Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr. called the November 6, 2017 Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation was given by Councilman Charles R. Haley.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Butts to approve the minutes from October 16, 2017. Motion carried by a vote 5-0. Councilwoman Teresa Doster was not present when Council voted on the minutes.

**Public Comments:** Steve Hersey-Unification
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Mangum to hear public comments from Steve Hersey. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Reading of the Rules for Public Comments: Omitted**

Mr. Steve Hersey talked to Council about unification /consolidating the City of Eatonton and Putnam County Governments. Mr. Hersey advised holding a meeting with Ted Baggett with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government to learn about the services CVIOG can provide related to conducting a consolidation study. CVIOG can identify those areas that present an opportunity for consolidation and those areas that present challenges to consolidation. Mr. Hersey advised the County Commission approved moving forward with the study and asked Council to consider putting the study on the next agenda. Consolidation must be jointly approved by the voters of the City and the County. The cost of the study is $28,000.

Councilman Walker asked Mr. Hersey if he could give an example of any government the size of our government that has consolidated. Mr. Hersey could not provide an example.

Councilman Mangum thanked Mr. Hersey for his effort and work he put into this.

**Old Business:**

**Discussion and Possible Action on Zoning Services Agreement Attachment#5A**

City Administrator Sanders addressed this item by referring back to a proposed agreement approved by Council on October 3, 2017 for the sharing of costs for administering and enforcement of zoning ordinances, building code, and building inspections the City of Eatonton for $300.00 per month. At a subsequent meeting, the County proposed a counter offer of $1,000.00 per month for such services. Mr. Sanders advised that Council may take action on this item now or defer action until the matter can be taken up as part of the service delivery negotiations.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Stokes to delay taking action on the Zoning Services Agreement. Motion carried by unanimous vote of 6-0.

**Main Street Report**

A 501-c-3 Non-Profit Corp. Designated by the Georgia Dept. of Community Affairs for the City & County

**Main Street Report for City Council Meeting Monday November 4, 2017 - October 4 Recap**

**Organization**

Eatonton Main Street is still looking for applicants to the board. A working board is required by the Department of Community Affairs, as part of the annual assessment to maintain Main Street designation.

The Christmas decorations committee have raised thousands of dollars in donations for decorating light poles. The County has provided $4000 for the decoration of the Courthouse.

**Promotion**
The Movie on the Courthouse Lawn, the harry potter mini camp, STEM education, and costume contest was a great success. Approximately 200 attended the event. Thanks to phantom facepaints, Georgia College Science Education Dept., The Eatonton Lions Club, putnam county high school entertainment technology dept., Scoops of Madison and the peoples bank for the prizes for the costume contest.

Design

There is one facade grant pending for the Facade Grant program.

Economic Vitality

Downtown Eatonton continues to attract interest in bringing merchants into the Downtown. However, buildings like Moore LP Gas (107 N. Jefferson Avenue), China Chef (104 N. Jefferson Avenue) Communicom/Charter Building (104 E. Marion St) and 112 W. Marion Street prevent a vibrant Downtown from putting down roots and taking hold and are off-putting for new businesses due to the buildings not being compliant with building codes/planning and zoning regulations. (Sec. 14-31. Adoption by Reference. Georgia Uniform Codes Act, O.C.G.A. § 8-2-25, 14-68. - Complaint in rem in municipal court; procedure; lien; appeal and Sec. 75-343 District Requirements {e})

112 W. Marion Street is being used as a storage facility by the building owner which is incompatible with the zoning code. Sec. 75-342. - Uses allowed. The building housing the former Cucos Restaurant is still undergoing renovations. The Pex Theater which holds The Country Kitchen had its marquee badly damaged by heavy rain. The rear of the restaurant is open to the elements. Both the rear and marquee have still not been repaired.

Southern Unique had its ribbon cutting on Friday October 27. The Mayor attended.

I have no information on the opening dates of either the Music Store or The Frisk pub.

Two buildings were purchased one in June 2016 and one in October 2016. The old Yarbrough Flowers building, and the old Trent Brown law office building. I have been given opening dates of towards the end of 2017, but again nothing firm as to what businesses are going to open.

Summary

The Briar patch Festival promotional video will be shown at the first City Council meeting in December.

The entertainment for Christmas in the Briar Patch is as follows ...

12:00 - Opening of Christmas in the Briar Patch.12:05 - Kaitlyn Parham. 1:00 - Eatonton Harmonettes. 2:00 - Amy Rae. 3:00 - The New Silveraires. 4:00 - Franklin Washington. 5:00 - Christmas in the Avenue Choir.

Cadence Fox is the Grand Marshall for the 2017 Light Up the Night Christmas parade. I am also looking at entertainment during the parade as well as floats. I am continuing to recruit vendors for the Festival, but I am looking for parade entrants.

The Holiday Decorating Contest has been advertised on Facebook and an insert was in the utility bill. I contacted the Messenger to see if they would run the contest as a story to encourage involvement.

Eatonton-Putnam County Senior Services Program Report

Ms. Latosha Maddox, Director of the Senior Services Program gave an update on the program. Director Maddox advised the program is open to citizens 60 years of age and over. The center is
open five days a week. The program provides meals, exercise, dance, games and outing for the seniors.

Maddox asked Council for funding to provide some needed exercise equipment and signage for the program and some additional help.

Councilman Haley asked if there are funds available to help with the exercise equipment. Also, he recommended checking yard sales in the Lake Oconee area, because sometimes they will have exercise equipment at a reasonable price.

**Proposed Resolution to Adopt the Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017 Update**  
*Attachment #6C*

City Administrator Sanders advised the Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan is updated every 5 years. The City was well represented at the update meetings held over the course of several months by Mayor Rocker, Mr. Sanders, and other City personnel. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has completed its review of Putnam County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan for compliance. It has been determined that the plan is compliant with Federal standards. The next step is for the City to consider passing a resolution adopting the plan update.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the Resolution adopting the Putnam County and City of Eatonton Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017 Update, and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

**Proposed Resolution Urging the Georgia General Assembly to Oppose De-Annexation Legislation**  
*Attachment #6D*

City Administrator Sanders advised this request is from the City of Stockbridge. It was addressed to Mayor and Councilmembers of all Georgia Municipalities. They are asking Cities to adopt a resolution in support of Georgia Municipal Association Legislative Policy regarding De-Annexation Legislation to create new municipalities. Municipalities should not be de-annexed to create new municipalities unless consented to by the governing body of the existing municipality or by the voters of the existing municipality.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Doster to approved the Resolution by the Council of the City of Eatonton, Georgia urging the Georgia General Assembly to oppose de-annexation legislation to create new municipal, and authorize Mayor Rocker and Councilmembers to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Add Membership in a Fund of Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (Firefighter Cancer Policy)**  
*Attachment #6E*
City Administrator Sanders advised whereas House Bill 146 (2017) requires the governing authority to provide and maintain sufficient insurance coverage on each member of the fire department to pay claims for injuries sustained and for cancer coverage insurance. GMA – GIRMA Firefighters’ Cancer Benefit Program Proposal for coverage through Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Co. The premium is $2,140.00 per year.

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Butts to approve the Resolution to add membership in a fund of Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (GIRMA) and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote 6-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Amend Chapter 14 (Buildings and Building Regulations) of the Code of Ordinances Attachment #6F**

Councilwoman Doster advised the Ordinance Committee met last week to review this amendment to Buildings and Building regulations ordinance.

City Attorney Huskins advised this is an example of the ordinance adopted by Albany, GA. This ordinance is designed to deter blighted property in the City of Eatonton. Property which has been officially designated as blighted shall be subject to an increased rate of City ad valorem taxation equivalent to seven times the normal millage rate applied to the property.

Councilman Bill Mangum advised Council that he could not support this ordinance.

City Attorney Huskins asked that the ordinance be amended by adding the word Superior Court.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to amend the proposed Ordinance by adding Superior Court to the Ordinance. Motion carried by vote of 5-1. Councilman Mangum opposed.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to adopt the proposed Resolution Amending Chapter 14 (Buildings and Building Regulations) of the Code of Ordinances by adding Article IV Blighted Property. Motion carried by a vote of 5-1. Councilman Bill Mangum opposed.

**Zoning: None**

**Committee 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 6-0.

Councilwoman Stokes asked Council to keep the Waller and Crawford families in their prayers.

**City Administrator Gary Sanders advised:**

1. He and Mr. Butts meet with Georgia Power on Wednesday to learn details about the possibility of the City converting to LED street lights.
2. Election Day is tomorrow, Tuesday, November 7. Polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Please also remember the County’s Special Election on the Putnam County TSPLOST. City voters will need to visit their City and County polling places to participate in both elections. We had 158 Advance Voters and 29 absentee ballots cast through Friday, November 3.

3. City Hall will be closed for normal business on Friday, November 10 in observance of Veterans Day. City Hall will be open, however, for municipal provisional voters who need to provide photo ID.

4. The Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council meeting is Thursday, November 9 at 6:00 PM. It is time for appointments to the Council; the Mayor has served as the City’s voting member and I have served as the non-voting associate member. Unless there are objections, I will submit our names to serve another year and ask Council to ratify the action at the next meeting.

5. The pre-construction meeting for the CDBG project on Church Street is tentatively set for Tuesday, November 14. (Sellers Contracting Services, LLC)

6. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are Sunday and Monday this year. We are planning to close City Hall on Monday and Tuesday in observance of these holidays.

Mayor Rocker asked if there was any more business to be discussed before we adjourn. Being no further business; motion was made by Walker and seconded by Haley to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

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Walter C. Rocker, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk