City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 7, 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.
   Councilman Alvin Butts
   Councilman James A. Gorley
   Councilman Charles R. Haley
   Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
   Councilwoman Alma Stokes

Elected Officials Absent:
   Mayor Pro-Tem Harvey (Chip) Walker, Jr.
   Councilwoman Teresa Doster

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

Mayor Walter Rocker called the March 7, 2017 Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation was given by Councilman James A. Gorley

Mayor and Council recognized and congratulated the Putnam County Middle School Boys and Girl Basketball Teams. Mayor Rocker asked that the team take a photo with Mayor and Council.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Butts to approve the minutes from February 20, 2017 Council meeting. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Councilman Charles R. Haley abstained from voting because of not attending the last meeting.

Public Comments None
Old Business:
Discussion and Possible Action on the REDLG Loan to Vizitech USA
Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to table discussion and taking action on the REDLG Loan to Vizitech USA until next meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

New Business:
Main Street Report
Main Street Director showed a video presentation on the Fire and Ice Festival. Director Simpson advised Georgia Downtown Association has shared this video on their face book page as an example to other Georgia Cities.

Main Street Report for City Council Meeting Tuesday, March 7, 2017 - February Recap

Organization

Five Main Street board members and the City Administrator attended the Main Street 101 Training in Athens.

The Christmas Decoration Design Committee did not meet this month.

Eatonton Main Street Director met with Rainey Gallagher from the Plaza Arts Center, Colby Hunter from the Eatonton/Putnam Library and Stephen Waskey from the Putnam County Recreation Dept. to see if we could cross promote our movies, rather than have them running around the same time.

Promotion

The reaction to the Fire and Ice Festival was generally positive, but there were issues with certain downtown restaurants. The promo videos showing Day and Night performances at the Festival have been warmly received.

Eatonton Main Street Director met with Fairway Outdoor Advertising and with Comcast Spotlight Advertising representatives to see how to improve downtown foot traffic. These conversations are ongoing. Comcast Spotlight advertising has created a package which Eatonton Main Street will be passing out at the next Merchants Meeting.

Design

The American Cleaners opposite City Hall has provided a great example of Facade Grant monies.

The Athens Design Studio proposal document for the E. Sumter Street corridor has been put back to March.
Economic Vitality

Spicy Southern Restaurant opened on Wednesday, February 15.

Eatonton Main Street Director met with Terry Schwindler Director of the Putnam Development Authority to discuss economic vitality in downtown Eatonton.

The Fire and Ice Festival increased foot traffic for merchants in the Downtown.

W. Marion Street saw the moving of Briar Patch Office Products and relocation of Sinclair Shooting Sports.

Eatonton Main Street is engaging with the Eatonton Messenger to provide more of a story when it comes to new business openings.

Summary
The Fire and Ice Festival created great interest especially from outside the Lake Country area. This can only benefit Eatonton in the long term as a tourist destination location. Eatonton Main Street continues to meet with organizations and businesses to create cross-promotional opportunities that will benefit not just downtown, but Eatonton and Putnam County as a whole.

Discussion and Possible Action on Pilot Club’s Request for Use of Certain City Streets for Annual Dairy Festival Attachment #6B
Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to approve the Pilot Club’s request for use of certain City Streets for the Annual Dairy Festival and parade. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0. Festival is scheduled to be held on Saturday, June 3, 2017.

Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Sign a Contract Extension with AMEC Foster Wheeler for Consulting Engineering Services Attachment #6C
Motion was made by Butts and seconded by Mangum to approve the proposed Resolution and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign a contract extension with AMEC Foster Wheeler for Gas Consulting Engineering Services. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Proposed Resolution to Accept a Bid Response for the Transportation Enhancement/Streetscape Project Attachment #6D
Councilman Mangum reported meeting with the Streets, Buildings, and Grounds Committee and agreeing to recommend awarding the base bid (the East side of the SR24) to Structural Resources, Inc. The apparent low bid for the base bid was $226,936.00.
The TE grant program has been phased out, but the City will pursue additional discretionary funds from GDOT and other available sources.

Motion was made by Mangum and seconded by Gorley to approve the Resolution to accept a bid response from Structural Resources, Inc for the work associated with the Transportation Enhancement/Streetscape Project (PI # 0011702) along SR 24 and authorize Mayor Rocker to sign contracts letters and other supporting and related documents as may be necessary to accomplish the goal of this resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Proposed Resolution to Approve a Temporary Alcoholic Beverage Pouring License Attachment #6E**

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Mangum to approve the Proposed Resolution approving the Temporary Alcoholic Beverage Pouring License request by Main Street and authorize the Mayor to sign the Resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Committee Reports**

Councilwoman Alma Stokes reported National Women’s History Month celebration will be held March 31, 2017 at 12 noon in the Putnam County Commissioner’s Meeting Room 203. All are invited to attend.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to pay the bills if and when the funds become available. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

City Administrator Sanders reported the parking lot at the Hut has been resurfaced and thermo marking for the parking spaces will be applied by the Street Department in the next week or two.

City Administrator Sanders advised the requested street light on Pinecrest Drive has been installed by Georgia Power.

Session #2 of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission’s Leadership Class is Thursday, March 16. City Administrator Sanders advised he would be attending.

Administrator Sanders advised projects for consideration by the Executive Committee of the T-SPLOST Round Table are due by April 14. The Streets, Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet again to consider the project list prior to the April 4 Council meeting.
City Administrator Sanders advised Councilwoman Teresa Doster asked that Council be notified that a Zoning & Ordinances Committee meeting will be called prior to the March 20th Council meeting to consider revisions to the Historical Preservation Ordinance.

Councilman Butts reported the Gas Department is doing maintenance to a section of gas main on Church Street. The section of Church Street between North Madison Avenue and North Lafayette Street will be closed on Thursday and part of Friday for the maintenance and road repair.

Councilwoman Stokes reported receiving 2 requests for street lights on Dickey Drive. Councilman Butts advised he would ride by and check on streetlight.

Mayor and Council commented on the improvement and looks of the Old Big Chick property since the removal of the depilated building.

Mayor Rocker asked if there was any other business. There being no other business motion was made by Mangum and seconded by Haley to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

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Walter Rocker, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk