

TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
December 20, 2022

**PRESENT:** Mayor Angie Gardner, Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels, Councilman Marlin Daniels, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, and Councilman Theo Washington. **STAFF:** Jacob Schumer, **Town Attorney**, Randy Singh, **Chief Administrative Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Eric McIntyre, **Lieutenant**, Albert English, **Public Works Director** and Katrina Gibson, **Finance 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 with noted change;** Under Reports, Chief Administrative Officer should not be identified as Interim; **moved by Councilman Washington; second by Councilwoman Randolph AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

**PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:**

Mayor Gardner presented a Resolution of Recognition to Pastor Ronald Critton for his 17<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary; also verbally recognized and appreciated him as the Chaplain for the Town of Eatonville (A picture was taken with Town Council). In Addition, Mayor Gardner read into the record a Resolution of Recognition in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Florida Association of City Clerk (FACC); also verbally recognized and appreciated Ms. King for her improvements and commitment to getting the job done since acclimating into the role as Town Clerk.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - THREE (3) MINUTES STRICTLY ENFORCED.**

Mayor Gardner called for Citizen Participation; with (4) participating citizens.

JOHN BEACHAM – (Hungerford Property) Want land back, not against development. Desire developments where people can deposit money in the town without having to live in Eatonville; through cultural, history, and art. Everyday people come to visit PEC.

CHRISTI ROMNEY (*OPTED TO NOT SPEAK*)

MILLIARD LIVATT JR. – (Hungerford Property) Trying to learn things to better assist the town. Concerning the contract between Orange County Public School and the Town of Eatonville, it appears out of the 4 million dollars the town will receive, some of the money will have to be paid back for maintenance of the property. How much will we actually receive once the land is sold, if profits are expected to be paid back for maintenance. Seeking answers and clarity.

RYAN NOVAK – (Hungerford Property) Want to understand further about what happened with the Hungerford property. After research, there is no case of taking back the land. In 1951, the land was sold legally, 1974 part of the land was sold for highway and retention pond, 2009 the trust was compensated \$1 million to lift the final deed restrictions of the property. Maybe consider coming up with a way to purchase the land back. (Pickleball) – Request for review of the previously pickleball proposal; six (6) total to be installed on the current tennis courts. Spoke with Mr. English about the mountainous speed bumps that are scrapping vehicles; ask to reassess them speed bumps.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Approving Town Council Meeting Minutes for December 6, 2022 and November 28, 2022; also approving the extension for the Utilization of Vacation Accumulations for Employees. **Motion for approval Consent Agenda;** moved by Councilman Theo Washington; second by Vice

Mayor R. Daniels with correction on the minutes (for December 6, 2022 Meeting). Correct Betsy Mae Johnson to read Gussie Mae Johnson; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

### **COUNCIL DECISIONS:**

**Motion for approval of Resolution 2022-68 for Appointment of TOECRA Chair** (The Preamble was read by Clerk); **Discussion:** Vice Mayor R. Daniels recommends Angie Gardner as the Chair. **Motion for approval of Resolution 2022-68 naming Mayor Angie Gardner as the TOECRA Chair;** moved by Councilman Washington; second by Vice Mayor R. Daniels; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

**Motion for approval of Resolution 2022-69 for Appointment of TOECRA Vice Chair** (The Preamble was read by Clerk); **Discussion:** Councilman Washington recommends Rodney Daniels as the Vice-Chair. **Motion for approval of Resolution 2022-69 naming Vice-Mayor Rodney Daniels as the TOECRA Vice- Chair;** moved by Councilwoman Randolph; second by Councilman Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:** (Randy Singh) Have many challenges before us. (Finance/Infrastructure) Observations: no financial strategy for addressing the town's needs, no sufficient funding for crisis, and no sufficient human resources to address needs. Grant funding to address short falls; there are no guarantees with the condition of the town's finances. There have been audit deficiencies for decades. Intend to bring solutions; want to bring to the board for consideration to hiring a temporary CPA before the next audit begins. Objective is to have a clean audit. Developments are coming; town's water, sewer, and wastewater is unable to accommodate some of the major developments. Received notification from the city of Altamonte that there will be a cap on the volume we provide for processing of wastewater and sewer; they are running out of capacity. How do we fund, not by grants alone but through impact fees to developers as another source of revenue. The fire service contract is escalating at a rate that is not sustainable. EPF need additional officers; the current rate makes up about 50% of the operating budget. We need reliable sources of revenue. There are no service fees for police and fire. The amount the residents pay should be subsidized by the developers fees. A fair fee study was done and after review, it is with hopes to bring back at a future date. (Town Hall) building has no A/C or heat, roof is leaking, and concerned about the air quality; need to provide a safe environment for employees. (Boards) Need to reactivate the Code Enforcement Board; was deactivated prior to covid. (Solutions) To develop short- and long-range financial model, develop a five-year capital improvement plan, develop a funding stream to support the capital plan and the growth of the organization; through impact and user fees, not raise taxes. Met with Integrity Group, not impressed with presentation. However, this group is well connected with D.C. and the state to bring certain types of grants to the town. Would like to bring the Integrity Group back for a more formal presentation to discuss their offerings at no cost to the town. If we want grants, we have to go after them versus waiting on a notification; must be proactive. Before any full contract is executed, it will come before council to discuss the details. Bottomline, we have a revenue and infrastructure issue that needs addressing.

**LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** (Jacob Schumer) No Report

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Councilwoman Wanda Randolph** – Deepest sympathy to Town Clerk in the passing of her mother; acknowledge her continued work under the circumstances (Card were provided). Reflecting on the CAO's report, it can not be business as usual; need to do things on a different level. Referenced Waypoint development; town is unable to support with insufficient income. As a town person, we need to be better informed and trained concerning ordinances, readings, special exceptions, and land use developments in order to be prepared to vote. Mr. Tommy Dixon passed; keep family in prayer. Merry Christmas.

**Councilman Theo Washington** – Condolences to the King family. (Developments) We have to be a strong body when it comes to developments; they will impact our waterlines, fire services, police services and streets. If people want to build in the town, they must pay the price. Have to implement impact fees. Need a water rate study; rates should go up (pay for what you use). Happy Holidays.

**Councilman Marlin Daniels** – Happy Holidays. Acknowledged the thoroughness of the CAO's report having facts. We all want the best for the town; have to get our house in order. (Hungerford) Had many opportunities to

purchase the land; unable to buy due to decades of financial problems in the town. (Impact Fees) Support impact fees. Policy, Procedures and Accountability is needed. CAO has been turning around document requests quickly; need competent people in place. There are major IT issues to be addressed; should be automatic. Requesting update on the Chief of Police; public safety is important. This weekend, there will be additional toys, bikes, and gift cards to give out. Requesting an update on the Zora Fest 2023.

**Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels** – Condolences to the Clerk and family. Met with Mr. Singh and was amazed at the conversation; encouraged to know that the newly hired CAO is putting the town on the right track. We are passionate about the town and must show the public that we can get along. The Vice Mayor appointment is made by the Mayor and that Vice Mayor should be the Vice Chair of the CRA board. Merry Christmas.

**Mayor Angie Gardner** – Condolences again to the clerk. Enjoyed the King of Glory event. Code Enforcement, Adjustment Board, and other boards need to be filled; asked residents to consider serving on a board. Reach out to the Town Clerk for more information. Watched the pickleball tournament; looks fun. The Waypoint Development previously mentioned is an old development; the company pulled out. Check through the CAO to verify accuracy of information to avoid miscommunication; there is no Waypoint development. Concerning CRA Vice Chair appointment, it is ok to float the seat where everyone can have experience as the Vice Chair. Protected the CRA because the grant was tied to the CRA and was reimbursable; there are no intentions on harming the town. Concerning the Police Chief, interviews have been conducted and we do have a plan in mind; requesting more time to provide an update. Yielded to Mr. Singh to communicate the Christmas holiday hours; town hall will be closed for business on Friday and Monday. (Council Washington) Concerning Mental Health, please get help.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn, moved by Councilman M. Daniels; seconded by Councilman Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. MEETING ADJOURNED** at: 8:37PM.

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

**APPROVED**

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**Veronica L King, Town Clerk**

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**Angie Gardner, Mayor**