



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

REGULAR COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 6, 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.*

CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM:

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

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

STAFF: (5) Demetrius Pressley, **Interim Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Clifford Shepard, **Attorney**, Joseph Jenkins, **Deputy Chief**, Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director**

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Bishop Charles Bargaineer led the Prayer of Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Mayor Gardner Motions to approve agenda adding a budget adjustment for Public Works Capital Improvement and moving items #2, Memorandum of Understanding for the Juneteenth Weekend Celebration and #3, Award of Bid for Eatonville Town Hall Roof & HVAC Replacement to 1st Class Roofing; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; Second by Councilman Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITION –

READING OF PROCLAMATION: Proclamation for National League of Cities Small Cities Month June 2023 was read by Mayor Gardner.

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

Ryan Novak – Inquired about the budget being available on the website and gave recommendation for Council Chambers to be upgraded to a digital setup with efficient technically; he is available to discuss further. Mr. George Williams withdrew his public participation.

APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA: **Mayor Gardner Motions** to approve the consent agenda (Items #1 and #4) approving the Town Council Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023 and the Duke Energy Easement (235 Park Pl); Moved by Councilman Washington; Second by Councilman M. Daniels; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Mayor Gardner motions for approval Request Approval of Memorandum of Understanding for the Juneteenth Weekend Celebration, Between Esteamed Learning Inc / Eatonville Juneteenth Committee and the Town of Eatonville; Moved by Councilman Washington; Second by Councilman M. Daniels with discussion; **Discussion:** (Randolph) Highly support but have concerns about the planning and MOU asking the town to pay \$10,000 towards the event (\$10, 000 covers the cost for the MOT, Public Safety, and for General services).

Details were not presented ahead of time (MOU was received around May 18th and reviewed by legal) Staff met with the planning committee and determined that the town would cover the parade which covers the public services and public safety. (Legal: confirmed that this is a proper way to vet an event through a MOU and with a budget adjustment; however, it is not the only way.) **Breakdown/ Confirmations:** Insurance has been established, the cost estimate/formula used for public safety and public services for the MLK Parade was applied to the event, there is no conflict of interest in the vote for Councilwoman Randolph (as a partner) due to there being no personal financial benefit. Further Concern: Recall that there would be no financial cost to the town; the financial portion is not part of the MOU, the cost is an incurred cost resulting from the town handling the parade that requires the MOT, public safety, and public services (Council will have to vote their desires). There is a concern regarding the \$25,000 budget line item to be used for funding; do not recall this amount being presented in the budget hearing (Gibson stated the funds were part of the MLK and RWJF, located in the reserve). Tiffany Simmons (was invited to the podium to provide answers and clarity to matters surrounding the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration (\$200,000 budget was never stated; \$25-30,000 was a possibly budget stated. As part of the partnership, the town stated that it would cover the MOT, Public safety, and public services); June 16-19, 2023. Can possibly adjust the numbers to reduce the costs. Cost will cover thirteen officers with overtime pay and three public work workers. There will be no field activities; the field was not available through OCPS. Concerned with how taxpayers are being used when there are budget issues. This is not a town event; must not show favoritism. **AYE:** Mayor Gardner; Councilman Washington; Councilwoman Wanda Randolph; **NAYE:** Councilman M. Daniels; Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels; **MOTION PASS.**

Mayor Gardner motions for approval Award of Bid for Eatonville Town Hall Roof & HVAC Replacement to 1st Class Roofing, Inc.; This item went through the full procurement process; within 30 days, there were no other bids that met the criteria. Moved by Councilman Washington; Second by Councilman M. Daniels with discussion; **Discussion:** Previously bid separately; prices were not good. CPH Engineering produced specifications, because the current ACs, structures, stabilizations were down improperly, both the roof and HVAC need to be done simultaneously at a better cost. Bid prices before Council are within the market value. Recommend seeking bids for another 30 days, do a cost comparison, **AYE:** Mayor Gardner **NAYE:** Councilman Washington; Councilman M. Daniels; Councilwoman Wanda Randolph; Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels; **MOTION FAILS. Request:** The Council requests a rebid for 30 days.

Mayor Gardner motions for approval of Town of Eatonville Organizational Chart and New Proposed Personnel Changes for FY 2022-23 Budget; Previously discussed and brought back for Council decision. Is there any merit to the email received that spoke to having budgetary requirements in place first before securing the recommended positions; only two positions (Chief of Staff and Human Resource Coordinator) will be included in this budget cycle, the changes you see are the results of what Council requested during the previous workshop and consistent with the Charter. Chief of Staff salary will be covered at a 65% on the CRA side and 35% on the town side. (Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; Second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE:** Mayor Gardner; Councilman M. Daniels **NAYE:** Councilman Washington; Councilman M. Daniels; Councilwoman Wanda Randolph; Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels; **MOTION FAILS. Request:** Human Resources Job Description.

Mayor Gardner motions for approval of Confirmation of the Hiring of Mr. Demetris Pressley as the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the Town Of Eatonville; Moved by Councilwoman Wanda Randolph; Second by Councilman M. Daniels with discussion; **Discussion: (M. Daniels)** Do not have adequate information to move forward with the confirmation; requesting to table. **AYE:** Mayor Gardner **NAYE:** Councilman Washington; Councilman M. Daniels; Councilwoman Wanda Randolph; Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels; **MOTION FAILS.**

2nd Motion: Councilman M. Daniels motions to TABLE confirmation of the Hiring of Mr. Demetris Pressley as the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the Town Of Eatonville to future date within 30 days; Moved by Councilman Washington; Second by Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels; **AYE:** Councilman Washington; Councilman M. Daniels; Councilwoman Wanda Randolph; Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels; **NAYE:** Mayor Gardner; **MOTION PASS.**

Mayor Gardner motions for approval of Confirmation of the Hiring of Valarie Mundy as the Director of Public Work & Utilities for The Town of Eatonville; Moved by Councilwoman Wanda Randolph; Second by Councilman M. Daniels with discussion; (M. Daniels) take the same position as stated with the previous confirmation; (Washington) Do not see any public works experience; candidate has experience in drainage and right-of-way. Salary range starting at \$82,000. (Randolph) Candidate has three current positions; concerned about level of commitment to the town. Valerie Mundy was asked to speak about her experience/credentials; experience in public works in the area of drainage engineering, land development review process, consultant for a number of land development companies doing drainage, sewage, and water. Projects/positions indicated on the resume are completed with the exception of New City Infrastructure as principal engineer. (Would be committed to the town if given the opportunity); **AYE:** Mayor Gardner **NAYE:** Councilman Washington; Councilman M. Daniels; Councilwoman Wanda Randolph; **MOTION FAILS.**

2nd Motion: Councilman M. Daniels motions to **TABLE** confirmation of the Hiring of Valarie Mundy as the Director of Public Work & Utilities for The Town of Eatonville for 30 days; Moved by Councilman Washington; Second by Councilman M. Daniels; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

There was **no action** taken on the budget adjustment for Public Works Capital Improvement that was added to the agenda due to the failed motion for Award of Bid for Eatonville Town Hall Roof & HVAC Replacement to 1st Class Roofing, Inc.

REPORTS:

INTERIM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley

Updates were made on the West Kennedy water repair, mitigation of the I-4 project and funds that will affect the town, removed valve to isolate water for better control, clean out of the Park Place storm water pump, will look into reconvening the community stakeholders group to further discuss the resources presented by the IRC group, and the Crime Prevention Plan coordinated by the police department will take place on the June 15th (Flyer will go out). The town has two new hires; Public Works Service Worker and the Planner I. Reminder that the State of the County will take place this Friday.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Clifford Shepard – Ask by the Executive Director of the CRA to handle the eviction of the Dixon property (process started today); Charter Review will start next week (A memo has been provided with recommendations for sections 1 & 2 as guideline to consider; recommendations are not a limitation to what can be brought to the table for discussion.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS-

Councilman M. Daniels – Notice in the budget \$5,000 for scholarships, where do we stand on giving out scholarships. Have been requesting documents that can't be found; requesting for CAO to search out three companies that offer services to recover documents and analysis emails/IT System (requesting three quotes within 30 days), Documents are missing on both the CRA and Town side; the IT company would be able to do the necessary research to retrieve documents. Need to consider having a backup process in place. Need to address matter with Mr. Julius Dix.

Councilwoman W. Randolph – No Report

Councilman T. Washington – Closure of West Kennedy: what happen that there was only a one-way traffic established; it was established under the MOT plan. Bear sighting: Lake Lovely has a bear.

Vice Mayor R. Daniels – Inquired about the water leak/drainage, floors in the lobby look nice, where are we with the water meter replacement (Money were allocated through the former administration), Money was also allocated for bands, requesting an update from Mayor or CAO. Hurricane Season: to prevent flooding, recommend removing some of the water from lake behind Catalina Park.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Angie Gardner – Congratulations on the opening up of the Thomas Academy, the Community 100 Super Organization has supported the law enforcement officers (had a nice luncheon), Concerning the \$5,000 scholarship money, will look into it. (Another resource: Travel & Leisure gives four-year scholarships). There is an egg smell coming down Kennedy Blvd (unsure of where it is coming from). Documents missing: Mrs. King spoke with Councilman M. Daniels concerning pending requests; Councilman M. Daniels will forward all previous requests to determine what requests have come to the Clerk’s office and directly to other departments, from there a comparison can be done to determine pending/open requests. (Requested information on CAO, CRA, Public Works, and Chief of Police to include Offer Letters, etc.).

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; Moved by Councilman Washington; Second by Councilman M. Daniels; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 9:06 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Veronica L King, Town Clerk

APPROVED

Angie Gardner, Mayor