Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey C. Walker, Jr. called the April 4, 2017 Public Hearing on Continued Use of Certain Unmarked City Vehicles to order at 6:50 PM.

City Administrator Sanders advised the Official Code of Georgia §36-80-20 allows cities to expressly exempt the marking of public vehicles by adopting a resolution following a public hearing. The purpose of this public hearing is to gather input from the public on the matter.
Mayor Pro-Tem Walker asked if anyone signed-in to speak at this hearing. No one signed in to speak on the continued use of certain unmarked City vehicles.

Mayor Pro-Tem Walker gave the final call for the public to discuss or make comments on unmarked City vehicles. No one signed in or spoke in reference to the continued use of certain unmarked City vehicles.

Mayor Pro-Tem Walker closed the public hearing at 6:58 pm.

Harvey “Chip” Walker, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk
Elected Officials Present:

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

Elected Officials Absent:
Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey C. Walker, Jr. called the April 4, 2017 Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation was given by Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey Chip Walker, Jr.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to approve the minutes from March 20, 2017 Council meeting. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Public Comments:
Mrs. Ame Haley – Cemetery
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Gorley to hear from those who wished to speak. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Reading of the Rules for Public Comments was omitted.

Mrs. Ame Haley spoke to Council about her Leadership Putnam Class wishing to clean up the old Union Church Cemetery next to the library. Mrs. Haley thanked Councilman Gorley and Council for asking questions about the care of the headstones. Haley also thanked Council for their support, input, and concerns for the care of the cemetery and the aging headstones. Mrs. Haley advised the clean-up will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday night. Council is invited to help, and no chemicals will be used to clean the headstones.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Mainstreet Report submitted by Andrew Simpson, Director Attachment #6A

**Main Street Report for City Council Meeting Tuesday April 4 2017 - March Recap**

**Organization**

The Main Street board voted to invite Tommy Cook from the Chamber of Commerce to apply to the Board.

The Christmas Decoration Design Committee did not meet this month.

Completed Eatonton Main Street Registration on Georgia Secretary of State website for 2017.

**Promotion**

The first ever ribbon cutting from Eatonton Main Street performed by Mayor Rocker attracted over 50 people.

The St. Patrick's Day week combined online 20 second videos of Downtown merchants and ended with the event at Spicy Southern Bistro. With over 100 views on Instagram for each video the online social media reach can be gauged more successfully than a television or newspaper ad campaign.

Collecting sponsors for the Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 8 between 10am and noon.
Design

The Athens Design Studio proposal document for the East Sumter Street corridor was delivered.

Economic Vitality

Spicy Southern Bistro and The Country Kitchen have seen an uptick in customers. There has been more foot traffic in the Downtown due to the warmer weather in March. Still awaiting news on the opening of the Dialysis Center and the restriping of the Shopper’s Strip Mall area. The Artisans Guild Art Gallery had a soft opening on March 30.

Empty Properties

234 N. Jefferson Ave. (Ray Drug/Good Neighbor Pharmacy.) Someone contacted the landlord about putting a bakery in there. The landlord then took the property off the market for several months, turning down interest. After hearing nothing from the prospective bakery, the landlord contacted them and they said they were no longer interested. I advised the landlord to maintain the marketing until a contract was signed.

106 and 122 N. Jefferson Ave. are currently available for rent. 106 is currently being used as a storage facility.

104 N. Jefferson Ave. (China Chef) is still available for rent. This building is in need of repair.

107 N. Jefferson Ave. (Moore LP Gas) is still available for rent. This building is in need of repair.

102 W. Marion St. (World Finance) is available for rent.

112 W. Marion St. Not available for rent or purchase. A garage door has been placed in the rear of the building.

Summary

Eatonton Main Street continues to look at ways to increase the name recognition and promotion of Downtown Eatonton with increased use of social media and a billboard facing North on Highway 441.

Simpson advised Main Street is helping to promote the Easter Egg Hunt which will be held at Putnam County Recreation Department on Saturday April 8.

Proposed Resolution to Appoint a Member to the Eatonton Main Street Board of Directors Attachment #6B

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the proposed Resolution appointing Tommy Cook to the Main Street Board of Directors for a term of three years
which will expire March 31, 2020 and authorize the Mayor to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

**Discussion and Possible Action on Regional TSPLOST Projects Attachment 6#C**

City Administrator Sanders reported Streets, Buildings, and Grounds Committee met yesterday to discuss list of projects to submit to the Executive Committee of the Regional TSPLOST Roundtable. The projects must be consistent with transportation plans or studies and with the established investment criteria. The list is due by April 14, 2017.

Council discussed the following proposed list of TSPLOST projects. The list will be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Regional TSPLOST Roundtable for consideration.

- TE/Streetscape project on SR24/US 441 Bus.
- Sidewalk replacement on Oconee Street
- US 441 Bus./Lower Harmony Road intersection improvement
- Eatonton NE Bypass and roundabout
- SR16/SR44 intersection improvement
- Rock Lane intersection improvement
- US 441 Bus./S. Jefferson Avenue intersection improvement

Motion was made by Mangum and seconded by Gorley to approve the proposed TSPLOST project list and submit project list to the Regional Roundtable. Also, authorize Mayor Rocker to sign the Resolution supporting the TSPLOST Projects. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

**Zoning: No items to discuss**

**Committee Reports:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey Walker advised in the near future, he would be scheduling a special meeting of the Finance Committee to get a grip on spending. We have less revenues coming in and more going out.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Mangum to pay the bills if and when the funds become available. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Councilwoman Teresa Doster advised the Downtown Development Authority met last week and decided to remove the dumpster at the City’s parking lot. Each business will be responsible for their garbage/trash service.

Councilman Charles Haley discussed the tire store next to City Hall. Also, Haley voiced concerns about the Zeka Virus carried by mosquitoes. Haley talked about City Marshal Veal code enforcement spreadsheet being made available to Council, and the retaining wall behind the dry cleaner’s on North Jefferson Avenue being in need of repair. Haley asked if Code Enforcement looked into the continuing yard sale on Hwy. 44. City Administrator Sanders advised Veal made contact with the individual with the yard sale.
Councilwoman Alma Stokes asked Council to keep their family and friends in prayer. There have been a lot of deaths in our community.

Councilwoman Stokes reported the Women in History Program which was held last Friday, were very nice and well attended.

Councilman James Gorley reported one public safety employee resigned, and he wanted to wish him well in his future endeavors.

City Administrator Sanders advised the tire store added an additional trailer on the lot for tire storage. Also, tires have been placed underside the trailers and wrapped with a tarp. Marshal Veal continues to work on this issue.

City Administrator Sanders reported work has begun on the resurfacing projects on Lower Harmony Road and MLK, Jr. Drive. The contractor has completed resurfacing on Lower Harmony Road and patching on MLK, Jr. Drive. The asphalt plant the contractor uses closed for the week, but work will resume on resurfacing MLK next week. Final striping will be done after MLK is complete. Motorists may experience delays in those work zones.

City Administrator Sanders advised the GMA Spring District meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on Thursday, April 13 in Centerville. Please let City Hall staff know if you are interested in attending. GMA has asked that we RSVP by this Thursday.

City Administrator Sanders advised all to please remember the Community Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday, April 8, at the Putnam County Recreation Department.

City Administrator Sanders reported the Child Abuse Prevention program was held this morning and was well attended and received.

Councilman Haley asked about school closing due to bad weather expected on Wednesday. Police Chief Lawrence advised he was notified by the school system of the closing.

Mayor Pro-tem Walker asked if there was any other business to be discussed. There being no further business, motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

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Harvey “Chip” Walker, Jr.
Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk