Mayor John Reid called the meeting of the Eatonton City Council to order at 7:00 PM.

Councilman Charles R. Haley called for a Moment of Silence for 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 unanimous vote of 7-0.

Public Comments:
Mrs. Roddie Anne Blackwell - Legislative meeting and Hotel/Motel Tax

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Walker to add Mrs. Roddie Anne Blackwell to the agenda. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mrs. Blackwell invited Council to attend the Legislative Breakfast to be held at the Plaza on Tuesday morning, October 20, 2015. Also Mrs. Blackwell advised her reason for attending the meeting tonight is to answer questions Council might have on the Hotel – Motel Tax.

Reading of the Rules for Public Comments: Omitted
Mayor Reid advised receiving a request for a COA for the First United Methodist Church at 103 West Magnolia Street, Eatonton for replacement of the front steps to the historic church that fronts North Madison Avenue.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Doster to add COA for the First United Methodist Church to the agenda. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Butts and seconded by Haley to add making an offer for land on Agnes Lane by New Life Outreach Christian Center and Pastor Kilgore. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to accept the recommendation from the Eatonton Historic Preservation Commission in approving the removal and replacement of the front steps to the First United Methodist Church and authorize Mayor Reid to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Pastor Kilgore of New Life Outreach Christian Center expressed words of thanks to the Council for helping them to move forward with their vision on building a community center for their church. Pastor Gus Kilgore then offered the City one dollar for the property on Agnes Jenkins Lane labeled “Parcel B” on the plat (recorded on page 267 of the plat book 34 with the Clerk of Superior Court).

Motion was made by Butts and seconded by Haley to accept the offer of $1.00 for the land on Agnes Jenkins Lane made by Pastor Kilgore on behalf of New Life Outreach Christian Center. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

City Attorney Huskins advised the deed to the property will be sent to the Mayor for his signature and then be recorded in the Clerk of Superior Court.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Main Street Report
Mrs. Carried Vanderver, Director / Manager of Main Street presented the following report:
Eatonton Main Street Report
September/October 2015

Maintaining weekly blog posts on website and sharing through social media. Please follow and like us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The more likes and share we get the more further reach Eatonton will have.

Briar Patch Pop Up opening Friday, October 30 - Saturday, December 19. Set up for shop begins this Wednesday. As of this afternoon 5 of the 6 vendor slots have been filled. Located at 121 S Jefferson Ave (Pex Theater Building - Yarborough’s Jewelers Entrance)
Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10A - 5P

Thank you to City for hanging Briar Patch Arts Festival banner and replacing spring plantings with fall plantings downtown.

Working on "orientation packet" for new manager that includes work plans, budgets, contact lists, calendar, etc.

Upcoming event dates to remember:
Friday & Saturday 11/20-21: Merchants Holiday Open House
Saturday 11/28: Small Business Saturday
Saturday 12/5: Christmas in the Briar Patch and Light Up the Night Christmas Parade

Don’t forget the 10.30 Fifth Friday in the Briar Patch and 10.31 Briar Patch Arts Festival are my final weekend serving the Briar Patch! Please come help me celebrate by making these events a huge success!

It has been my honor to serve the City through the Main Street program over the past year and a half. Thank you for the support I have been given in this role. I am truly sad to leave, what I believe is, one of the most beautiful treasures in the State of Georgia. You all really have so much to offer and I cannot wait to see what becomes of this area as you all continue to work together to enhance its qualities as an amazing place to live, work and play! Good luck to you all!
Mayor and Council members thanked Mrs. Carrie Vanderver for serving as Eatonton Main Street Director/Manager.

**Proposed Authorization of a Tootsie Roll Drive Sponsored by Special Olympics Georgia, Putnam Jasper Support Services, and the Knights of Columbus**

*Attachment #2*

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Gorley to approve the request made by Special Olympics Georgia, Putnam Jasper Support Service and the Knights of Columbus to hold a Tootsie Roll Drive Road Block, on November 6-7, 2015 in downtown Eatonton. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Discussion and Possible Action on Rescheduling the November 3, 2015 Council meeting**

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to change the Tuesday, November 3rd regular Council meeting to Monday, November 2nd, because of the City of Eatonton Municipal General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Discussion and possible Action on Changing the Hotel-Motel Tax Rate**

*Attachment #3*

Mrs. Roddie Anne Blackwell asked Council to consider increasing the Hotel/Motel Tax from 5% to 8%; this tax revenue will be given to the Chamber of Commerce to fund tourism. Before the new rate can be implemented the change must go before the Georgia General Assembly which will enact local legislation in January 2016. Administrator Sanders advised the City would have to revise the ordinance. The attached Resolution defines how the proceeds of the hotel-motel excise tax shall be allocated; which is to promote tourism, conventions, and trade shows within the City of Eatonton.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to authorize the Mayor to sign the Resolution to increase the Hotel/Motel excise tax to 8% and give proceeds to the Chamber of Commerce for tourism. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Committees Reports**

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

City Administrator Sanders reported:
- Advance Voting continues through Friday, October 30. Hours are 8AM -5PM at the old gas building.
• Clearing at the Sumter Street Station apartment site is well underway. There was some discussion about the contractor burning large piles of trees and debris, but they have since decided to grind it all.

• The dying and diseased shrubs at the City entrance sign at Dairy Queen have been removed. We will look at planting replacements this Spring.

• Interviews for the Main Street Manager position were conducted Wednesday, October 14, 2015. The City also has an opening for a natural gas technician. Application will be received through November 5, 2015.

• Administrator Sanders advised that he would be attending a meeting at the Regional Commission this Friday, October 23, 2015.

• The Chamber of Commerce is hosting its Legislative Breakfast tomorrow morning from 7:45 AM-9:30 AM at the Plaza reception room. Council is invited.

City Attorney Huskins commended Carrie Vanderver, Director of Main Street for her service to the community. Huskins commended Vanderver on the scarecrow project which he advised was a successful project all over the town.

Clerk Abrams advised Council members that an October 25th Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report will be due at the end of the month for officials and candidates who exceed, the $2,500.00 in contributions and /or expenditures.

Mayor Reid advised receiving an invitation from the Eatonton Kiwanis Club to attend an event at the Masonic Lodge on October 27th at 6 PM.

Mayor Reid asked if there was any more business to be conducted for the good of the City, being none; motion was made by Walker and seconded by Gorley to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mrs. Lynn Hendren thanked the City for cleaning up a tree which fell on North Jefferson Avenue.

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John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams
City Clerk