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

Minister Ford G’Segner of the Presbyterian Church of Greensboro gave the invocation.

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. Councilman James Gorley abstained.

Public Comments: Janet Kelhoffer – Alice Walker Day Proclamation

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to hear from all wishing to speak. Motion carried by a unanimous vote 7-0.

Reading of the Rules for Public Comments: Omitted

Mrs. Kelhoffer read the Alice Walker Day Proclamation and invited Council to attend a birthday celebration in recognition of Walker’s birthday on February 9, 2016 at the Writer’s Museum.
Old Business:
Special Presentation by Fire Chief Eugene Hubert
Fire Chief Eugene Hubert reported 21 sets of firefighters turn-out gear arrived and each firefighter name has been put on the back of their coat for identification. This is the first time all firefighters have been outfitted from head to toe with new equipment. Hubert expressed words of thanks to the Council and Councilman Gorley for approving and providing the fire department with the new fire protection equipment. Firemen dressed in the turn-out gear showed off their gear to Council.

TE/Streetscape Project Update by Project Engineer Paul Simonton
Paul Simonton updated Council on the TE/Streetscape project which will rehab both sides of North Jefferson Avenue from Marion Street up to Willie Bailey Street. In 2013 the City application was approved for a grant in the amount of $250,000 and the City’s estimated matching share was around $62,000. To complete the project as designed will cost around $430,000. The project will let for bids in June of 2016 and project should start about 60 or 70 days after the bid closing.

New Business:
Proclamation Recognizing February 9, 2016 as Alice Walker Day  Attachment #2
Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to approve the Alice Walker Day Proclamation, proclaiming February 9, 2016 as Alice Walker Day throughout the City of Eatonton in celebrating our literary heritage and authorize Mayor Rocker and Council to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Request by Gatewood Schools to Close City Streets for Annual Swamp Stomp 5K Event  Attachment #3
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to approve request from Gatewood Schools to close City streets for their Annual Swamp Stomp 5K on Sunday, March 13, 2016 at 2:30 PM. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to Appoint a Member to the Eatonton –Putnam Water and Sewer Authority Board  Attachment #4
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Gorley to approve the proposed Resolution appointing Judson Doster to the Eatonton-Putnam Water and Sewer Authority Board for the balance of the unexpired term to expire on September 1, 2016 and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Councilwoman Teresa Doster abstained.

Discussion and Possible Action on a Request by the Chamber of Commerce for Tourism Product Development Grant Sponsorship
Mrs. Roddie Ann Blackwell, Director of the Chamber of Commerce discussed Tourism Product Development Grant Sponsorship. Mrs. Blackwell requested the City acts as the
conduit to disburse the State Grant funds which the Chamber of Commerce would receive to help promote tourism. This grant would not require matching funds from the City. Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Gorley that the City serve as the Fiscal Agency for the Chamber of Commerce Tourism Product Development Grant. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Discussion and Possible Action on a Special Tax Abatement Schedule Requested by The Putnam Development Authority  Attachment #5**
Proposed Tax Abatement Schedule: 4 years at 0% The proposed tax abatement for 150-200 jobs would provide Legacy a tax savings of $189,600.29. Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve Putnam Development Authority Proposed Tax Abatement Schedule for Legacy Housing, LTD. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Councilman Harvey Walker, Jr. abstained.

**Proposed Resolution to Approve the Installation and Operation of a Solar Energy System by Tri-County EMC  Attachment #6**
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Walker to table this agenda item. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Designate a Meeting Place for City Council Meetings Pursuant to Section 2-31 of the Code of Ordinances  Attachment #7**
Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to adopt the Resolution that the Commissioners’ meeting room, located in the Putnam County Administration Building at 117 Putnam Drive, Eatonton Georgia be designated as the venue for meetings of the City Council, Pursuant to Section 31 of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Eatonton, Georgia and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a vote of 5-2. Councilman Alvin Butts and Councilwoman Alma Stokes voted against.

**Second Reading and Possible Action on Proposed Chapter 53 (Solar Energy) of the City of Eatonton Code of Ordinance  Attachment #8**
City Attorney Christopher Huskins gave the second reading of Chapter 53 (Solar Energy) of the City of Eatonton Code of Ordinance. Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to adopt Chapter 53 (Solar Energy) of the City of Eatonton Code of Ordinance and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Amend the Balance Budget for the City Fiscal Year 2015 Attachment #9**
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Gorley to approve the Resolution to amend the budget for the City Fiscal Year 2015 as required by the Georgia Code and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.
Proposed Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Sparta for the Use of Certain Voting Equipment  Attachment #10

Motion was made by Doster and seconded Walker to sign an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Sparta for use of Certain Voting Equipment. Motion carried by unanimous vote of 7-0.

Committee Reports:

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

Councilman Gorley expressed words of thanks to the Fire Chief and firefighters for the excellent job they do in protecting the citizens of Eatonton and also to Council for approving the purchase of the firefighter turn-out gear. Gorley advised the Fire Department will continue working to lower the fire rating.

City Administrator Gary Sanders advised:

- The “Notice of Intention to Introduce Local Legislation” for the City’s Hotel-Motel Tax bill was published in the Eatonton Messenger on January 28th. The bill should soon be introduced in the General Assembly.

- Sanders advised he would be attending a grant workshop at the Regional Commission in Macon Thursday, morning.

- The Writers Museum has invited Council to attend a birthday celebration for Alice Walker on Tuesday, February 9 at 12:00 PM at the museum.

- A copy of the November’s Budget Status Report is at Council seats.

- The CDBG application process has begun. The request for qualifications and proposals ran on January 21st and we have begun collecting the surveys.

Clerk Abrams advised Council to complete their Personal Financial Discloser Report, State, and Fed Tax forms and return to City Hall.

There being no further business; motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Walker to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

____________________________
Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

____________________________
Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk