City of Eatonton Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 7:00 pm
Eatonton City Hall, 201 North Jefferson Avenue, Eatonton, Georgia 31024

Elected Officials Present:
  Mayor John Reid
  Councilman Alvin Butts
  Councilman James A Gorley
  Councilman Charles Haley
  Councilman William Mangum, Jr.
  Councilwoman Alma Stokes

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

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

Mayor John Reid called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Invocation was given by Councilman William Mangum, Jr.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Gorley to approve the minutes for the November 17, 2014 meeting.

Mayor Reid discussed having a quorum of the Council members present to officially adopt the minutes from the previous Council meeting.

Motion on the floor to adopt the minutes from 11/17/2014 carried by a vote of 5-0. Council approved with Councilman Alvin Butts and Councilwoman Alma Stokes voting on the minutes, in order to have a quorum of the body, although they did not attend the 11/17/2014 meeting.

Motion was made by Mangum and seconded by Gorley to revote and adopt the minutes from November 3, 2014 due to not having a quorum of the members present at the last meeting on November 17, 2014. Motion to adopt the minutes from 11/03/2014 carried by a vote of 4-0 with four members present who attended the meeting voting for the adoption. Councilman Haley who was absent on 11/03/2014 abstained from voting.

Public Comments: None
Old Business:

New Business

Proposed Resolution to ratify action of the Mayor in requesting assistance from Middle Georgia Regional Commission in preparing and assist with a Firefighters Grant Application Attachment #2

City Administrator Sanders advised this grant would be used to replace all of the firemen turnout gear. The life span of such equipment is about 5-7 years. The City is requesting a grant in the amount $55,000.00 which requires a 5% matching share from the City. The application is due December 5, 2014.

Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to ratify the actions of the Mayor in requesting Middle Georgia Regional Commission to provide writing assistance and other purposes and authorize the Mayor to sign contracts, letters and such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary for the proper application, and implementation of such grant as may be received. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding City Holiday Schedule Attachment #3
City Administrator Sanders asked Council to shift the Christmas Holidays scheduled for Wednesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve) and Thursday, December 25th (Christmas Day) to Thursday, December 25th and Friday, December 26th.
Motion was made by Gorley and seconded by Haley to shift the employees Christmas Holidays to December 25th and 26th for 2014 as recommended by the City Administrator. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

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

Councilman Butts advised the gas line to the Technology Park on Highway 441 is complete and gas is on the line.

Councilman Mangum advised his committee met on phase 2 of the Trail Park and approved submitting an application. City Administrator Sanders advised the Trail Park application was submitted on November 26th for the 2nd phase of the project.

Mayor Reid commended Council for another successful year that included the gas line extension to the Tech Park, the new parking lot downtown and the Trail Park.

Councilman Haley commended City Administrator Sanders on working with the garbage service provider to improve the trash collection over the past few weeks.
Haley advised the Rooty Creek project did not get the grant funds to improve Rooty Creek; there is a plan in place and will continue applying for funds.

Mrs. Carrie Vanderver, Mainstreet Director advised the Christmas Parade will be held Saturday, December 6, and all are invited to attend and take part in the festivities to be held on the courthouse square.

Councilwoman Stokes advised the Mayors’ Christmas Motorcade was held today in Milledgeville and she thanked all who donated to this special event. Stokes advised receiving an invitation from Police Chief Lawrence to attend a Christmas dinner on Monday, December 8 at the Waterworks Building at 6 PM. Also Stokes expressed words of thanks to City employees for the job that they do.

Councilman Gorley advised the Fire Department has been testing fire equipment and attending Public Safety Training. This year the Department has responded to a number of house fires. The City has been interviewing applicants to fill the vacant firefighter position. Gorley advised the Council normally allow Department head to fill a vacancy in their department.

Councilman Mangum asked about the colors painted on the top of the hydrants. Administrator Sanders advised the hydrants are painted according to the flow rate per minute. A list of hydrants needing repair has been turned over to the Eatonton Putnam Water and Sewer Authority.

Color Code on Hydrants: black top = no flow, red top= under 500 gallons per minute, orange top =500-9999 gallons per minute, green top= 1000-1499 gallons per minute.

Councilman Mangum talked about seeing if the State would pay for fire hydrant repairs instead of funding the Trail Park or looking into a grant from EPD to help make improvements to the hydrants. Haley also discussed poor water flow in resident homes.

Mayor Reid advised the Fire Department is working on identifying hydrants and the flow rate. An arrow has been painted in the street to help firemen locate the hydrants. The tanker truck also brings water to the fire in case the hydrants are not working. We are working on getting our ISO rating down.

City Administrator Gary Sanders reported: Gas was in the line to the Tech Park on November 21, the date required for substantial completion. The pressure test passed and the odorant moved down the line like needed. The meters were set and all of the necessary tie-ins were then done to get gas to Aalto Scientifics’ buildings. Everyone involved has done an outstanding job.

The grant application for Phase 2 of the Trail Park was submitted to the Department of Natural Resources on November 26.
Representative Mickey Channell has announced his resignation from the General Assembly. The county will conduct a Special Election on January 6, 2015. Qualifying will be conducted Monday, December 8 through noon on Wednesday, December 10.

Work on the Willie Bailey Street drainage project may begin as soon as mid-week next week. This work will require road closures in the area. Absent any weather delays or other issues, the work should take no more than 3 weeks.

A Public Information Open House is planned for Tuesday, December 9, to discuss Georgia Department of Transportation’s proposed State Route 44 widening project in Greene and Putnam Counties. The event will be held from 4:00 - 6:00PM in the Community Room at Lakeside Church at Lake Oconee.

The new website will be ready for unveiling soon; maybe by the end of the week. A lot of work has gone into it and it’s something we will all be proud of.

The Christmas Parade will be held this Saturday at 6:00 PM.

City Attorney Christopher Huskins advised working on the closing of the Revolving Loan for Adams Smith/ Brown Dog Restaurant; still waiting on collateral. When documents are received Huskins asked that a check from the Revolving Loan Fund in the amount of $50,000 be made out to Huskins on the loan. Huskins asked Mayor Reid and the clerk to sign off on paper work after the meeting.

Councilman Haley advised Mayor Reid did a good job at the Dedication Ceremony of Robert Reid Sr. Drive.

Clerk Abrams advised Mrs. Barbara Trubey will retire at the end of the month.

Motion was made by Haley and seconded by Gorley to adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

John Reid, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah E. Abrams, City Clerk