



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 7:30 PM

Town Hall – 307 E. Kennedy Blvd.

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 7:35 p.m. and a quorum was established by Mrs. King

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

STAFF: (5) Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Ryan Knight, **Town Attorney**, Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director**, 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 adding the PEC Presentation (continuation from workshop); **Moved** by Councilwoman Randolph; **Second** by Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

PRESENTATIONS – (2)

PEC Presentation - (Presenter: NY Nathiri) – Received approval from Orange County a Blockbuster Project (Eatonville Rising), required in 2027 to deliver no less than 50,000 people to the Town of Eatonville and Orange County (3 yrs); It is restricted to marketing and events and is a \$1.3 million dollar allocation from the Tourist Development Tax (TDT), this is not a festival template and prohibited to use the festival model, there will be no streets closed, requesting to rent the lot that the CRA owns for a year to bring a commission exhibition which will require police services, will pay for rental and police services, this is an effort to help build the human infrastructure, cultural heritage tourism, there is a \$750 stipend that will be given to people who are in training, one part of the appropriation and contract is Orange County TDT that is restricted to only marketing and the event planning for one year, reporting is required on semi-annual basis, this is not a matching grant, \$600,000 was brought to the table from a letter of engagement from a fundraising group, these dollars will pay for the rental of the CRA, for police services, and for the commissioning of the work, it is important that we are able to show deliverables and that the Town of Eatonville and its government is fully engaged and supporting, soliciting for referrals of one person from each council member that will do the work (like an ambassador), person must be willing to go to school and go on the field trips, this is big responsibility. (The PowerPoint will be sent to the Town Council)

Duke Energy Neighborhood Energy Saver Program - (Presenter Melvin Philpot) – Bringing to the greater Eatonville area, called the Neighborhood Energy Saver, a program designed to go into income eligible neighborhoods and install up to 21 free home improvements, will educate the households by identifying energy efficiency techniques and best practices, looking to change the way residents think about using

energy and to help them to control energy usage, there is no Duke Energy criteria, have adopted the State of Florida's guidelines, the program aligns with the same programs that the State of Florida have, the program will do single family homes, apartments, homeowners and renters are also eligible with the requirement that they customers of Duke Energy and they live in the designated area, have identified 913 customers (will be in the area for about 8-9 weeks), will begin a notification campaign having intel on every resident in the area, will send out a package of information in January, February 11, 2025 is the community kickoff located at the Denton Johnson Center (food will be provided), Town Council will be invited to come and share words about their impression of the program, one of the featuring installs is the smart thermostats, will install in every resident's home that want them, they will be able to control their temperature from their phone, there are a total of 21 different items that can be installed, will share information at the Stakeholders Meeting on January 27, this is a great opportunity for energy savings and improvements to the homes at no cost.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – (0)

APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE the Consent Agenda approving Town Council Meeting Minutes (October 1), Resolution 2024-23 appointment of an Alternate Board Member (John Beachum) to the Historic Preservation Board, and approval of the Engineering Program Manager for the FDEP Water and Sewer Improvements Project; **Moved by** Councilman Mack; **Second by** Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

COUNCIL DECISIONS: (No Action Items under Council Decisions)

REPORTS:

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley – 2024 newsletter is available; working on the MLK parade; great job in the clerk's office with completing the new record's room and bringing in the record's coordinator, continuing efforts in introducing the community to the TextMyGov option for communication; working towards the Community Change Grant with public works and pending information; meeting on the DRG program with HUD (\$2mil and \$4.1mil); The Vereen Grant has begun the planning and design phases of the project; the SRF Funding (approved tonight) is getting ready to take off; have updated the status with the procurement process to make sure that all items are covered and ensure that the information is available for the council to review; submitted for the community policing grant an amendment to cover the community policing facility, need to schedule a community charrette with the Catalina Park, this is in the process of being procured, planned, designed, and constructed; working with the \$5.9 grant, waiting on the engineering approval of the engineering services; the municipal impact fees will take place in January; the water sewer impact fees is in review with Ms. Valerie Mundy and the Florida Rural Water; have started reviewing documentations for the stormwater master plan and rate study, can adjust to the tax base versus through the water bills; the rate study has been complete, the implementation phases and the communication PR side is taking place where Ms. Valerie Mundy, Public Works, and Utilities are preparing letters to send to commercial and residential providers to make aware of the changes within the water rates; have the ARPA funds with usage of about 70 percent, still have 30 percent left, Mrs. Gibson is working to identify other projects left to utilize those funds or to put towards future projects; the CDBG Grant with the county for 370 East Kennedy (known as the CRA building) is pending items from the county in order to proceed forward, looking into architectural layout for that facility; an update on the solid waste management was provided, working on some communication and education programs for rethinking waste and to make sure that the residents, the solid waste had some larger pickups that exceeds such a size of our town, need educate on what goes towards recycling, solid waste dates for the holidays, will not run on Christmas and New Year's day, all the other days will continue with the normal schedule; the recreation department is doing a great job, putting together a comprehensive report on programs that are operating and the upcoming programs; Thursday is the Christmas on the Boulevard event in collaboration with the elementary school, Town Council is asked to inform Ms. Brittany Gragg of attendance so that accommodations can be

made; the day after (Christmas on the Boulevard) is the Movie on the Lawn courtesy of the recreation and police department; gave appreciation to staff, especially the finance team, public works, and the police department who works diligently and assist with many things; the police department has a new vehicle that was donated to the town and rewrapped at a discount rate; working to finalize the homeless or unsheltered epidemic taking place in central Florida with the county, waiting on the final process because there is now Florida statutes that prohibits certain activities with homelessness are unsheltered; have a few new team members that have joined the team, Llewella Francis (utility billing), Nicole Drenzo (Record's Coordinator), Tynisha Dunnell (Public Works), Dominique Taylor (Public Works), Perisha Johnson (Recreation), and Ms. Kennedy (Part-time Staff); year end report will be provide to town council for review and comments; back in July, there was a study and a document produced by legal for the logo, waiting direction from the town council on how to proceed forward; Thanks to the council for the opportunity to serve, working diligently to ensure that the staff is operating at a high level, there were comments made about morale of the staff, met with each department and the majority of the staff stated that they enjoy working for the town, there were concerns about comments made from town council towards staff that was disgruntling, working to make sure town council have the proper information needed to ensure there is no fallback to staff that can be misleading from this dais, will continue to work on ourselves and make sure we do all we can to serve the mayor and the counsel in the best of our abilities.

ATTORNEY: Ryan Knight –There was a lawsuit filed last month; it was a refile of a previous lawsuit that was filed in April of this year regarding a sidewalk issue with someone claiming injuries.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS -

Councilman Tarus Mack – Looking forward to the Christmas on the Boulevard holiday event; congratulations to PEC on their grant received from Orange County; congratulations to all the new employees; thanks to Mr. Pressley for your professionalism and your leadership.

Councilman Rodney Daniels – Request update on Mr. English the young man who wanting to purchase property, asked to close out information on what he needs to purchase the land or if he is unable to do so; appreciate the recycling program, always wanted a recycling program to help our citizens to know what to recycle, would like a program that will incentify recycling for our community, will always fight for this community, every dime needs to be held accountable; with special events, what is the return on the investment, are the events making an impact, will forever support fees, permits, and what is needed to help take care of our community; will be fine with whatever is being sold as long as an organization pay their money, fulfill their obligation with the application, pay their dues except for it being done at town hall where business is conducted, this is hollow ground; If helping a nonprofit and money is raised, to show me you care by using the money to put a roof on someone's home, helping the non-sheltered; request an update on the post office, ok with making the \$17,000 work, do not want the town going into a deficit again, making up the difference for salaries and whatever is needed to run the post office.

Councilwoman Wanda Randolph – Expressed concern about the memorandum received from the CAO (will discuss offline with Mr. Pressley), the letter is citing disruption and undue pressure on the administrative functions, information in the letter is not true, one incident was the result of helping a distressed resident about a plumbing issue, was making efforts to help, calm, and provide care to a person, did not go outside of the circle of authority; you can advise me, make recommendations, but as a council member I report to the people of Eatonville, if I see something urgent that needs care, I will see about the residents;

Vice Mayor Theo Washington – Expressed concerns with issues that have not addressed in 2024, why is the easement being held up, the sewage line on Lincoln has not be addressed; inquired about the golf cart signage, people need to know where golf carts can and cannot go; want to make things easier for citizens in 2025; would to further discuss the event situation, see what other cities are doing.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Angie Gardner – Congratulations to PEC; apologized to Mr. Dix for not getting back with him concerning the Bethune issue; this administration since 2022 to present has really broken many milestones, with pushing up to \$70 million dollars, and about to sign to \$34 million dollars can clear the capital improvement plan, the administration has been doing a super job; looking forward to the Duke Energy program, will help many people; in regards to the 34 million, the water is going to increase but without the increase the pipes cannot be fixed, one is going to help the other with hopes that everything will balance out just like the market economy; we are moving in the right direction at a tremendous speed; congratulations to Mr. Presley and the staff for all the work done, hoping to see in the next several months the rewards because the money is being put in place which is needed to get the much needed repairs done.

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **Moved** by Councilman Mack; **Second** by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:29pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

APPROVED

Veronica L King, Town Clerk

Angie Gardner, Mayor