



# HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 7:30 PM

Denton Johnson Center – 400 Ruffel Street, Eatonville, Florida 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 7:31 p.m. and a quorum was established by Mrs. King

**PRESENT:** (4), Mayor Angie Gardner, Vice Mayor Theo Washington, Councilman Rodney Daniels, , Councilman Tarus Mack (**Absent:** Councilwoman Wanda Randolph)

**STAFF:** (8) Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Patrick Brackins, **Attorney**, Stanley Murray, **Police Chief**, Cobbin McGee, **Public Works**, Valerie Mundy, **Planning**, Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director**, Baruti Abdallah-Nosakhere, **Code Enforcement**

#### 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** the meeting agenda; **Moved by** Councilman Mack; **Second by** Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

#### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – (1)

Angela Johnson – Acknowledge the town for cooperation with Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church on the rally that took place, congratulations to officers for community service, acknowledged the staff for the hard work in accommodating early voting and for those who have voted; asked that during the first reading of the water rate increase that literature (one pager) be given that simplifies the projections of the rates outlining current and projected rates, to get out additional information to get the residents to be involved in the process, placing information in the water bill; drains have a lot weeds in them and request something be done with maintenance of keeping the weeds out; there is car racing taken place leaving black tire marks in front of the park (on Campus View), raised awareness that the park is open after dark with activity, east of aspire and west of empty lot at corner of Lake Destiny and Kennedy, the grass is growing into the sidewalk (maintenance is needed); request more information on the town's \$1.7 million debt, if debt is not fulfilled, then that debt has to be rolled to the new rate structure where current and future residents are responsible for a debt forgiven for those that used the services prior (what can or is being done?).

#### PUBLIC HEARING

**Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance 2024-9 – Amending Chapter 30, “Solid Waste”, of The Town Code by Revising the Enclosure Requirements for Commercial Solid Waste Containers (Preamble Read by Town Clerk); Public Comments:** Mr. Vereen – What is the reason for this ordinance, asked that the council do everything in decency and remember that this decision is about the citizens.

**Mayor Gardner Motions** to **APPROVE** Second Reading of Ordinance 2024-9 – Amending Chapter 30, “Solid Waste”, of The Town Code by Revising the Enclosure Requirements for Commercial Solid Waste

Containers; **Moved by** Vice Mayor Washington; **Second by** Councilman Mack; **Mayor Gardner Calls for the question;** **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

**Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2024-10 – Repealing Ordinance No. 97-07 and Ordinance No. 2016-4; Providing for the Future Adoption of Water And Wastewater Service Rates and Fees By Resolution** (Preamble Read by Town Clerk); Introduction by legal (Patrick Brackins) – The current code, Ordinance 97-07 sets the rates and have not been amended since that time. This Ordinance is the first reading to repeal (Ordinance 97-07). If approved at the second reading, at that time is when the town would adopt the new rates by resolution giving the flexibility to make changes by resolution rather than by ordinance (a first and second reading would not be needed should changes be needed resulting from a future rate study), the first reading does not have the new rates, the new rates were discussed in the workshop and legal will include the second reading. **Public Comments:** None -

**Mayor Gardner Motions** to **APPROVE** the First Reading of Ordinance 2024-10 – Repealing Ordinance No. 97-07 and Ordinance No. 2016-4; Providing for the Future Adoption of Water And Wastewater Service Rates and Fees By Resolution; **Moved by** Vice Mayor Washington; **Second by** Councilman Mack with questions; **Council Comments.** Councilman Mack wants to ensure the most feasible rates (Legal- based on presentation in workshop, confirmed that the residential water rate will be \$15.84 and for commercial at \$26.46, for wastewater residential rate will be \$26.06 and for commercial at \$49.08, Ordinance 97-07, section D, did not have CPI language in it, legal will make sure there is one single document with both the rates and the CPI information in it; **Mayor Gardner Calls for the question;** **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Mayor Gardner Motions** to **APPROVE** the Consent Agenda, approval Resolution 2024-32 Reappointing (1) Individual to the Code Enforcement Board, Resolution 2024-33 Reappointing (1) Individual to the Planning and Zoning Board, Council Meetings Minutes for September 3 (Budget Hearing #1), September 16 (Budget Hearing #2, September 17 (Council Meeting); **Moved by** Vice Mayor Washington; **Second by** Councilman Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

**COUNCIL DECISIONS:** None

## **REPORTS:**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley** – Voting and Staff work activity did not infringe upon the continuous work, special thanks to staff, public works worked late every night; working on garbage proposal, had the ranking sessions, do have a candidate currently negotiating to get final rates, the current hauler (Waste Connection) made a change from the original discussions, they would an extension for 11 months instead of the 3 months extension previously discussed, the 11 month extension would not allow continuation of the RFP process to correct the garbage issues, it is important to staff to ensure the cycle does not continue, maps, service times are being worked on with the new hauler, have an emergency hauler due to the Waste Connection's decision to no longer do a short-term extension, will finalize everything from the RFP and bring back to council, staff is working now to make sure commercial as well. Residential services are taken care of, Waste Connection has taken the commercial dumpsters, working to have temporary service dumpsters put at the locations until the finalization; working on the community change grant and very close to getting all the information together, Ms. Valerie and Ms. Bragg is diligently making sure those items happen; there is a meeting on November 12th at 4 pm at the Orange County School Board to discuss the Hungerford property, have submitted a lease purchase agreement to the school board, they had a closed session because of the pending lawsuit, open conversations will take place and council and residents are encouraged the meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>, selected individuals will speak to show support to the town; working closely with Congressman Frost's office pertaining to \$4.1 million dollar grant for the Vereen Lift Station, have authorized engineer to move forward with the design; discussions on Club Eaton took place on this past Wednesday.

**ATTORNEY: Patrick Brackins** – No Report

**TOWN CLERK: Veronica King** – Provided an update on the Record's Coordinator position, New hire (Nicole Direnzo) beginning the onboarding process,

## **TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS -**

**Councilman Tarus Mack** – Thanked the staff for doing a good job on the early voting and election day, acknowledged Bill Clinton (former President) for coming to town as collaboration with Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church; thanks to Chief and his staff for making the town safe on a daily basis; need to move forward with the HostDime contract; very particular about getting temporary sidewalks for our residents, desires for Representative Christine Moore to come Eatonville to help out again; hopeful that everyone have taken advantage of early voting or voting today (November 5) up until seven o'clock; prayers to those that have suffered any loss including personal family, recently lost father; inquired about any new litigations or lawsuits pending (Legal – not aware of any new, will follow up).

**Councilman Rodney Daniels** – Expressed disappointment in the lack of communication from administration in coordinating the opportunity to meet the former President Bill Clinton, was an important time to show unity, and that the Eatonville community is standing in this time during early voting and also support Bill Clinton, should have had the same opportunity as the Mayor; talked to staff and hear concerns, it is disheartening to know that well educated staff members are not compensated for their education and skills, desire to bring the pay level up, looking to get with Mr. Pressley to discuss policy change to address staff compensation.

**Vice Mayor Theo Washington** – Expressed condolences for the loss of loved ones; did not found out about Bill Clinton's visit until Sunday morning, was able to attend later, there needs to be transparency.

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Angie Gardner** – Received unconfirmed information on the visit with former President Bill Clinton, no details were available until receiving an email Friday evening, apologize and acknowledged that if there was a question to be asked, she will know for the next time something like this comes up, did not receive agenda for the program until Saturday, the only people in the room were speakers and some staff; in response to comments about why the meeting was not cancelled, needed to talk about fees going up and what was being done about it, there was a lot of work to do tonight; appreciate the staffs efforts, condolences to Councilman Mack.

**ADJOURNMENT** Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **Moved** by Councilman Mack;  
**Second** by Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:04 pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

**APPROVED**

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**Veronica L King, Town Clerk**

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**Angie Gardner, Mayor**