Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr. called the March 6, 2018 Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation was given by Councilman James A. Gorley.
Motion was made by Councilwoman Doster and seconded by Councilman Gorley to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2018 Council meeting. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Councilman Charles R. Haley abstained because he did not attend the meeting.

Public Comments: None

Reading of the Rule for Public Comments: Omitted

Old Business: None

New Business:
Main Street Report Attachment #6A
Organization
The Board did not have a board meeting for February.

I was able to secure a scholarship to attend the National Main Street conference in Kansas City in March.

Promotion
The Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Recreation Dept. on Saturday March 24.

A new website was launched at www.downtoneatonton.com and a new downtown app called Distrx.

Design
Discount Tobacco has been sent a Façade Grant application.
Lyn Romine is also talking to Michael Vandeplanque about an awning for his location.
Kim Joris has been sent a Façade Grant application.

Economic Vitality
I met with Kim Joris and her Art emporium is set to open at the end of April.
Michael Vandeplanque is delaying the opening of his establishment to later in the year.

Summary
The Fire and Ice Festival was down in attendance on last year though there were more attractions for people and vendors. I believe the weather and the play at the Putnam County Courthouse were major factors in the amount of people at the event. I was able to meet with both the Main Street Manager’s from Macon and Milledgeville that attended.

I am continuing to make inquiries regarding the ownership status of the China Chef building.

Finally, I have seen more foot traffic over the month of February, which continues the trend that began in January. I hope to see this continue through the Spring especially with the completion of the sidewalk project.

Councilman Butts asked Main Street Director Simpson if he had an opportunity to look into Madison tourism. Main Street Director Simpson advised tourism is very important, and placing a billboard on Hwy 441 North will help impact our tourism along with the sidewalk project downtown. This will help make our community more walkable.
Presentation by Chamber of Commerce on Tourism Development Grant Award for Briar Patch Trail Park
Ms. Kaitlyn Parham of the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce reported on a grant award received by the Chamber of Commerce for purchasing and placing critter sculptures in the Briar Patch Trail Park. Ms. Parham advised this project should be finished before the Dairy Festival in June. Council discussed with Ms. Parham the correct process to follow when applying for grant funds that will benefit the City or utilized to place items on City property. City Attorney Huskins was asked to check the deed/covenant to the Briar Patch Park to see if sculptures are allowed. Also, Mayor and Council expressed words of thanks to Ms. Parham for her work on the grant project.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Doster and seconded by Councilman Haley to approve and accept the request to use the grant for the purpose for which it was applied to place critter sculptures in the Trail Park contingent upon a review of the covenant/deed restrictions. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Discussion and Possible Action on NJPA Cooperative Purchasing Agreement
Attachment #6C
Motion was made by Councilman Haley and seconded by Councilman Walker to approve enrollment in the National Joint Powers Alliance for cooperative purchasing pursuant to Minn. Stat.§ 123A.21 Subd. 7(23) with the City of Eatonton and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Proposed Resolution to Amend Chapter 75 (Zoning) of the Code of Ordinances
Attachment #6D
Motion was made by Councilwoman Doster and seconded by Councilman Walker to approve the proposed Resolution Amending Chapter 75-4, Sec. 75-111, Sec. 75-113, Sec. 75-131, Sec. 75-141, and Sec.75-191 of the City of Eatonton Code of Ordinances adding Bed and Breakfasts as a permitted use and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Zoning: None

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

Councilwoman Doster advised there is an opening on the Downtown Development Authority Board, and she asked if anyone had submitted an application to serve on the Board. City Administrator Sanders advised the Board position is currently advertised in the paper, but no one has submitted an application.
Councilwoman Reid reported on overflow of items placed around clothing collection boxes located in the parking lot near the ice machine on South Jefferson Avenue and at the old Golden Pantry Store on Oak Street. Reid advised the vendor for the donation boxes should pick up donations in a timely manner.

Councilwoman Reid asked if new chairs could be purchased for the Hut Center at 400A West Marion Street. Also, Councilwoman Reid talked about providing enough trash containers for the Hut.

Councilman Haley advised he would present a list of events occurring in March and April at the next meeting. Councilman Haley asked Council members to email him if they have knowledge of any other events taking place in the community.

**City Administrator Sanders reported:**

We will finalize a date for a meeting between the Plaza, and the Streets, Buildings, and Grounds Committee in the coming days to discuss SPLOST expenditures.

The headwall and the first sections of pipe have been laid on the lower end of Church Street. We are currently coordinating with AT&T over their unmarked lines.

As previously mentioned, the chipper machine experienced a catastrophic failure and we are looking to replace it as quickly as possible.

**Executive Session: Litigation**

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: litigation. Motion was 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, James A. Gorley, Charley R. Haley, William Mangum and Janie Reid. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Doster and seconded by Councilman Walker to return to Open Session. Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Councilman Walker and seconded by Councilman James A. Gorley that the following resolution be accepted and approved. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.
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 6th day of March 2018, the Council entered into executive session for the purpose of discussing Litigation. 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 6th day of March, 2018

Attest ___________________________     ______________________
City Clerk               Walter C. Rocker, Jr. Mayor

Open Session

In Open Session, motion was made by Councilwoman Doster and seconded by Councilwoman Reid to authorize the City Attorney to take legal action as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mayor Rocker asked if there was any other business to be conducted for the good of the City. There being none, motion was made by Councilwoman Doster and seconded by Councilman Haley to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

________________________  
Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

______________________________
Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk
CITY OF EATONTON

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 6th day of March 2018. 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 closed to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-2(1). Litigation.

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 6th day of March 2018_________________________ _________________________________
Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This ______day of ________, ______ _________________________________
Notary Public