



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 2, 2024, AT 07:30 PM

Cover Sheet

****NOTE**** Please do not change the formatting of this document (font style, size, paragraph spacing etc.)

ITEM TITLE: Approval of Reimbursement of Legal Fees (**Legislative**)

TOWN COUNCIL ACTION:

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, AND PRESENTATIONS		Department: LEGISLATIVE
PUBLIC HEARING 1ST / 2ND READING		Exhibits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reimbursement Summary Memo• Invoices/Billings• Townplace Suites Receipt• Google Maps Travel Distance Page w/ Calculation
CONSENT AGENDA		
COUNCIL DECISION	YES	
ADMINISTRATIVE		

REQUEST: Request for approval of reimbursement of legal fees.

SUMMARY: In an ethics complaint filed by Councilwoman/Director Wanda Randolph, it was alleged that Mayor Angie Gardner, while serving as the Chair of the Town of Eatonville Community Redevelopment Agency (TOECRA), corruptly misused her public position; thus, violating Section 215.425, Florida Statutes. On June 7, 2024, the State of Florida Commission on Ethics concluded that the complaint showed “no probable cause” and dismissed the case. As a result of this investigation, personal funds were spent to retain a lawyer as representative of the mayor and then, TOECRA Chair Angie Gardner. Because there was no probable cause, the case was dismissed, payout was made at the opinion of legal representatives at the time, reimbursement of the funds is being requested. It was also during this time that every effort was being made to have TIF funds released back to the TOECRA and this matter may have jeopardized the release of those funds and therefore caused further delay in creating programs that would help the citizens in the town.

RECOMMENDATION: Funds are paid by the complainant so that the taxpayers do not have to carry the burden of this cost; however, should the complainant choose not to pay the funds, then the town reimburses the costs.

FISCAL & EFFICIENCY DATA: 001-0511-511.5900 Miscellaneous Expenses for the Reimbursement