City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Monday, June 20, 2016 7:00 pm
Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Dr., 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 James A. Gorley
    Councilman Charles Haley
    Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
    Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Staff Members Present:
    City Administrator, Gary Sanders
    City Attorney, Christopher Huskins
    Payroll Clerk, Lisa K. Yates

Mayor Walter Rocker called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
Councilman James A. Gorley gave the Invocation.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Butts to adopt the minutes from last meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a vote of 6-1. Councilwoman Doster was not at that meeting & she abstained.

Public Comments: None

Reading of the Rules for Public Comments: Omitted

Old Business: None

New Business:
Main Street Report Attachment #6A

Main Street report submitted by Andrew Simpson
Eatonton Main Street Director/Project Manager

Main Street Report for City Council June 2016

Organization
The Main Street Board cancelled a Fiscal and Community Transformation Strategy Meeting on June 17.

Eatonton Main Street Director attended New Community Initiated Development Training on June 15.

The next Community Vision Meeting, "There is no Community without Unity" is scheduled for July 14.

**Promotion**
Main Street Director is looking at possible July 4 celebrations for downtown Eatonton in 2017.

Main Street is seeking to expand the amount of movies shown on the Courthouse Lawn.

The Movie Finding Nemo on The Court House Lawn attracted 200 people.

Leadership Putnam continues to seek funds regarding the painting of the downtown Water Tower.

**Design**
The Design Committee confirmed there are no facade grant applications in process.

Planters are watered on a regular basis by the City, but the hot weather is causing an issue for the plants.

Main Street is looking at grants for downtown murals and the revitalization of ghost signs.

**Economic Vitality**
The Eatonton Cotton Warehouse has a provisional opening date of July 23.

I have not received a response from Underground Treasures regarding an opening date.

Country Kitchen from Harmony Road is relocating to the Pex Theater and has an approximately projected Labor Day opening date.

Smith's Sweets Coffee Shop will be opening on Saturday's from 8 am to 8 pm throughout the Summer.

Ray Drug that has been in business for 42 years is closing its doors on June 30.

I have met with businesses outside the immediate downtown area in an effort to reassure them that they are an equal part of Main Street and promote them as our business of the week.

**Summary**
The Main Street Director will be meeting with the City Administrator and Code Enforcement Officer, regarding the state of certain buildings in the downtown. Moving forward Main Street will identify the buildings and pass them on to Code Enforcement for further action.

Main Street continues to visit the outlining merchants to see how best to incorporate them into downtown.
Proposed Resolution to Apply for a Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation Attachment #6B

After Mr. Sanders’ discussion, motion was made by Mangum and seconded by Gorley to approve applying for the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation and authorizing the Mayor to sign letters, applications and such supporting and collateral material. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to Amend Chapter 62, Section 71 (Rate of Levy) of the Code of Ordinances Attachment #6C

After Mr. Sanders’ discussion, motion was made by Haley and seconded by Doster to set and levy on each occupant of a guestroom of any hotel located within the corporate limits of this city a tax in the amount of 8% of the rent for such occupancy. This tax shall become effective on September 1, 2016. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to Amend Chapter 2, Section 213 (Board appointments and boards) of the Code of Ordinances Attachment #6D

After Mr. Sanders’ discussion, motion made by Doster and seconded by Haley. Members of any board shall be citizens of the city, except in such cases where no qualified citizen of the city expressed an interest, and shall be appointed by the City Council. There are no term limits on the service to the City Council. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to Appoint a Member to the Eatonton-Putnam County Library Board Attachment #6E

After Mr. Sanders’ discussion, motion made by Haley and seconded by Mangum. Patricia Hone is hereby appointed to the Eatonton-Putnam Library Board for a six year term beginning on July 1, 2016 and ending on June 30, 2022. Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Discussion and Possible Action on Renewing a Sublease Agreement between the Eatonton-Putnam Arts Foundation and the City of Eatonton Attachment #6F

Chris Huskins, City Attorney, stated this was the same resolution that passed before; just with different dates. Motion made by Mangum and seconded by Haley. Motion carried by a vote of 5-2. Butts and Stokes opposed.

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

Finance and Personnel: Councilman Walker reported scheduled meetings with Councilman Gorley and Councilwoman Doster. Another meeting will be scheduled at a later date.
Public Utilities: Councilman Butts had nothing to report.

Streets, Buildings and Grounds: Councilman Mangum had nothing to report.

Zoning and Ordinances: Councilwoman Doster had nothing to report.

Environmental: Councilman Haley reported Mr. Jim Marshall would like to deed the old Big Chick building to the City for green space. He thanked City personnel and the Police Department for their quick response to the clearing debris from the roads and responding to the numerous phone calls from the public due to the June 17th storm.

Community Development: Councilwoman Stokes had nothing to report. She thanked the City personnel & Police Department for their diligent work and prompt clean up from the June 17th storm.

Public Safety: Councilman Gorley had nothing to report. He thanked the Eatonton Police Department and the City Public Works Department responding quickly to the June 17th storm.

City Administrator: Mr. Gary Sanders reported Peach State Construction Company LLC had completed the paving project at the Waterworks Community Center. The City may start renting the building. Joe Hawkins, Street Dept Supervisor, reported today that his department picked up 13½ tons of debris from the June 17th storm. The old street sweeper has been placed for auction on Govdeals.com. End date for bidding is June 27, 2016.

City Attorney: Christopher D. Huskins reported having conversations with the Attorney for the Mayor of Savannah. Conversations have been fruitful.

City Clerk: Mrs. Sarah Abrams was absent due to illness. Lisa K. Yates, payroll clerk, substituted for Mrs. Abrams. Ms. Yates had nothing to report.

Mayor Rocker asked if there was any other business to be conducted for the good of the City.

Motion was made by Councilman Walker and seconded by Councilman Gorley to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm. Motion carried by unanimous vote of 7-0.

____________________________
Walter C. Rocker Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa K. Yates, Payroll Clerk