



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 18, 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 7:35 p.m. and a quorum was established by Mrs. King.

PRESENT: (4), Councilman Tarus Mack, Councilwoman LaDwyana Jordan, Vice Mayor Angela Thomas, Mayor Ruthi Critton. **ABSENT:** Councilwoman Wanda Randolph

STAFF: (6) Marlin Daniels, **Chief Administrator Officer;** Veronica King, **Town Clerk;** Gemma Torcivia, **Town Attorney;** Marissa Bellenger, **Deputy Town Clerk;** Chief Stanley Murray, **EPD;** Faith Woods, **Executive Assistant to the Mayor;** Valerie Mundy, **Public Works Director**

OTHER ATTENDEES: Bruce Mount; Terry Prather (Dr. Phillips Charities); Ken Robinson (Dr. Phillips Charities); Manny Vivar (HostDime)

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; moved by Vice Mayor Thomas, second by Councilman Mack. AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.

PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Presentation of the Scholarship Recipients for the 2026 Bruce & Winnie Mount Scholarship Program – Town Clerk Veronica King, Bruce Mount, and Councilwoman LaDwyana Jordan presented the scholarship winners with their awards.
- B. Updates from the Dr. Phillips Charities pertaining to the Hungerford School Property – Terry Prather and Ken Robinson presented an update to the Town Council. In July, they met with Council members, submitted their TDT Interest Indicator, and presented their TDT application, which was rated the highest. It was approved to move forward to the Orange County Board of County Commissioners. They presented renderings of the project and a summary of a community event held with residents concerning the Hungerford School property projects.
- C. Presentation of HostDime with Updates on Construction – Manny Vivar introduced himself and provided an update on the HostDime project. Mr. Vivar – We are pursuing the CO (Certificate of Occupancy) by the end of September. At this point, there are no constraints in the project. It has been a very painful and long journey.

To see it near completion is extremely fulfilling. As of the most recent construction schedule, we are working closely with the Town of Eatonville building inspector and Orange County. Councilman Mack – Thank you for being here. My main concern is the infrastructure. Can you tell me what is going on with the flooding? Mr. Vivar – One of the reasons we created that road was to avoid traffic. As part of that effort, when that road was built there was an invert put in to allow the water to swell. Over time, the water has built up, and it is not positively flowing. Over the past few weeks, our civil engineer has been looking at solutions to solve that. Duke Energy also constructed, which caused some issues. We are working with them as well. Councilman Mack – How much water usage do you anticipate? Mr. Vivar – The type of data centers we build are called next generation. We use a closed looped system. It is designed in a way that there is minimal to no evaporation. Water usage will be minimal. Councilman Mack – How hazardous is this data center to our community? Should we have any concerns? From the prospective of health. Mr. Vivar – This is a misconception. There are zero health risks being near a data center. We have operated a data center of West Kennedy since 2006. It has caused zero negative impacts to the Town. Mr. Vivar explained the bandwidth of HostDime and giving internet to residents. Discussed the possibility of free Wi-Fi for the entire Town. It was not in any developer's agreement that it would be required. Councilman Mack stated that HostDime agreed to free Wi-Fi to the residents. Mr. Vivar reiterated that it was not part of the developer's agreement. We will be doing public Wi-Fi as far as it can reach on Kennedy Road (Blvd). Councilman Mack emphasized that Mr. Vivar made a verbal commitment. Mr. Vivar – I was not gifted the land. "I said I would give you something for something" is not what happened. Councilman Mack asked if HostDime had a retention pond? Mr. Vivar – Yes. Councilwoman Jordan – My concern is the noise. Will there be any safeguards for noise pollution? Mr. Vivar – The generators would not run unless there is a power outage. Councilwoman Jordan – Are you still under the stop work order? Mr. Vivar – We were reinstated last year. Mayor Critton asked if Mr. Vivar is still committed to running tests and disseminating the information to residents and business owners? Mr. Vivar stated he is still committed to doing so. Councilwoman Jordan – What is the solution to the flooding? Mr. Vivar stated that Duke Energy first needs to fix their infrastructure. He is working with Orange County and Duke to solve the issue. Councilwoman Jordan – If it does not get completed prior to September, what will happen? Mr. Daniels – I had a meeting with Mundy and a CPH consultant who does our inspections. According to the consultant, the engineer of record should take care of it (GAI consultants). According to the CPH consultant, the engineer on record is also responsible for filling out applications for water management. Valerie Mundy – If this is not solved before the certificate of occupancy, you are leaving us with a problem. You and your engineer need to come to the table and resolve these issues. Mr. Daniels – For a certificate of occupancy, you will have be cleared by third party inspectors. Councilman Mack – reiterated that this problem is HostDime's and needs to be dealt with. Councilwoman Jordan – I wonder what type of impact this may have on Hungerford Property project. Ken Robinson – We will trust that Manny will get this done in a timely manner. Mayor Critton – We will allow the experts to be the experts. Councilman Mack – I would like to request that you come to every meeting and give us updates.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – (5)

Marcus Grant & Erike-Ashelave – Mr. Grant – I am with the Orange County Technical School campus across to Hungerford. The GED and welding program is now open. We wanted to get the word out that there are educational opportunities. Erike-Ashelave – Eatonville residents can also register at the south campus. We have welding, GED classes, and ESOL classes.

Angie Gardner – These meetings are too long. We need a time limit for responses. The rambling and degradation of staff is worse now than has ever been. By law, the water rate should be increased each year. Finally, when we get to budget, there is a target of positions. If you are going to pass the budget, pass it. The administration shares what they need to run this town. Every year the budget becomes a contention of peace. That cannot continue if you want to Town to run efficiently. Spoke on the salaries of the Council

and Mayor. Over the past six years, Mr. Vivar has never said HostDime would provide free Wi-Fi to every home. About a decade ago, that conversation was in the air.

Michelle Fort – We come out here because we want to be engaged. A meeting should not take six hours. They do not let that go on in other municipalities. To sit up here and have an entire therapy session is not legislation. The Charter states that Council approves the budget, not decide salaries and positions. Councilman Mack, you voted to give HostDime the money stipulated in their contract instead of forced sale.

Angela Johnson – Spoke on the budget discussions. Challenged Council to think about the adjustments they are recommending. What is the projected cost for infrastructure for the free Wi-Fi? What are the potential partnerships for free Wi-Fi? Dr. Phillips, when you have the community meetings, can they be virtual? Asked Town staff to figure out other ways to disseminate information since most residents are not on social media.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Critton **MOTIONS** for the **APPROVAL** of the Consent Agenda; **moved** by Vice Mayor Thomas, **second** by Councilwoman Jordan. **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES 4/0.**

COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS:

Discussion of HostDime/Review of the Previous Amendments in Consideration to an Amendments #3 – Mrs. King – I did get a communication from Councilwoman Randolph stating that she is unavailable tonight. Mayor Critton – We will save the resolution for the next meeting.

REPORTS:

Chief Administrative Officer - Marlin Daniels – Budget preparation is not taken lightly. It is very crucial that everyone understands that I know the heartaches and pains. We are spending night after night working and answering questions. Everyone should be sincere about what we are doing. We need to work together and move the Town forward. The budget process is tedious. We have been having the same budget issues for the last 20 years. They can go away if we learn to work together and collaborate. Mr. Daniels spoke about the budget workshop timeline and audit. Staff are working on SOPs, personnel manuals, and procedures.

Town Attorney – Gemma Torcivia – We are honored to serve your Town and long forward to working with you.

Town Clerk – Veronica King – Mrs. King announced to the Council upcoming updates to the Chambers including new carpets, wall paint, and wrapping the room with an art design.

Deputy Town Clerk – Marissa Bellenger – In March, field officers from the National Park Service visited the Town and announced a project to revamp the current Historic Markers within the community. Sometime after we learned that the NPS would contribute \$40,000 toward selecting vendors for the project. Since the beginning of this Summer, I have been working with the National Park Service and Mayor Critton brainstorming initiatives to support new Historic Markers in the Town. I am happy to announce that we will be creating a Historic Markers Task Force which will be open to residents who meet specific criteria. I have provided you all with the scope of the project and the application that residents will fill out and submit for consideration. You all will have an opportunity to recommend applicants to the Task Force. If you have any questions, please

feel free to ask or reach out to me. I would like to get the applications out online in the next week or so, which will be available under the Town Clerk's page on the Town website.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS -

Councilman Tarus Mack – Condolences to those who have suffered a loss in the community. Congratulations to the Bruce and Winnie Mount Scholarship winners. Happy Founders' Day. Today was election day and I voted today. I hope everyone has the chance to vote. Thank you for all the presentations tonight. Thank you, Manny (HostDime) for coming out and giving us an update. I am selecting Councilwoman Jordan to sit on a county board and would like to see it on the next agenda. Thank you to the staff at Orange County Technical College for coming and announcing their programs. Councilman Mack asked about the completion of the audit. He then addressed statements made during public comments regarding meeting decorum.

Councilwoman LaDwyana Jordan – Thank you for coming out. Thank you, Mrs. King, for giving me the opportunity to sit on the Bruce and Winnie Mount Scholarship committee. Hopefully, we can revisit the pool and its hours, it is very important to me. Congrats to the Town and CRA for collaborating with the TDT presentation, as well as Dr. Phillips. I want to see progress in our community because we deserve it. I would like to see funding allocated for an event planning coordinator. Thank you, Mr. Vivar, for coming out. I appreciate the administration and the effort you put into the budget.

Vice Mayor Angela Thomas – The Vice Chair reiterated former Mayor Gardner's comments on the length of Council meetings.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Ruthi Critton – Kudos to the Bruce and Winnie Mount Scholarship recipients. Good luck to the students and teachers on the upcoming school year. St. Lawrence and the Town just celebrated their founding anniversaries. Councilwoman Randolph did a great job on their event and display. Spoke about the Historic Mark Task Force. Congrats to Councilwoman Jordan on her appointment. I am excited to see the collaboration between the Town of Eatonville and TOECRA. I am very excited to see what happens with the Board of County Commissioners when they vote on the Town/TOECRA and Dr. Phillip's proposals. Spoke on the budget process with Council and administration. We will take advantage of all avenues of communication to make sure that we inform residents. Mayor Critton ended her report by discussing the budget (current and future process). Encouraged Council to share their objectives.

HANDOUTS: Town of Eatonville Historic Task Force Application; Historic Maker Task Force Scope of Work Draft

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **moved** by Councilman Mack; **second** by Vice Mayor Thomas; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 9:38pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by: Marissa Bellenger

APPROVED

Veronica L King, Town Clerk

Ruthi Critton, Mayor