this _5th day of_ January, 2016

Attest ___________________   ______________________
Sarah E. Abrams, Clerk            Walter C. Rocker Jr., Mayor

In Open Session, motion was made by Haley and seconded by Doster to accept the Proposed Resolution and authorize the Mayor to sign as discussed in Closed Session. Motion carried by a vote of 4-2. Councilman Alvin Butts and Councilwoman Alma Stokes opposed the transfer of property Resolution.
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

___________________________
Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

____________________________
Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk
Affidavit

Before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths appeared Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr., who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

(1) I am competent to make this Affidavit and have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein.

(2) Pursuant to my duties as Mayor, I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Eatonton City Council held on the 5th day of January 2016. A portion of said meeting was closed to the public.

(3) It is my understanding that O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the person presiding over such meeting or, if the agency’s policy so provides, each member of the governing body of the agency attending such meeting, shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exceptions.

(4) The subject matter of said meeting, or the closed portion thereof, was devoted to matters within exceptions to public disclosure provided by law. Those specific relevant exceptions are identified as follows: Meeting to discuss or vote to authorize negotiation to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in Georgia Code Section 50-14-3(b)(1)(B)

This affidavit is executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b) and; is to be filed with the official minutes for the aforementioned meeting.

This 5th day of January 2016

Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This ______day of ________, ______

Notary Public