



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 7:30 PM

Denton Johnson Center – 400 Ruffel Street, Eatonville, FL 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 Critton called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. and a quorum was established by Mrs. King.

PRESENT: (5) Councilman Tarus Mack, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilwoman LaDwyana Jordan, Vice Mayor Angela Thomas, Mayor Ruthi Critton

STAFF: (10) Marlin Daniels, **Chief Administrator Officer**; Veronica King, **Town Clerk**; Greg Jackson, **Interim Town Attorney**; Marissa Bellenger, **Deputy Town Clerk**; Chief Stanley Murray, **EPD**; Faith Woods, **Executive Assistant to the Mayor**; Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director**; Valerie Mundy, **Public Works Director**; Darius Washington, **Parks and Recreation Director**; Michael Johnson, **CRA Executive Director**

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Invocation through a moment of silence led by Mayor Critton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Mayor Critton MOTIONS to **APPROVE** the Agenda with **AMENDMENTS** to include the RFP discussion for Magistrate and Bruce and Winnie Mount from Council Workshop; and moving Consent Agenda items to Council Decisions. Mayor Critton clarified to that Consent Agenda items be moved to Council Decisions; confirming that Item C (Town of Eatonville Staff Reports) is an administrative item (not from Councilwoman Randolph); adding Discussions Section to the agenda to include Item #3 (Proposal RFP submitted By TG Law for Hire As The General Legal Services) and #4 (Request For Proposal (RFP) submitted Attorney Greg Jackson for Hire As Special Magistrate Services for Code Enforcement) as discussion items before making Council Decisions; the Bruce and Winnie Mount Scholarship will be addressed during the Town Clerk's report. **Moved** by Vice Mayor Thomas; **Second** by Councilwoman Randolph. **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation of HostDime with Updates on Construction – Mr. Daniels stated that the HostDime presentation will be moved to August 18th. Councilman Mack asked why he will not be in attendance and asked when Mr. Daniels received the news. Mr. Daniels - He did not give a reason. He stated that he will need to look up when Mr. Manny notified him of his absence. After searching, he stated that he was notified on July 27th. Councilman Mack asked why Council members were not notified. Councilwoman Jordan asked if the Council can do anything legally? Attorney Jackson - You cannot compel him to come to a meeting. Attorney Jackson referenced a CO and \$250 fines accumulating. Councilman Mack - This is becoming a major problem (project has taken 6 years). We need to put more stipulations on him. We have not seen Manny in over a year. Councilwoman Randolph proposed adding an addendum to the contract with HostDime. Councilman Mack

asked to be included on Manny's response to coming to the next Council meeting. Mr. Daniels - This is leading to business property rights. Attorney Jackson - Businesses have rights to use property the same way as individuals. However, money was given to the business for the completion of work.

Updates from the Dr. Phillips Charities pertaining to the Hungerford School Property – Dr. Maroon (Chair of Dr. Phillips Advisory Committee) gave a regular update to Council. Our meet and greet is tomorrow evening at Macedonia at 5p.m. It will begin with dinner and prayer then go into conversations. It will give the residents an opportunity to get to know the Dr. Phillips team and for them to ask questions. We look forward to having constructive conversations. Dr. Phillips Charities have submitted their TDT application. It is a public document and it is available on the TDT Advisory Task Force website. Tomorrow, the slide deck presentation will become available publicly. The proposal is for the Cultural Heritage Park and Eatonville museum. Dr. Phillips Charities included feedback from throughout the years to develop the Eatonville Museum concept. Councilman Mack - Thank you for being consistent and giving updates. I did have an opportunity to meet with Mr. Robinson. When do you anticipate on closing on the property? Dr. Maroon - This August. Councilwoman Jordan - Spoke on being denied when the Council asked for one of them to be on the advisory committee. I am one of the ones who have not met with you all. I still have my thoughts on the situation. There was a meeting today with SPLC. Do you know what happened? Dr. Maroon - We are not a party in that lawsuit. Councilwoman Jordan - Residents, be mindful that our request was denied. The Council is not being heard. Dr. Maroon - The advisory committee was seated in March/April. The Council's request came after and Dr. Phillips decided to keep their committee. Seats on the committee will rotate in 2-3 years. This conversation is part of the collaboration. Councilwoman Randolph - If you really want to work with the Town, I think that request should have been fulfilled. Dr. Maroon - There are 3 residents that are on the committee. I absolutely hear what you are saying but I want to make it clear that members of the community are part of the advisory committee.

Town of Eatonville Staff Reports from Departments Heads or their Appointed Designee – Darius Washington (Parks and Recreation Director) gave an update on the department: the end of Summer programs, pool hours, flag football schedule, fishing group schedule. Councilwoman Jordan asked a question about the pool hours on Saturdays. What time do we close during the week? 5p.m.? Mr. Washington - Yes. Hours are 1-5p.m. Councilwoman Jordan asked if he thought there should be an opportunity for after school kids to come swim. Mr. Washington - They mostly want to go home, but I can look into it. Valerie Mundy (Public Works Director) gave an update on the department: thank you Mr. McWhite for your comments. One of the things we are standing on is not putting chemicals in the lake and we are working with the Florida Rural Water Association. We are working on backflow, hydrant, and inspections. I and two other public works employees went to a conference last week and gained a lot of training. Our water and sewer program is moving along. Before bidding our projects, we are going to do a comprehensive risk analysis (water treatment plan, sewer projects, and water replacement projects). We are waiting for final authorization for two projects, but we have received some permits. The Catalina project has finally received a permit. The storm water project for Catalina Park with Orange County CDBG funding, the RFP for an engineer is out. Mayor Critton - Can you speak on the flooding on Wymore Road near HostDime? Ms. Mundy - A group of us, including Orange County, met about three times with Manny and HostDime's engineer. The culvert was not built appropriately which is causing flooding (by HostDime). It is outside of the Town's control. We are having conversations with Duke, FDOT, AT&T. It is essentially HostDime's responsibility to ensure the road is built correctly. Mayor Critton asked a question about Lake King. Does the carpe and vegetation control extend to the back of the lake? Ms. Mundy - I will have to do some research and get back to you. Councilwoman Jordan - Thank you Ms. Mundy for the update, especially regarding HostDime. That is the most information I have heard in a while regarding the center. Chief Stanley Murray (EPD) gave an update on the Police department: we just completed our hurricane preparedness event with Orange County. We are ready and preparing ourselves for Founders' Day. EPD will be doing an anti-drug event (tournament) at the Boys & Girls Club in September 19th. October 13th is the National Night Out event. Katrina Gibson (Finance Director) gave an update on her department: I want to

apologize with the lateness with the audit, but within the next two weeks it should be finished. We are looking into new software to assist residents. The new consultant for finance will be working on that. Councilwoman Jordan asked about a code enforcement report. Mr. Daniels stated that staff is at a training this week. Councilwoman Jordan commented on a code enforcement ordinance and doing better with businesses in the community. I want to set up a meeting with Chief and Code Enforcement. Veronica King (Town Clerk) gave an update: there are 6 applicants for the Bruce and Winnie Mount Scholarship (discussed next steps), working on upgrading the chambers microphone system assisting with Orange County Early Voting and Election Day, submitted 2026-2027 budget package, working on our next project which are standard operating procedures, gave a brief update on public record requests.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – (1)

Ryan Novak – Mr. Novak came to speak on Resolution 2026-41 and asked Council to review section 3 and 4. I am in favor of Eatonville Heritage Tourism District, but there are some issues with Resolution 2026-45. Mr. Novak referenced the 1997 CRA plan. Eatonville is not Atlanta or Montgomery, but what those places share is an institutional anchor with walkable infrastructure. The plan does not identify an anchor. Mr. Novak shared suggestions to the resolution.

COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS:

Discussion of Request for Proposals (RFP) submitted for General Legal Services for the Town of Eatonville (From Council Workshop) – Mr. Daniels discussed the RFP process for General Legal Services and the number of applicants. Councilwoman Randolph asked about other systems available to share RFPs. Mr. Daniels stated they are looking into other options other than Demand Star. Ms. Gibson shared other outlets the RFP was shared on. Mr. Daniels - It went to 60 law firms, but only one responded. Councilwoman Randolph - I was concerned that other Council members did not have an opportunity to talk with the law firm. Mr. Daniels - Everyone was given the opportunity to meet with the team after the cone of silence was finished.

Discussion of Request for Proposal (RFP) submitted by Attorney Greg Jackson for Hire as Special Magistrate Services for Code Enforcement – Attorney Jackson shared his introduction to the Town of Eatonville and his professional experience.

COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Approval of Resolution 2026-44 of the Healthy Initiatives "Saving Lives" The Beautiful Gate 3D Mammography Mobile Event – Mrs. King read the preamble. **Mayor Critton MOTIONED to APPROVE; moved** by Councilman Mack, **second** by Councilwoman Randolph. **Comments:** Mayor Critton - Is this asking for annual fiscal support? Councilwoman Randolph clarified her ask. The funds for the event are from the Robert Wood Foundation which is about \$18,000. Mayor Critton - Councilwoman Randolph is a cancer survivor and this is a great partnership and support for our residents. **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

Approval of Resolution 2026-41 For Clarity Affirming the Town's Commitment to Government Transparency (etc.) – Mrs. King read the preamble. **Mayor Critton MOTIONS for APPROVAL, moved** by Councilwoman Randolph, **second** by Councilwoman Jordan. **Comments:** Councilwoman Jordan - This resolution is just to support the organization. Councilman Mack - I would like to table this item. Councilwoman Randolph - This is the fourth time this resolution has been brought to the table. The last meeting we went through the language and took some items out. I am back again and there is still an issue. I attended the SPLC-OCPS hearing this morning and would like Attorney Jackson to expand to add some clarification to the resolution. Vice Chair Thomas - I agree that this should be tabled. Attorney Jackson can provide us the document from the hearing and tell us next meeting about the results. Mayor Critton - The ability to adequately assess a situation is imperative to making responsible decisions. The resolution still does not address the issue that I brought up. Last meeting, my comments were about compliance with Florida Sunshine and how

unnecessary it is to sign a resolution about a lawsuit we are not included in. I support tabling this item if it means additional information will help us make a more educated decision. Councilman Mack - We definitely need to make good, educated decisions up here. **Councilwoman Randolph rescinded her move; Councilwoman Jordan rescinded her second. Mayor Critton MOTIONS to TABLE; moved** by Councilman Mack, **second** by Vice Chair Thomas. **AYE:** Councilman Tarus Mack, Councilwoman LaDwyana Jordan, Vice Mayor Angela Thomas, Mayor Ruthi Critton **NAY:** Councilwoman Wanda Randolph. **MOTION PASSES 4/1 (Item Tabled). Comments:** Attorney Jackson discussed the decision made in the SPLC-OCPS hearing and explained the process moving forward.

Approval of Request for Proposal (RFP) by TG Law for Hire As The General Legal Services – Mr. Daniels emphasized how imperative legal services is for the Town. Councilwoman Jordan - I would like to table the item or send the RFP back out again. **Councilwoman Jordan MOTIONS to resend the RFP for General Counsel; moved** by Councilman Mack. **Motion dies for lack of second. Comments:** Councilman Mack - I concur with Councilwoman Jordan. Spoke on the RFP process. Mayor Critton - If Item #3 is not approved, and Item #4 is approved, there is a conflict. Attorney Jackson explained the options the Council could take. **Mayor Critton MOTIONS to APPROVE; moved** by Vice Chair Thomas, **second** by Councilman Mack. **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES 5/0.**

Approval of Request for Proposal (RFP) submitted by Attorney Greg Jackson for Hire as Special Magistrate Services for Code Enforcement – **Mayor Critton MOTIONS to APPROVE; moved** by Councilman Mack, **second** by Councilwoman Randolph. **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. 4/0. Notes:** Councilwoman Jordan had to step out and was not a part of the vote.

Approval of Resolution 2026-45 Establishing the Eatonville Heritage Tourism District – Mrs. King read the preamble. **Mayor Critton MOTIONS to APPROVE; moved** by Councilman Mack, **second** by Mayor Critton. **Comments:** Vice Chair Thomas asked Executive Director Johnson a question about the plan. Mayor Critton - This is in support of the CRA's application to the TDT. Executive Director Johnson clarified section 8 of the resolution. Councilwoman Randolph asked why St. Lawrence was not included in the resolution. Mr. Daniels - We are going to make sure it is. Mayor Critton made comments. The Council discussed the resolution and plan. **Mayor Critton restates the motion; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES 5/0.**

REPORTS:

Chief Administrative Officer - Marlin Daniels – Thank you, Mayor, and Council. This upcoming Friday will be the last day for Lieutenant Lampkin. He is moving to reserve deputy. Yesterday morning, I received an email, and after 25 years of service to the Town, Mrs. Katrina Gibson will be retiring. Our auditors recommended a financial service in her absence. We have officially hired an accounts payable position. We are looking at insurance options and are in talks with a new carrier. The PAL Center has gone through the permitting process.

Interim Town Attorney – Greg Jackson – I am excited to work with TG Law. I do not know them, but I had a chance to talk with them. I will work with them to get them up to speed. I want to thank this Council the opportunity to serve as interim Town Attorney. I look forward to putting together plans and implement code enforcement procedures.

Town Clerk – Veronica King - Get out and vote. I just want to remind Council about the budget workshop schedule. Our first workshop is next Tuesday at 5:30p.m. at Denton Johnson. I will be getting with Councilwoman Jordan to go over the scholarship program.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS -

Councilman Tarus Mack – Thank you all for coming out. Condolences to anyone who has suffered a loss in the community. I suffered a loss of a longtime friend recently. He encouraged everyone to go out and vote. Thank you to the department heads--you all do a sensational job. Regarding HostDime, we have a business to

run. I have to continue to hold them accountable. We need you to come to these meetings because we have questions that need to be answered. Congratulations to the six applicants for the Bruce and Winnie Mount Scholarship. He asked Chief Murray for an update on a Town issue. He stated that he is looking forward to Founders' Day. I think we need to appoint an individual to the Community Action Board of Orange County. Congratulations to TG Law firm. Congratulations to Attorney Jackson on becoming our Special Magistrate. On Mrs. Gibson, I could not think of a better person to serve. You are going to be truly missed.

Councilwoman LaDwyana Jordan – Thank you to Mrs. Gibson for your service. Congratulations to TG Law firm and Attorney Jackson. I am very happy to see the Town and CRA to have this collaborative effort in terms of the Eatonville Heritage Tourism District. Good luck at your presentation tomorrow for the TDT (TOECRA). Thank you for the update on the scholarship, Mrs. King. To all the department heads, I really appreciate all your hard work. To Mr. Washington, I have a love and appreciation for the Parks and Recreation Department. If there is anything I can do, please let me know.

Councilwoman Wanda Randolph – Thank you everyone for coming out tonight. Thank you to Mrs. Gibson for her time and service. Congratulations to TG Law firm. Do you need any information from the Council for the budget? Mr. Daniels - Any of your legislative objectives we would like to see. Councilwoman Randolph - I want to mention that St. Lawrence is celebrating 145 years. We will be displaying some artifacts during Founders' Day weekend. We will also be having a special service at the church on Sunday. Councilwoman Randolph explained the history behind a church bell donated to the church by Lewis Lawrence (the photo was displayed). I do have a concern about our logo. Are others permitted to use our logo? Attorney Jackson responded. Mayor Critton - I think we need to research our code and find out information about the trademark of our logo. Councilwoman Randolph - Regarding the heritage district, we are moving forward without knowing much about historic preservation.

Vice Mayor Angela Thomas – Thank you everyone for coming.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Ruthi Critton – Condolences to anyone who has suffered losses (Timmons and Greathouse family). Our thoughts and prayers go out to them. Everyone's favorite--Mrs. Gibson and Lieutenant Lampkin--their losses will be felt and impactful. Welcome to the Town of Eatonville, TG Law. I am so glad that you are here to handle some of our administrative weights. Encouraged residents to come out and vote during early voting at Town Hall. Thank you to the Supervisor of Elections for making it easier for our residents to vote. Founders' Day is next weekend and we are celebrating 139 years. We are looking forward to the 140th anniversary. We are going to go big next year. Tomorrow is the Dr. Phillips Meet and Greet at Macedonia Church. The first day of school is coming up. We wish Councilwoman Jordan and our students a great year. On the National Trust, we are just waiting on the survey to be finalized.

HANDOUTS: The Clerk Updates; Handout from Executive Director M. Johnson on Eatonville Heritage Tourism District; Revised Workshop Agenda; Budget Workshop Schedule

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Critton **Motions** for Adjournment of Meeting; **moved** by Councilman Mack; **second** by Vice Mayor Thomas; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 10:27pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by: Marissa Bellenger

APPROVED

Veronica L King, Town Clerk

Ruthi Critton, Mayor