City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Monday, October 16, 2017 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.
   (Late) Councilman Alvin Butts
   Councilwoman Teresa Doster
   Councilman James A. Gorley
   Councilman Charles R. Haley
   Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
   Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Elected Officials Absent:

Staff Members Present:
   City Administrator, Gary Sanders
   City Attorney, Christopher Huskins
   City Clerk, Sarah Abrams

Mayor Walter C. Rocker, Jr. called the October 16, 2017 Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation was given by Councilwoman Teresa Doster.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to approve the minutes of the last Council meeting held on October 3, 2017. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0. Councilwoman Teresa Doster abstained because she did not attend the last meeting. Councilman Alvin Butts was not present when Council voted on the minutes.
Public Comments: None

Reading of the Rules for Public Comments: Omitted

Old Business: None

New Business:

**Addition to the Agenda**
Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Doster to add Ms. Kayleigh Sullivan of Middle Georgia Regional Commission to the agenda to present the Joint Comprehensive Plan Update for Putnam County and the City of Eatonton. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Doster to approve the Resolution and adopt the City of Eatonton Joint Comprehensive Plan Update for Putnam County and the City of Eatonton, and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign the resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**After School Arts Program Report – The Plaza Arts Center**
Ms. Janet Kelhoffer, Plaza Community Center Chair, gave an update on the After-School Arts Program which serves the school children in our community.

**Discussion and Possible Action on Georgia Power 6-month Disconnect Notification**
*Attachment #6B*
City Administrator Sanders advised the disconnect notification is for Georgia Power to begin the process of converting the City’s streetlights to LED. There is no cost or obligation to the City by completing the disconnect notification, but it allows Georgia Power to conduct an analysis of the City’s existing lighting inventory and draft a proposal for Council’s consideration. Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Walker to approve the Georgia Power 6-month Disconnect Notification and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Proposed First Addendum to Contract with Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce for CFY 2017 (September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017)**
*Attachment #6C*
Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to approve the proposed First Addendum to the contract with Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce for CFY 2017. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.
Proposed Resolution to Designate a Date and Meeting Place for the November 7, 2017 City Council Meeting Attachment #6D

Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Gorley to approve the Resolution changing the regular Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 7th to Monday, November 6, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, located in the City Hall at 201 North Jefferson Avenue, and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Zoning:

Request by Legacy Housing, LTD agent for Putnam Development Authority for a density variance at 112 Industrial Boulevard, Parcel A [Map 062, Parcel 056] Attachment #7A

Request by Legacy Housing, LTD agent for Putnam Development Authority for a density variance at 112 Industrial Boulevard, Parcel B [Map 062, Parcel 056] Attachment #7B

Request by Legacy Housing, LTD agent for Putnam Development Authority for a density variance at 112 Industrial Boulevard, Parcel C [Map 062, Parcel 056] Attachment #7C

City Administrator Sanders presented three density variance requests from Legacy Housing, LTD and recommended denial of each request. Approving the requests would establish long lasting precedents undermining the development standards contained in the zoning ordinance. Additionally, previous property owners/interested parties have been prevented from developing the same property in a similar fashion.

Councilwoman Doster advised that no one is here from Legacy Housing or Putnam County Development Authority to speak on behalf of these requests for density variances on Parcel A, B, and C at 112 Industrial Boulevard.

Motion was made by Doster and seconded by Mangum to deny the density variances requested by Legacy Housing, LTD located at 112 Industrial Boulevard, on Parcel A, B and C [Map 062, Parcel 056]. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0. Councilman Harvey Walker abstained.

Committee Reports:

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 Butts reported checking on a street light for Dickey Drive. Butts reported the light on the pole is dim and he recommended having Georgia Power change out the light that is on the pole to a brighter light.
Councilwoman Doster asked to meet with her committee to discuss the Blight Tax information received from City Attorney Huskins before the next Council meeting.

Councilman Gorley advised early voting started today. Voters must vote in the City Municipal Election and in the County. Putnam County has a Transportation Tax on their ballot. Gorley asked if the City could do anything to inform the voters about the election.

City Administrator Sanders advised Georgia Farm Bureau Special Investigations Unit Manager, Paul McGahee donated an All-Terrain Vehicle/4 Wheeler to Police Chief William Kent Lawrence and the City of Eatonton Police Department. Also, Police Chief Lawrence is in Athens with one of his dispatcher who has been hospitalized.

City Administrator Sanders advised he would meet with Georgia Power at the TE Project site tomorrow morning to discuss the removal and reinstallation of the lamp posts. Once the posts are removed, the contractor will be able to begin pouring the sidewalks.

City Administrator Sanders advised Advance Voting began today and will continue until 5:00 PM on Friday, November 3 at the old gas building. Please also remember that the County is holding a special election for the Putnam County TSPLOST.

City Administrator Sanders advised the executive committee of the Regional TSPLOST Roundtable will meet tomorrow, October 17 at 12:30 PM at the Regional Commission office.

Mayor Rocker asked if there was any other business to be discussed before we adjourn. Being no further business to be discussed, motion was made by Doster and seconded by Haley to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43PM.

_____________________________
Walter C. Rocker Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

_____________________________
Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk