



# HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

## REGULAR COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 7:30 PM

Town Hall (Council Chamber) - 307 E Kennedy Blvd. 32751

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** These meeting minutes are presented in an abbreviated format intended as a public record discussion of stated meeting according to the Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine law. Meetings are opened to the public, noticed within reasonable advance notice, and transcribed into minutes for public record. *\*\*Audio Recording are available through the Town's website on the Council Agenda Page.*

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### CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM:

Mayor Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and a quorum was established through roll call by Mrs. Veronica King

**PRESENT:** (5) Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Marlin Daniels, Councilman Theo Washington, Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels, Mayor Angie Gardner.

**STAFF:** (6) Demetrius Pressley, **Interim Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Clifford Shepard, **Town Attorney**, Joseph Jenkins, **Deputy Chief**, Valerie Mundy, **Interim Public Works Director**

### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Rev. Critton led the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

**Mayor Gardner Motions** to approve meeting agenda; Moved by Councilman Washington; Second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - (The Three-minute rule was strictly enforced)

**Eddie Cole** – Spoke about the HostDime and the benefit of increase in the ad valorem taxes to the town; referenced Resolution 2017-12 (CRA) approving the appropriation of funds remaining in the redevelopment trust with allowances for more years to be added completion. Gave a breakdown of the \$200,000 allocation included \$45,000 (DJC Master Plan) \$30,000 (Code Compliance Program); \$30,000 (Curb Appeal Matching Grant); \$90,000 (Property Land Acquisition); \$5,000 (Escrow Deposits); referenced Resolution 2019-16 approving budget transfer (transferring the \$200,000 back to the CRA); need to come up with a solution with HostDime who been doing business in Eatonville since 2007 and an annual donor towards the Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway.

**Angela Thomas** – Inquired about the non-ad valorem taxes, will review for implementation be done.

**Clarence Jr. (40 Deacon Jones)** – Inquired about the free Wi-Fi that was previously stated; it is not included in the developer's agreement (HostDime)

**Angela Johnson (310 Amador Cir.)** – Acknowledged Mr. Manny (HostDime) for having a conversation; looking forward to having residents to work with him; \$200,000 of a \$40 million project is less than .5% (insignificant compared to the project); challenge council to table the HostDime item, there are more questions than answers and whether this is CRA funds, possibly \$30,000 of the reallocated funds for the facade grant has already been spent, questions on budget allocations (not discussed during the budget hearings), request that

Mr. Manny provide clarity (clear expectation) on the free Wi-Fi services stated to be offered to residents, finance should be able to provide information on the \$200,000 UP Development whether forgiven, expired, or sitting in a restricted account earning at least 3%. Information needs to be vetted.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Approval of 1st Reading of Charter Amendment by Ordinance 2023-8; Preamble read by Clerk; Legal gave introductions with an overview to the charter review process to include recommended changes; the ordinance is a combination of the questions and text amendments to be presented to the voters if the ordinance passes; full language available through the ordinance; the ballot will not have the full language according to law; **Public Comments:** Louisstee Cummings, requested copy of revised charter; once voted upon council can decide to provide the copies.) **Mayor Gardner Motions** to approve the 1st Reading of Charter Amendment by Ordinance 2023-8; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

**APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA:** **Mayor Gardner Motions** to approve the consent agenda approving the Town Council Meeting Minutes for September 5, 2023, reappointment of One Board Member To The Historic Preservation Board, Resolution 2023-16 Changing the Town's Regular Election Date to the Date of the Presidential Preference Primary, and Resolution 2023-17 Approving the Interlocal Agreement between the Town of Eatonville and the Town of Eatonville Community Redevelopment Agency (TOECRA); Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; Second by Councilman Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

## **COUNCIL DECISIONS:**

**Mayor Gardner Motions** Approval of moving forward with the HostDime project allocating funds for infrastructure; Moved by Vice Mayor Daniels; Second by Councilwoman Randolph; **Discussion:** (Gardner) to vote to move forward gives the perception of approval without having all documents to ensure steps were done properly; (Legal) need to do further research after receiving information yesterday; it is noted that the \$200,000 is a reimbursement agreement which will require documented expenses, where funds will come from will need to be clearly whether CRA or general funds; request more time for further research; (Pressley) if approved, still do not have documents that outlines what is being approved (HostDime can provide the documents for further vetting and time can allow for proper determination of where funds will come from); it would be best to table and bring back; (Mr. Manny) documentation was submitted a year ago, can provide again; project must be completed before the Wi-Fi can be addressed, provided information on how the bandwidth and fiber to the homes leading to water that can be broadcast through Kennedy Blvd. leveraging the internet to the residents; are committed to fulfilling this project; (M. Daniels) request that both the town meeting and CRA meeting be scheduled at the same time to resolve this matter; proper noticing can be done to set such meeting (to bring back October 3, 2023); (Randolph) no record of signed agreement, Mr. Manny will send over to town for records: **(Prior motion is rescinded); Mayor Gardner Motions** to table this item for the HostDime project allocating funds for infrastructure; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; Second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. (Tabled until the October 3, 2023 meeting).**

## **REPORTS:**

### **INTERIM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley**

Budget is complete; will begin advertising for job positions; interviews for Chief of Police candidates will take place tomorrow (9-20-23, 5:30 p.m.); Stakeholder's meeting went well (next one will be October 16, 2023); spoke on conducting I.T. and Internal assessments; met with Orange County School Board (will discuss next steps with legal); Clerk can provide updates to the FILEBANK records project; will attend the Faith in Florida event at Macedonia MBC (with Lavon Bracy); Code Enforcement officer will be attending classes on September 25-29<sup>th</sup>; will bring the MOU for the Health Fair to the next meeting.

**TOWN ATTORNEY’S REPORT: Attorney Clifford Shepard** – Met with Orange County School Board (they will not do anything with the Hungerford property until they hear from the town); will talk with Orange County Public School’s attorney about possibilities of giving the land to the town.

**TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS-**

**Councilman Marlin Daniels** – Acknowledged the budget process (need attention given to the reserves and surpluses; spoke about National Voter’s Registration Day; emphasized transparency; acknowledged the updates on the meeting between legal, the CAO , and the Orange County Public School.

**Councilwoman Wanda Randolph** – Acknowledged updates on the Orange County School Board and with the budget (want to ensure that the town running efficiently).

**Councilman Theo Washington** – No Report.

**Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels** – Acknowledged Apopka security at town council meeting (want to ensure the metal detector is wrong with an officer present); requested clarity about the Police Community Summit.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

**Mayor Angie Gardner** – The meeting with the Orange County Public School was excellent; spoke on the application for vote by mail (do register to vote); expressed with the Catalina Community meeting; encourage residents to come out to meet the candidates for the Chief of Police.

**ADJOURNMENT** Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; Second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:13 P.M.**

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

**APPROVED**

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**Veronica L King, Town Clerk**

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**Angie Gardner, Mayor**