



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 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.*

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: (5) Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels, Mayor Angie Gardner, Councilman Theo Washington, Councilman Tarus Mack

STAFF: (6) Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Clifford Shepard, **Town Attorney**, Stanley Murray, **EPD Police Chief**, Valerie Mundy, **Public Works Director**, Katrina Gibson, **Finance 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 adding walk on items to the agenda for council decision:

Moved by Councilman Washington; **Second** by Councilman Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.** **Notes:** Clarification of the planning board qualifications was provided.

PRESENTATIONS – Chief Murray made presentation promoting four officers: Robert Jones promoted to Corporal, Fletcher Boone promoted to Sergeant, Lamar Payne promoted to Sergeant, and Lucas Kennedy promoted Sergeant; other recognitions were made to other officers for Officers of the Quarter (Jesenia Diggs, Christopher Wu) and Officer Jesenia Diggs received the peer-to-peer crisis and group crisis intervention certification; **Notes/Updates:** Pinning of the officers and pictures took place. (Updates) able to get equipment removed from the budget such as laptops, cameras, and other things, getting ready to implement an email system that will allow for complaints or compliments of our officers to keep track of how things are being done in the community.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - (3)

Kirsten Anderson – the Deputy Legal Director of Economic Justice at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). SPLC is a non-profit organization that is a catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond, working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy and advance the human rights of all people. March of 2023, we filed a lawsuit against the School Board of Orange County related to the intended sale of the Hungerford properties. In that lawsuit, we represent the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, PEC, and Ms. B. E. Hattler, who is a Hungerford descendant. On April 8, 2024, PEC and Ms. Hattler announced their support for the town of Eatonville to be considered for a proposed Florida Museum of African American History. In this letter, and we have copies available for the council and the public here today, we specifically support the use of a 10-acre parcel of the Hungerford property for a museum and related purposes.

Julian Johnson – Referenced the press release stating Eatonville is known for its rich heritage and vibrant community spirit, being committed to creating an environment where the actions and voices are heard, that every resident drives the town's progress, acknowledged efforts made towards Eatonville being the top three areas to be considered for the African American Museum. Over the last few months, the voices of many residents have fallen on deaf ears, accused of being militant versus being considered an assertive Black man who hold the council accountable. Explicitly stated for the record his desire to rescind board application for the planning and zoning board, do not want to play the game of politics and can be more effective on the outside rather sitting on a board.

Joyce Irby – Acknowledged Chief Murray. As an advocate for the women of the police force who were given two uniforms, never promoted, making less money, underpaid, overworked, and undervalued. The next time promotions are made, would like to see women who have been working a long time are recognized. They need more uniforms (Response: two new vendors have been identified and the women have been fitted for uniforms as well as bulletproof vests). The stated donation can be given to Chief Murray.

Additional Comments: Mayor Gardner invited Julian Johnson back to the podium and provided him with assurances. The word radical is used to describe never the militant, You are radical and will eventually meet in the middle, that is who you are. No way in the world do I support putting a Black man down or white men, want to make certain for the record, keep doing what you do and finding who you are in all of this.

APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Gardner Motions to approve Consent Agenda approving Town Council Meeting Minutes – April 2, 2024. **Moved** by Councilman Washington; **Second** by Councilman Mack; **AYE**: Councilwoman Randolph, Vice Mayor R. Daniels, Councilman Washington; Councilman Mack **NAYE**: Mayor Gardner **MOTION PASSES; MOTION PASSES.**

COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Approval of Settlement Offer to the Town of Eatonville From Esparza Underground Inc, (Vela Insurance Services) For Damages Related to waterline located on E. Kennedy: (Mr. Pressley) On November 21, 2023, the public works department was notified of a water main hit on West Kennedy Blvd. resulting in replacing pipes to include a portion of the road. The cost was about \$77,000. The Public Works Director was persistent in connecting with the right person to hear and to see what had taken place. A subcontractors insurance company wanting to settle for the entire amount of that break. It is believed that all vendors that helped us with this matter have been paid. By signing off on this settlement, we can recoup the funds back into our utility department. The company came back to complete the underground installation with public works present to ensure that there are no more hits. Will be working to replace the entire lines with the funding from the grant. **Mayor Gardner Motions to approve** the Settlement Offer to the Town of Eatonville From Esparza Underground Inc, (Vela Insurance Services) For Damages Related to waterline located on E. Kennedy; **Moved** by Councilman Mack; **Second** by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

Approval of Resolution 2024-13 Board Appointment to the Planning and Zoning-Walk On Item – (Clerk) This item is being brought for correction. The motion was stated incorrectly and must be brought back. And for the record, we must come back and redo the vote. The error was found in transcribing the audio for the minutes. To make sure of an accurate record, must bring it back for a revote. Discussion was made with legal clarifications on a board member not violating the Sunshine law. To have conversations with other members on the same board, you must be careful not to violate the sunshine law. Resolution 2024 13 has been amended and the preamble needs to be read before the vote. (Preamble Read) **Mayor Gardner Motions to approve** 2024-13 Appointing Millard Livatt as a regular board member to the Planning and Zoning Board; **Moved** by Councilman Washington; **Second** by Vice Mayor Daniels; **AYE**: Mayor Gardner, Vice Mayor R. Daniels, Councilman Washington; Councilman Mack; **NAYE**: Councilwoman Randolph **MOTION PASSES; MOTION PASSES.**

Approval of Resolution 2024-14 Appointing an Alternate to the Planning and Zoning Board -Walk On Item –
ON ACTION TAKEN; Notes: Mr. Julian Johnson rescinded his application.

Approval of Resolution 2024-15 Appointing a Vice Mayor per section 2. 04 of the Town of Eatonville's charter
-Walk On Item – (Clerk) Polling results were stated to determine the required stated motion. Councilman Theo Washington received the nominee by majority. The new charter, the vice mayor is appointed by majority vote of the town council. (Preamble Read) **Mayor Gardner Motions to approve** 2024-15 Appointing Councilman Theo Washington as Vice Mayor of the Town Council per section 2. 04 of the Town of Eatonville's charter; **Moved** by Councilman Mack; **Second** by Councilman Washington; **AYE:** Mayor Gardner, Councilman Washington, Councilwoman Randolph, Councilman Mack; **NAYE:** Vice Mayor R. Daniels **MOTION PASSES; MOTION PASSES.**

Approval of Resolution 2024-16 designating a chairman of the Town of Eatonville Community Redevelopment Agency-Walk On Item – (Clerk) Polling results were stated to determine the required stated motion. Mayor Gardner received the nominee by majority. **Mayor Gardner Motions to approve** 2024-16 designating Mayor Gardner as Chair of the Town of Eatonville Community Redevelopment Agency (Preamble Read); **Moved** by Councilman Washington; **Second** by Councilman Mack; **AYE:** Mayor Gardner, Councilman Washington, Councilwoman Randolph, Councilman Mack; **NAYE:** Vice Mayor R. Daniels **MOTION PASSES; MOTION PASSES.**

REPORTS:

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley – UPDATES – Finishing up newsletter; working for the collaborative efforts for the master planning; the impact fee study projection draft has been submitted and under review; will bring to town council the extension for moratorium to the next meeting to include amendments to address the square footage size on potential opportunities for local developers; have an actual system that public works is using to collect data to track how many comments, calls, or infractions happening with solid waste; working to resolve matters with individuals who have additional trash and the best way to receive a second totter (submit request through the utility department); have an Earth Day event scheduled for April 20, 2024 at 7am – 1pm located at the Denton Johnson Center (trash pickup and shredding will be available). If shredding is needed, bring items on Saturday from between 7am and 1pm; about 90 percent complete on the roof and HVAC system for town hall; the Mayor's State of the Town Address is scheduled for May 24th at 6pm located at the Denton Johnson Center (more information forthcoming); (Public Works) finalizing application for the funding opportunity available; working on the assessment for the asset management program needed for the Florida World water Association; collaborating with the Eatonville chamber to have workshops discussing opportunities for equipping minority and women owned businesses to compete in the different services that procurements that will be taking place in the community; the Orange Technical College is opening in May with a ribbon cutting scheduled for May 10th; submitted the final budget for the community policing grant; had a preliminary meeting with HUD regarding the \$4.1 million town home affordable housing project, getting the information lined up for mid-May to start preparing; there is still an opportunity for the \$2 million set aside for the land acquisition, meeting with HUD to make sure all criteria is met; will bring back before the council an R.F.P. to discuss a broker for land acquisition; the pool is scheduled for reopening on May 25th; the settlement received from Florida Mutual in regards toto the storm in 2018 in the amount of \$238, 000 has been received; working with the staff on community service training to make sure that staff is equipped and fully available to address any of the concerns of the residents; acknowledged the press release regarding the town's ranking from the Florida Museum of Black History to include acknowledgements of Shan Rose, Valerie Mundy, partners, staff, Orange County, and Orlando Economic Partnership; will follow up on the possibility of renting a trash container if needed when there ais additional trash;

ATTORNEY: Clifford Shepard – had a productive meeting with staff and certain members of the school board hierarchy and were able to agree on a path forward that would get the town the land needed for the museum and also the remaining Hungerford land not already sold by the school board;

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS-

Councilman Tarus Mack – expressed his desire to see the land returns back to the town; will be bringing back the clean up day (June 1st) and looking for volunteers; working with Mr. Pressley to ensure quality community events in Eatonville; inquired about any open litigation or lawsuits (Legal response; There is a new lawsuit with UP Development – legal needs to be updated on the details, the town has been asked to report the matter to the carrier and see if the insurance carrier will pick up the defense; inquired about the trash vendor and when is the contract up (September 30 the procurement process will begin in June); Chelsea Nelson will be coming in to speak on the affordable apartments (EKOS), want to get as many qualified for the apartments; suggest getting with Orange County about getting some kind of temporary sidewalk; inquired about the appointment to the community action board; congratulated the officers with a desire to see an increase in pay during the budget time; acknowledged Julian Johnson and expressed his sentiments, wanting to ensure that the council is not the cause of any conditions leading up to a person's decision to not serve on a board.

Councilman Rodney Daniels – Congratulated the officers and thanked Chief Murray for his efforts in building morale; gave thanks for the opportunity in serving as Vice Mayor over the years, acknowledged the officials on their newly appointments; some of the duties of the board consists of acting in an advisory role, to study the existing comprehensive land and use plan, to provide for development and general improvement, probable future growth in town, anything that hinders growth will not be supported by me; it is about the Town of Eatonville.

Councilwoman Randolph – Congratulation to the EPD and the officers that were promoted; inquired on the status of the impact fee (Pressley-draft have been received from consultant and preparing into a final document to bring that before council and the community); inquired about the budget review (Finance will confirm); will start meeting for the budget starting in July; spoke about having another process to get more information out to the communities on boards and vacancies; need to more people involved when it comes to the stakeholders and polis meetings; inquired about the possible termination of a high ranking officer, want to ensure that the proper policies and procedures are in place when there is a proposed termination, human resource and the manager must follow the proper policy for termination (Pressley-there has not been a termination only an intent, it is going through the HR process, also consulting with other agencies to ensure protocols are being followed);

Vice Mayor Theo Washington – Acknowledged Chief for doing a wonderful job on promoting officers, referenced the professionalism of the town hall, things are getting better. I represent Eatonville regardless of the people that supported me, or those who did not vote for me, gave thanks to the council for their support.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Angie Gardner – Condolences to the Watts family; apologies for missing the last meeting and congratulations to Councilman Mack and Councilwoman Randolph, and Vice Mayor Washington; there is free daycare (3-4 years old) offered by Travel and Leisure (19 spots) for those who lives in the Town of Eatonville, who has siblings that go to Hungerford, or you're zoned for Hungerford; hoping that the \$4.1 million can be put it into a land trust, by putting it into a land trust, people do not have to pay for the land (reducing housing cost); thanks to Ms. Mundy for overseeing the money that is coming from the grants; looking forward to the pool opening on the May 25th and the State of the Town; would like to move forward on having a VA Expo (Chief Murray- looking at possibly June 29th for a VA informational at the Boys and Girls Club, also working on a water safety class before the pool opens); congratulations to the officers;

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **Moved** by Vice Mayor Washington;
AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:44 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by:

APPROVED

Veronica L King, Town Clerk

Angie Gardner, Mayor