City of Eatonton Council Meeting  
Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 7:00 PM  
Putnam County Commissioners’ Meeting Room #203  
117 Putnam Drive  
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 R. Haley  
Councilman William Mangum, Jr.  
Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Staff Members Present:  
City Administrator, Gary Sanders  
City Attorney, Christopher Huskins  
City Clerk, Sarah Abrams  
Chief of Police, William K. Lawrence

Mayor Rocker called the December 6, 2016 Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation was given by Councilman Harvey Chip Walker, Jr.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the minutes from November 21, 2016 Council meeting with any necessary corrections. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mr. Haley informed Council that corrections are needed to the Committee Reports section of the minutes.

Public Comments: None

Reading of the rules for Public Comments: Omitted

Old Business: None
New Business:

Main Street Report

Organization
Main Street will be advertising for two new Directors to the Main Street Board. Main Street is continuing to seek volunteers and recruit more members to the Design and Promotions/Merchants Committee.

Main Street Board and Director will be providing a State of Downtown Eatonton presentation at the December 19 Council Meeting.

Promotion
Main Street has between 25 and 30 entrants for the 2016 Light Up The Night Christmas Parade on Saturday December 10. The Arts and Crafts Bazaar is hosting around 30 vendors this year. Both entrants and vendors in the parade are up from previous years. We are forecast great weather for the event. The Clothing Depot, Maggie Lane and Heaven's Gate Bookstore have all contributed to the prize fund.

The Polar Express Christmas Movie projector, screen and sound will be provided by Putnam County High School Entertainment Technology Department. The outdoor heaters will be provided by Lake Oconee Rental. Evergreen Propane will be donating the fuel to heat them.

Main Street is seeking to promote a Fire and Ice Festival on Saturday, February 11, 2017 in the City Center Parking Lot with Council's permission. Main Street is also seeking to partner with the Eatonton Cotton Warehouse to make use of the Event Stage and Lawn. The Ice Sculpting will take place in the Cotton Warehouse. The Fire performers have an inside alternative and will have an educational aspect to their work for children, which will not involve fire.

Main Street is proposing two Friday Night Concerts on the 1st and 3rd Saturday in May in the City Center Parking Lot. Main Street will be providing Council with a 2017 Main Street Events calendar for approval at the December 19 City Council Meeting.

Design
The Planters now have their Christmas decorations. Putnam County High School students will be helping with the Store Windows motifs for the Holiday Season.

The Residential/Commercial Community Christmas Decorating Contest will be judged on December 12.

Julien DeRocher from the Department of Community Affairs Athens Design Studio met with the Mainstreet Director and members of the Design Committee on Tuesday, November 22 to discuss and provide improvements to the E. Sumter St. Commercial Corridor.

Economic Vitality
Lake Country Physical Therapy is planning a grand opening in December.
The Woodmen Life office is planning a grand opening in December.

Summary
I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of City Council to take part in the Light Up The Night Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 10. The parade will begin at 6pm.
Andrew Simpson, Director of Main Street, informed Council of a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Dr. Sanchez’s Office located at 202 North Jefferson Avenue at 12:00 PM on December 8, 2016.

**Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with DCA for Participation in the Georgia Classic Main Streets Program for 2017 Attachment #6B**

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the proposed Resolution authorizing Mayor Rocker to sign a Memorandum of Understanding and Trademark Sublicense Agreement with the Department of Community Affairs and Eatonton Main Street for participation in the Georgia Classic Main Street Program for 2017. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Ratification of Proclamation Naming November 26, 2016 as Small Business Saturday Attachment # 6C**

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to ratify the action taken by Mayor Rocker in signing a Proclamation naming November 26, 2016 as Small Business Saturday and approved the Small Business Saturday Proclamation. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Ratification of Proclamation Recognizing the Service of Police Chief William Kent Lawrence Attachment #6D**

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to ratify and approve the actions of the Mayor in signing a Proclamation recognizing and honoring William Kent Lawrence for his 30 years of service as Chief of Police and expressing sincere appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the citizens of the City of Eatonton, GA. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mayor Rocker congratulated Police Chief William Kent Lawrence on his achievement. Proclamation was signed by Mayor Rocker and Council members, and then presented to City of Eatonton Police Chief William Kent Lawrence.

**Zoning: None**

**Committee Reports**

Councilman Walker offered words of condolences to Councilman Butts and his family on the lost of his wife’s grandmother.

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

Councilman Walker advised Personnel and Finance Committee member that he would be scheduling a meeting soon.
Councilman Butts, Councilman Mangum, Councilwoman Doster, Councilwoman Stokes, Councilman Haley and Councilman Gorley all expressed words of congratulations to Police Chief Lawrence on his 30 years of serving as Chief of the City of Eatonton Police Department.

Councilwoman Stokes asked Council members to stay in prayer for our community because we are losing a lot of people in accidents and in death.

Councilwoman Stokes advised reporting a water leak near 504 West Walnut Street to the Eatonton-Putnam Water Authority back in July or August. The leak has not been fixed.

Council members and Mr. Kojack Waller discussed and reported the following water leaks:
- Oconee at Springs Street near Linch’s Garage
- Spring Street near Thompkins’ Apartments
- East Street between Alice Walker Drive and Dickey Drive
- Alice Walker Drive fire hydrants leaking
- Fire hydrants located at Putnam County 4-H Office on Godfrey Road

Police Chief Lawrence advised the weather condition is expected to be in the 20s this weekend and the section of East Street between Dickey Drive and Alice Walker Drive will be closed.

Mayor Rocker advised an engineer crew is coming to see what we need to do. Eatonton-Putnam Water Sewer Authority will be working with an engineer to address the water issues.

Mayor Rocker praised the Council and Putnam County Planning and Development for ensuring Eatonton Cotton Warehouse contractor and the property owner followed building permit guidelines. In California, 36 people lost their lives because of a fire in a remodeled warehouse which did not have a sprinkler system installed.

Councilman Gorley expressed words of sympathy to Councilman Butts and his wife on the death in their family and words of congratulation on his marriage.

City Administrator Sanders reported the closeout paper work and request for final payment have been submitted for the Off-System Safety Improvement Project last week to the Georgia Department of Transportation. Final expenditures totaled just over $236,000.

City Administrator Sanders advised the City will advertise for a seat on the Putnam County Board of Health in this week’s Eatonton Messenger. Council may consider the appointment at its second meeting in January.

City Administrator Sanders advised waiting on a construction schedule from Southern Asphalt for paving on Lower Harmony Road and MLK Jr. Drive and from IPR for storm
drain rehab on Highland Drive. The cold temperatures will be a significant factor in scheduling these projects.

City Administrator Sanders advised if Council was interested in participating in the Middle Georgia Regional Leadership Champion Program, please let him know after this evening’s meeting. Additional information is available if you would like to learn more about it.

Councilman Butts asked about the Walking Trail Grant. City Administrator Sanders advised the application was submitted and we should hear something in April 2017.

City Attorney Christopher Huskins expressed words of appreciation to the Eatonton Police Department for assisting his staff member on Hwy 44 after running off the road in the heavy rain.

There being no other business to be discuss, a motion was made by Haley and seconded by Walker to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 7: 25 P.M.

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Walter C. Rocker, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk