

TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
December 6, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Angie Gardner, Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels, Councilman Marlin Daniels, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, and Councilman Theo Washington. **STAFF:** Clifford Shepard, **Town Attorney**, Randy Singh, **Chief Administrative Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Joseph Jenkins, **Deputy Chief**, and Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director**, (*NOT PRESENT: Albert English, Public Works Director*)

CALL TO ORDER & VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

Mayor Gardner called meeting to order at 7:30pm with a verification of quorum through Mrs. King

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Critton led the Prayer of Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion for approval of agenda; Councilman M. Daniels requested moving item #2 (Surveillance Plus LLC Quote) to Council Decision; **moved by Councilman Washington; second by Councilwoman Randolph AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

INTRODUCTION: Mayor Gardner introduced Mr. Randy Singh as the new Chief Administrative Officer with a statement of confidence that the town will operate effectively and efficiently as possible under Mr. Singh's oversight. In response, Mr. Singh stated that he is pleased to be here and obligated to report to the citizens through the Mayor and the Council; task won't be easy, but he is committed and ask for patience.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - THREE (3) MINUTES STRICTLY ENFORCED.

Mayor Gardner called for Citizen Participation; with (6) participating citizens. Vice-Mayor R. Daniels placed emphasis on ensuring that the three (3) minute allocated time to speak is adhered to.

NY NITHIRI – Thanked the Mayor for the community meetings and that the next step is to do a financial analysis. The Hungerford land was given to the Public School Board in the 50's for the education of negro children; asking to return the land to the people of Eatonville; it is economic justice (Video was played to show what has happened in the community meetings.

JOHN LIAS (along with Grace and Natasha Lias) – (411 W. Kennedy Blvd., Lake Lovely Estates) Expressed concern about the noise coming from the event center (Clubhouse on Lincoln/Washington). Inquired about a noise ordinance and asked that it be enforced; reached out to code enforcement with no response.

CANDACE FINLEY – (108 Elizabeth Street) Purchased a home in Eatonville but property is considered Maitland. Observed more housing being built; what is going to happen to the land that is in close proximity to the mixture of homes; pricing of the homes will depend on if home is considered Eatonville or Maitland. The decision for the land should be made for the town. Land can be bought cheap in Eatonville; things are being down strategically to take the land.

BETTY HOWARD – (Catalina Park) Thanks for Thanksgiving bags provided. Concerned about water bill; last three months have been extremely high; almost as high as the light bill. Something needs to be done because something is wrong; the meter may need to be replaced.

MICHELLE FORT – Thanks for choosing Mr. Singh; the town deserves the best. The audit report was discussed in the last meeting; what is the true financial health (net worth) of the town. Budget does not show what was spent. Town has never had a strategic plan for the budget. The Chief Administrative Officer can do for Eatonville what he did for Orange County. In wanting the Hungerford land back, in 1950 the town could not maintain it. Water and sewer have been sitting in a deficit for years. What is expected from citizens and from Council?

NO NAME – (361 White Oak Circle) Must make a wrong right for the town. Citizens are not happy with the decision of the Council; we want the land back. With a City Manager, things should be slowed down in order to figure things out.

JULIAN JOHNSON – Mary Bethune promised to buy the Hungerford property but was denied by the government. This is the same government that took the land, left the community deprived. Leased the land, why sell it. The citizens say that the Council turned their backs on them; they do not know what's going on. There are grassroots organization s working tirelessly to inform the citizens.

ANGELA JOHNSON – Welcomes Mr. Singh. (Concerns) Have concerns about the financial condition of the town, follow up with citizens; no response to calls, texts, and emails, with the building falling apart, why is the building being patched when considering installation and upgrades to the town's security, and need to come up with a strategic plan maybe through a retreat. Without an increase in the water rates our systems will not be sustained; not knowing the status of systems, we can not continue with massive construction. Need to know the status of our assets. Pay attention to the comments that cam from the transmittal for the large scale planned amendments.

PUBLIC HEARING: Motion for approval of second reading of the required property rights element (PRR) into the town's comprehensive plan by Ordinance 2022-06. Tara Salmieri, the Planner gave an update and summary of the transmittal of the first reading of Property Rights Element that was approved on September 20, 2022. Six (6) agencies reviewed, and comments were provided. Comments from transmittal: the goals and objectives to include language stating the land use and zoning matters; DEO asked to strike land use matters moving from planning to local decision making. St. John's Water Management comment was not specific to the (PRR) stated that the town has not been in compliance for about eighteen months; the water supply plan needs to be updated. CPH has been contacted and have drafted text to be reviewed by administration. If second reading is approved, it will be sent back to the state for 45 days; individuals have 45 days to contest. (No Comments from Council) Motion amended for approval of second reading of the required property rights element (PRR) into the town's comprehensive plan by Ordinance 2022-06 with consistent changes; moved by Councilman Washington; second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

Mayor Gardner provided explanation and apology as to why Item B. under Public Hearing was removed; indicated that this should not have been done since agenda was set and sent out. The proper way to amend an agenda once noticed id to table the item if it is the desire of the council. It was removed due to the Denton Johnson Center needing repairs and the Council chambers not being sufficient to accommodate the increase attendance. In addition, the citizens stated at the Tuesday (November 29) community meeting that they needed more time.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: (Moving Item #2 to Council Decision)

Motion for approval Consent Agenda; moved by Councilman Theo Washington; second by Councilman M. Daniels; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Motion for approval of Surveillance Plus, LLC Quote (Option A); Discussion: Councilman M. Daniels request that item be tabled; for further consideration of options and in consideration of the needed capital improvements. Councilman Washington states that network needs to be updated Mayor Gardner agreed to table but to do nothing would be unacceptable. **Motion amended to table the approval of Surveillance Plus, LLC Quote (Option A);** moved by Councilman Washington; second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: (Randy Singh) Plan to frequently (Quarterly) update the Council about the financial health of the organization; intend to bring solutions. Will continue evaluations and will bring back a report.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: (Clifford Shepard) Will meet with Mr. Singh on Thursday to give input; to discuss from a planning view what can be done to get to the next level; in consideration to cashflow.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Marlin Daniels – Condolences to Tommy Dixon’s family. Thanksgiving in the town was a success. (Due Process) When ordinances and regulation are in order you have due process; everyone is entitled to due process. I voted for the first reading because of due process. To not understand due process can cause discord. The school board controls the Hungerford property, the decision makers. Since 2044, we had 79 audit issues and have been under oversight. If we were in order, we could possibly get loans and grants to purchase the property. To address exploitation from an organization on the matter of receiving money from a developer; Marlin Daniels has not received any money. We need to come together and stop the discord.

Councilwoman Wanda Randolph – Everyone did a great job with the Thanksgiving events; it was a success. I have a heart and care for the town. My decision is to ensure we move forward with the legacy, heritage, and culture of the town. We have to work together to come up with solutions to make the town matter. It has been difficult to get qualified individual to work for our town. If there is something wanted, let’s work with the developers; it is the school board’s land and the developer’s money. We work with ordinances, zones, and the comprehensive plan; if you do not like it, then change it. What happen to the land attorney Tom Wilkes; we have not heard from him. I asked Mr. Singh to reach out to him. I will not sell this town down. (MLK) I will forgo the gospel festival to focus on the parade. The Lake Weston development is going well. The Eatonville Supreme Group is having a Christmas toy giveaway on Saturday. Thanks to the citizens for their comments. St. Lawrence AME has a new pastor (David Bradley). Thanks for all the support in feeding the community.

Councilman Theo Washington – I was in the meeting when Kat Gordan told the School Board that they should give the land back to the town. Eatonville is part of the process. Tom Wilkes works for the school board. Eatonville does not have a gym, football field, walking trail, or entertainment venues; we do not need anymore housing and apartments. Not in agreement with the Enclave development, it never came before this board. We need to focus on what we want not what people want to give us.

Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels – Betsy Mae Johnson taught me loyalty and pride in the community; I wanted to raise my family here. None of my friends called to discuss the comprehensive plan. PEC fought Costco who moved out of Eatonville; we are missing out on 4-5 million dollars a week on revenue for the town including jobs. We can make Eatonville the next Mecca, black wall street if we work together. To Mr. Singh, I look forward to you helping the town utilizing your resources. The school board owns the land and could have sold it without including Eatonville. I do not agree with how the land was acquired, but they own the land. We need to work together with the school board to get what we want on the land. We need a grocery store, eateries, and businesses; to get our revenue stream up. There is a company that is digging again; have they fulfilled their obligation from the last two water breaks. Requesting a month of correspondences between the Mayor and the Planner as well as between the Mayor and the Attorney. Condolences to Mr. Tommy Dixon; wish there were an outcry when this man’s property was purchased. His heirs should get that property back, Happy Anniversary to Pastor Critton, it was an honor to be at the appreciation; like to request a resolution to be presented. Thanks to the Clerk for the requested written resolution given to a family; they were moved to tears. I don’t like being talked to a certain way, but I want to work together with the Attorney and want to set that lunch appointment: I offer a public apology to the Attorney and the public.

Mayor Angie Gardner – Congratulations to Pastor Critton and appreciate you being here at every meeting. Condolences to Mr. Dixon and others who have lost loved ones. The streets and pipes book has been found; we should be able to locate the specific area, find the valve to cut off water during a water break. Thanks to residents for voicing your thoughts; stay awake to all meetings. Capital improvements takes time; we need impact fees and development agreements do matter. Moving forward we have to listen to each other. The MLK Parade is being coordinated by Ms. Robinson; the plans are moving along. I will get with Mr. Singh about the company that is digging. Administrative duties run through the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Please leave all

administrative matters to the CAO. Anything administrative that they council has, send to the Mayor; do not call the staff, do not sit in the staff's offices. Let the administration be strong. I will be reaching out to address the citizens concerns.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn, moved by Councilman M. Daniels; seconded by Councilman Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. MEETING ADJOURNED** at: 8:50PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

APPROVED

Veronica L King, Town Clerk

Angie Gardner, Mayor