



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 2, 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 7:30 p.m. and a quorum was established by Mrs. King

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

STAFF: (4) Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Ryan Knight, **Town Attorney**, Chief Stanley Murray, **EPD**

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 Councilwoman Randolph; **Second** by Councilman Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - (6)

Ryan Novak – Black History Museum – Don't give up, it's not a final decision, we've seen many times in history, people going against a recommendation. Tallahassee can go another direction. Swimming pool – have odd hours of operation, suggest hours for senior citizens (early morning between 6 and 9am). Elizabeth Park the tennis court was resurfaced, repainted, and then the old, nasty net was put up. Repainted the tennis lines to one of the two courts, consider turning the other side of the court into three pickleball courts, upgrading it, and getting some use out of it.

Cathy Mills – (318 Greensend Street) – Septic Issue – talked about 41 Lincoln Avenue, address that son lives. At the last CRA meeting and Town Hall meeting, asked if the pipeline could be put down and not sure if it has been approved. I would like to know how long does it take to run a line from the city to that property? There is a bad septic problem there, asking again for help for my son live better. Garbage pickup (All areas and Catalina Park) trash is being left on the ground that homeowners have to pick it up. Suggest finding another company that would work for the citizens of Eatonville.

Tuwanan Ware – Community Day with the Pool – had a meeting with Ms. Brittani and Mr. Pressley and looking at hosting this event on July 20th from 12 to 4. Want to know what the portion as a sponsor would be, working on a mock up flyer, team will knock on the doors to inform the residents. (Councilman Mack) Thank you ladies for being involved in the community and bringing your organization to give back to the children right before school. Mr. Pressley and the staff has done a tremendous job.

Rep. Bruce Antone – Black History Museum – this is an important update on this museum, the decision was made to choose St. Augustine and the fix was always in for St. Augustine from day one (the speaker's district is St.

Augustine), so they may put a museum there, they changed all the recommendations and what was required. It does not mean that we cannot get funding for the Town of Eatonville if you work with me. There was a lot of attention on this museum, one hundred interviews across the nation, it was always about the Town of Eatonville. Thanks Dr. Candace Finley, LaDwyana Jordan, and Ms. Angela Johnson for coming to the May 21st meeting, we stopped them from voting to make a recommendation, we got to go on the record. The criteria was a misdirection, the historical significance and appropriateness of the site, they chose a former slave plantation on a two lane road on the outermost edge of the town with no roads, lighting, and drainage, which is what they chose for the State's Black History Museum, not appropriate. Black folks do not go to museums on former slave plantations. I received one comment from one or two of the council members asking why the town and leadership were not engaged, there were probably five or six face-to-face meetings last year going back as far as September. The lesson learned here is to work with your legislative leaders if you really want to get something in the town (referenced the March 1st letter that was sent to the governor, to the speaker, and the Senate President which included 49 pages of recommendation). The museum was already designed and ready to go. If this proposal had been submitted (Bruce Anton's proposal), you probably would have pulled it off.

Joyce Irby - Yielded Time To Angela Johnson

Angela Johnson - Black History Museum Thank to the Council of the Town for funding the trip for Dr. Candace Finley, LaDwyana Jordan, and myself to travel to St. Augustine. Hold your heads up, stay positive and not feel defeated. Um, I wanted to make a couple of comments quickly about what was just discussed from the code enforcement officer. My question. I know he said he's doing different campaigns on commercial vehicles that are parked. Code Enforcement-in residential areas, please ensure that it is in the code about commercial vehicles without signage that are parked every night in their lawns, only a certain percentage of landscaped yard can be covered with vehicles. In Catalina Park, there are a number of properties that probably exceeds the allotted amount of available space that can be parked on. Code enforcement does not address what is on the streets, challenge, Chief of Police and EPD staff to drive the streets and get those vehicles off the streets, On Sunday, the Maitland Fire Department and Rescue was called because someone was burning behind their home on the Amador Circle. And the fire truck had a problem getting around the curve, it was a relative that had a vehicle part there. Also the tire company is collecting money for disposal of tires, it is an eyesore on the main street (is it a code violation). Council should want the main street to look better. The questions about code enforcement findings; dilemmas and how they are being addressed?, homes were not built for multiple generations and do not see that the town should feel that they have to resolve. If there is not enough parking spaces for the multigeneration to reside in a home, maybe they need to create a wider driveway, to park vehicles in our lawns where oil is leaking into the aquifer and not knowing the long term health effects (should be made a priority); Request an update from Mr. Pressley on the status of the expired contract (as of June 30th) with HostDime, section eight of the original contract is probably still enforceable, which is the project completion and forced sale.

APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE Consent Agenda;

COMMENTS: Approving the Town Council Meeting Minutes for June 18, 2024, and the Orange County Library System (OCLS) 2nd Renewal of Lease Agreement For Eatonville Library; **Moved** Councilwoman Randolph; **Second** Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Approval of Reimbursement of Legal Fees **Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE** Reimbursement of Legal Fees; **Moved** Councilman Mack; **Second** Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE:** Mayor Angie Gardner, Vice Mayor Theo Washington, Councilman Tarus Mack, **NAYE:** Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Rodney Daniels; **MOTION PASSES. Discussion/Comments:** Reimbursement include all legal fees (past/owed), travel, and lodging (\$2,513.71), (Randolph) According to the Florida Commissions on Ethics, retaining an attorney was not necessary, if any reimbursement is provided, it should be for legal fees only. (Legal) According to the Supreme Court and case law, public officials are entitled to representation if it arises out of or in connection

with the performance of their official duties and serves the public purpose. (Question/Concern) What the procedure should be is the least amount of money it costs to pay out whether out of pocket or out of the town's pocket. Define public purpose; (Legal) there is no definition, if the action is within their official duties, if the first factor is satisfied, then the second factor is usually satisfied, the action is not for a personal purpose. (Gardner) to clarify the reimbursement, what is being asked is for the town to reimburse the fees, it says that that the complainant reimburse the fees. If the complainant feels compelled to only reimburse the legal costs, the please reimburse the town, but the request is for the town to make certain that all fees reimbursed and the remaining due to the attorney is paid. **For clarity of motion**, the motion is for all associated cost with the legal fees.

Approval of Resolution 2024-22 Allowing Use of the Eatonville Community Pool for A Back-To-School Giveaway (Preamble Read) **Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE** Resolution 2024-22 Allowing Use of the Eatonville Community Pool for A Back-To-School Giveaway; **Moved** Councilman Mack; **Second** Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Comments:** Event will take place on July 20, 2024 from 12-4 p.m. This is not a rental. It will be held during the regular operational times of the pool. Open to the public.

REPORTS:

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley – Thanks to Mayor and Council for prayers and the resolutions sent to family, appreciate the support of the staff that stood in the gap to make sure everything was still in operation in my absence while handling family matters; the stakeholders meetings are the fourth Monday of every month (cancelled during the Mayor's State of the Town. Grants- the police grant has been approved to proceed forward with the funding, the \$5.9 grant is in the queue, all information is submitted. For the upcoming stakeholders (Encourage citizens to come out), discussions will take place about moving the current water plant station to a different site where there will be more capacity to grow (included in the grant), the \$4.1 and \$2 million HUD grant is moving along good with 52 deliverable items that have to be processed (halfway through those items). Streetscape- a small streetscape improvement was completed and will talk more about more improvement opportunities through grants and CDBG funding (to finish our landscape improvement to include the major corridor). Storm Season-In the process of finalizing items for the storm season which includes ditch and drainage cleaning, the public works teams went to several pre-planning events that take place in the county and with Duke Energy, the storm season runs through November, will make sure literature for storm readiness preparation is provided. Events- The Back-to-School event is collaborative; the Veterans Expo Event was the first inaugural expo at the boys and girls club, had a minimum of 15 different vendors, the VA was able to sign up about 12 veterans, thanks to the town for support. (Update from Chief Murray) will have a process for golf carts to include registration, video training video, a sticker to be provided, received feedback and support from other cities to run the process effectively. Tournament- there is an upcoming karate tournament sponsored with another group to be located at the Boys and Girls Club (July 26), kids will participate in sparring and martial arts, the guest speaker will be the Chief of Clermont (Chief Broadway), there is an inaugural midnight basketball to take place at the boys and girls club from 9pm to 12am., officers will be present with other supporting agencies to play ball and relate with participants, with the next 60 days, want to provide information and techniques towards crime prevention to the houses and businesses. Pool- held on June 20th, lessons from the world's largest swimming lesson group with over 40 individuals from the community getting closer to becoming expert swimmers, have Wade in the Water Wednesdays for the senior citizens with is separate from the regular normal hours, working with the Orange County Fire Department to possibly put together a pickleball contest. Code enforcement-. Thank Mr. Baruti for providing updates on the efforts and continued work with code enforcement. Sidewalks improvements- close to authorizing procurement to proceed forward, want to ensure identified areas. Risk Management- there is one claim for a sidewalk trip and fall. Garbage Pickup-RFP is about ready, being reviewed by legal before it is put out for procurement, will have meetings for citizens to be a part of the conversation.

Museum- Mr. Pressley have spoken with several representatives along with Representative Antone, the next session will take place in March, will consider the feasibility portion of the criteria, where our strength lies in our sustainability and feasibility of the museum being in the historic Town of Eatonville. **HostDime-** the developers agreement ended in 2020 with an amendment back in the early part of this year that allowed for an amendment of the completion date, which was June 30th, 2024, they are not complete, they have completed the water portion receiving the proper bacterial test needed to proceed with that, they have not completed the landscaping, the final seal of approval, and there is interior construction areas to finish. The main structure is complete. Fall is the expected time for final completion, will need direction from council on how we would like to proceed forward with an agreement (section eight of the original agreement), an amendment was done to the date with no changes to the full developer's agreement. Pressley will send over a copy if desired by council to review it with feedback and directions on how to proceed forward. And I can also prepare for, uh, to see if we can have the property owner come to the next meeting to give a question, need to be revisit for further extension, otherwise there is no contract, a walk through has been extended pending a date.

ATTORNEY: Ryan Knight – No Report, once we get direction (HostDime), we will be able to either negotiate an extension or whatever the council would like to do.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Angie Gardner – Thanks to Chief Murray and Mr. Pressley. Acknowledged, the midnight basketball and diversification of things to do in the town for the youth, went to the Juneteenth celebration at the Eatonville Cemetery, the Veterans Expo, congratulations on the formal installation for Reverend Critton, the museum is something always desired before we knew about the state museum, we want to see this process through, Eatonville is the best site for the museum, especially the first one in the state. (Pressley) There are two events coming up, the senior citizens are doing an event at the Denton Johnson Center, July 6, from noon to 5pm, in the evening, there will be a farmer's market, the first farmers market hosted by 1887.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS-

Councilman Tarus Mack – Hopefully, HostDime will be completed by the fall, because there is no contract, we may need a special meeting to put one in place. (To legal) Are there any lawsuits? No new lawsuits. Acknowledged individuals planning the Back-to-School and Farmer's market; addressed the 41 Lincoln septic issue, something should have been approved, there are so family dynamics, Pressley will follow up with the public works director tomorrow morning and send an email to the council as to the resolution. **Waste connection**-having problems with this company for some time, not picking up and leaving trash on the ground, contract is up in September, we could get to another solution and find someone else (company). Thanks to Representative Bruce Antone for his efforts in helping to facilitate bringing the museum to the town, getting a museum will be educational for our kids and surrounding counties. Acknowledged Mr. Pressley with prayers of strength for the family and others experiencing death in the family and the community; acknowledged Ms. Francis Sealey and the seniors event (Unity in the Community), doing a tremendous job with the seniors, encourage seniors to get involved, recognized Mr. Baruti for the efforts within Code Enforcement, want to consider during budget time getting help for Mr. Baruti, (Pressley - Budget workshop is scheduled for July 29 – August 1); apologize for absence at last meeting, was traveling with son who earned himself a D1 scholarship, proud of his efforts in the classroom and on the field.

Councilman Rodney Daniels – To Chief Murray, a great job on the family program, would like for the town to get a portable audio system, speaker was not loud enough to hear the presentation, (Chief Murray - a system will be donated from the church); thanks for the efforts towards the speed bumps; would like to schedule a meeting with Representative Antone;

Councilwoman Randolph – There is a School drive on August 5th for the Hungerford School, there is a list of supplies needed; the 4th of July event is great and takes place on July 6, come out and bring the family; good recommendation about bringing pickleball courts, it is a growing sport; Mr. Pressley, thank you for the information and updates on code enforcement; observed on the internet a lawsuit of some type involving a trip and fall from someone who was here in the community, request an update, (Mr. Pressley in response), as

mentioned earlier the trip and fall goes through risk management, with our current insurance through FMIT, it has been closed, will follow up with Mrs. Nichole to see if there is an update. Acknowledged events such as Eatonville Cemetery, the banquet, and others, gave thanks to the planning committees. Code Enforcement-inquired as to if there were two positions approved Code Enforcement (there is only one position); thanks to Representative Bruce Antone, Ms. Johnson, and others that traveled to Tallahassee and spoke on behalf of the town.

Vice Mayor Theo Washington – Great job, we are on the move, with the events going on this weekend, Ms. Sealey’s evets are always great, with plenty of food, and vendors, looking forward to the night farmers market: need to do something about the A/C at the Denton Johnson, we charge people to use the Denton Johnson, so what are we doing? (Pressley) I can update before the budget, but because it is not approved, will need to find funds and currently waiting on the final numbers to determine if it can be done this budget year or during the next budget cycle, there was some improvement done, but this time of the year is tough.

(To Attorney) there are no pending lawsuits against the town, none that the firm is aware of for the town or the police department, it might be through the town’s insurance.(Pressley) There are two lawsuits that are going through the insurance. Form 1 – deadline to complete the form has been extended for elected officials for July 15.

(Councilman Mack) To Mr. Pressley, in the future with anything dealing with or pending litigation or lawsuits, when asked the question, share information that legal may not know about to ensure there is a full understanding to council.

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **Moved** by Councilman Mack; **Second** by Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:41 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

APPROVED

Veronica L King, Town Clerk

Angie Gardner, Mayor