



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 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 7:30 p.m. and a quorum was established by Mrs. King

PRESENT: (4), Mayor Angie Gardner, Vice Mayor Theo Washington, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Tarus Mack (**Absent:** Councilman Rodney Daniels, sent email to clerk)

STAFF: (6) Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Clifford Shepard, **Town Attorney**, Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director**, Valerie Mundy, **Public Work Director**, Lt. Fletcher Boone, **EPD**

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Gardner led the Invocation in a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENTATIONS – (1)

Reading of Proclamation (National Public Works Week) – Mayor Gardner read a proclamation into the record recognizing May 18–24, 2025 as National Public Works Week, public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities, and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and to public health, high quality of life, and well-being of the people of the historic Town of Eatonville, infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, who are engineers, managers, and employees at all levels of government and the private sector, who are responsible for rebuilding, improving, and protecting our nation's transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens, it is in the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders, and children in Town of Eatonville to gain knowledge of and maintain an ongoing interest and understanding of the importance of public works and public works programs in their respective communities, the year 2025 marks the 65th annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association/Canadian Public Works Association, Mayor Gardner along with the Town Council urges all citizens to join with representatives of the American Public Works Association and government agencies in activities, events, and ceremonies designed to pay tribute to our public works professionals, engineers, managers, and employees and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and advancing quality of life for all, acknowledgement of Valerie Mundy, the Public Works Director was publicly recognized by the town council and the public (a picture was taken with Ms. Mindy and the Town Council).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Mayor Gardner Motions to **APPROVE** the meeting agenda; **Moved by** Councilman Mack; **Second by** Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – (3)

Joyce Arby – Spoke to preserving our historic buildings, citizens have a right to talk about the things that they care about; continuing a discussion about a \$125,000 grant for surveying, to look at buildings that are deemed historic, acknowledged there are some miscommunications, the point is to resolve the misunderstandings and save buildings and notify people in advance; acknowledged and appreciated two residents (Johnson and Thomas) for their brilliance, if they keep talking it will solve all the problems in this town.

Angela Thomas – Attended a meeting Saturday and inquired a grant and if the grant was for the town or for PEC who has nothing to do with the town and the town's administration, if the grant is for both PEC and the town, do not sign that agreement (personal opinion); thanks the Mayor and Councilwoman Randolph about the loud noise, had to call the police (about the noise), if it is a restaurant, let it be a restaurant, if it is a club, let it be a club, but do not let the music disturb me, is there an ordinance on the noise, something needs to be done about the noise; what is the update on the ad valorem taxes, how soon will something be brought back on this matter?

Mary Davis Johnson – (Flyer and business card provided to the clerk) – Thanked the Town Council for the opened arms in welcoming (C.E.O., Children Enriched With Opportunities) a partnership with the Town of Eatonville in bringing their youth summer program (located at the Denton Johnson Center) offering pre-employment training, financial literacy, and college readiness to youth ages 14 to 21.

APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE the Consent Agenda approving Town Council Meeting Minutes (5-6-25), and the Surplus or Sale of the 2005 Chevy Impala White with VIN# 2G1WF55K159372601; **Moved by Councilman Mack; Second by Councilwoman Randolph; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

COUNCIL DECISIONS: (No Action Items under Council Decisions)

REPORTS:

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley – Not Present/No Report

TOWN ATTORNEY: Clifford Shepard – Found out the day after the last meeting (May 6) that there was a lawsuit pending against the town that was not known at the time, it was given over to the insurance defense counsel, in the future legal will be notified when this happens, there is a lawsuit but the facts are unknown except that it has been filed, town council can meet with Mr. Pressley about it; the CRA matter did not pass in the legislative session; hoping to bring good information in the near future about Hungerford.

TOWN CLERK: Veronica King – Reminder to the public of the special election coming up for District 15, mark your calendar for early voting starting June 14th - June 22nd (Primary election day will be June 24th), for the general election early voting will be August 23rd - August 31st (General election day will be September 2nd), the Town of Eatonville will be a voting precinct for both the early voting as well as the election days, this a special election for District 15, one of the meetings will be affected and will be scheduled and moved to the Denton Johnson Center (information will be provided).

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS -

Councilman Tarus Mack – Thanked everyone for being engaged in the council meetings (spread the word), lots of people questions and concerns; would like to address and approve the idea of lifeguards, to resolve the issue of not opening the pool because of not having a lifeguard; spoke to the community land trust, hoping to go in a direction that makes sense for the community; congratulations to Ms. Mundy and staff of public works recognition of public works week, grateful for the work that is done to include the grants that will help the community; condolences to those suffering loss, it is important to love on people, tomorrow is not promised, David Culbreath loss life last week (prayers to the family); thanks to the staff members, you make the operations move and can

not get anything done without staff (on both the town and CRA side); inquired to Ms. Gibson about the workshops for the budget (a schedule will go out next week); the Annual Cleanup Day will take place on June 14 (8am – 1pm), Waste Pro will pick up items that is not hazardous, success annual cleanup effort that will have music and free food, sponsored by the Town of Eatonville in partnership with Waste Pro and others who would like to sponsor, encourage others to come out; Juneteenth starts on June 19th (Thursday), important to educate people on the importance of Juneteenth, our culture, and the history of the Town of Eatonville being the oldest black municipality in America founded by 27 men and established August 15th, 1887, it important to buy property and build affordable homes for people to be able to buy (ownership is under 30% in the town); the kickoff summer block party at community pool will be held on May 27th (4 – 6pm), there will be free food, drinks, games, and other activities to include community resources and a food pantry giveaway; thank Ms. Johnson for her presentation and for bringing her program and resources into our community; (Mayor Gardner/Mrs. King) asked Councilman Mack to speak with Mr. Pressley about the clean up on June 14th the same day as voting; the clerk confirmed the block party is on May 27th from 4-6pm, different event from the End of School Jam.

Councilwoman Wanda Randolph – thank to Ms. Munday for what she does, the recognition received is well deserved, thanks to all the employees for what they at the town; attended a historic preservation workshop at the library and a conversation about the \$125,000 grant came up, requested from Mr. Pressley a copy of the grant, was told that the grant is due to be cancelled due to pending signatures needed by the town, strange that the town would sit on a \$125,000 grant; prayers for the bereaved families, funeral on Saturday was nice for Mr. Clarence Haynes, a resolution was prepared by the town but was not read; received concerns about the loud noise at the new restaurant, talked to the owner who stated that there will be some music played on the outside as a way to get more people to Eatonville, the same resident (who is a senior that is ill) with the dumpster issue could not sleep because of the music, has been brought to Mr. Pressley's attention two weeks ago, need to come up with something unless there is already an ordinance about loud music; agree that the town should notify the attorney when there is a lawsuit; need to see the results of the waste container on Clark Street, the whole container (enclosure) is still there, the owner spent over \$25,000 for the enclosure, was told by a town employee as to where to place the enclosure which happened to be the wrong place (not zoned for that location), hoping the town can reimburse the money back due to no fault of the owner, owner was made to put a 20 foot driveway up to the dumpster, not sure if other businesses are in compliance, the town has not complied with the ordinance, the town need to lead and then expect others to follow; request for more information on who is sponsoring the block party.

Vice Mayor Theo Washington – Thanked everyone for coming out; echo what councilwoman says about the expectations of others concerning the dumpster enclosure and the town's house is not in order; thanks to the Eatonville Supreme Senior for organizing a fun trip to other states (nine day vacation), they were set off good on Saturday morning (by Vice Mayor and Councilwoman Randolph), they are having fun, been receiving calls and text messages on their activities; acknowledged the grieving family of Calvin Lang (Legendary former coach at Wymore Tech), funeral is Saturday and viewing is Friday at New Covenant (Rio Grande), he touched a lot of people in the Town of Eatonville that played basketball and football on his teams; David Culbreath (classmate) will be dearly missed; losing people daily, have to keep having integrity and respect for one another, do not know when our ticket might get pulled, treat people with respect, everyone is not going to be happy with decisions made, just compromise and be respectful; previously did not support the pool, wanted to have a aquatic center with weight room and swimming lane, but support the pool now, want it to be better, let us get funds for lifeguards to the pool can be open on days when the YMCA cannot be there, need backup certified lifeguards who know CPR.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Angie Gardner – Thank you Ms. Mundy, you have so much and to the staff; the noise ordinance does not state a decimal (how loud), it is important that complaints are registered to establish documentation, until the ordinance is changed, it needs to be followed; looking forward to the Business Academy, have 47 registered, when talk about licensing to do business with the town and with any municipality, that is true growth (thanks Ms. Mundy); went to see Treemonisha (opera play at Dr. Phillips), recommend other to go see, beautiful voices, wonderful stage presence; condolences to the families; the State of the Town will be held on

June 5th at the Orlando Realtors Association (Diplomat Circle), come to receive update on happenings within the town.

OTHER COMMENTS: (Katrina Gibson, Finance Director) - looking into lifeguards, the pool will be opening for the summer, schedule is forthcoming for children and adults,

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **Moved** by Councilwoman Randolph; **Second** by Councilman Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:08pm.**

Meeting Handouts: (From Town Clerk) Meeting Agenda and hard copy of the May 6, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

Respectfully Submitted by:

APPROVED

Veronica L King, Town Clerk

Angie Gardner, Mayor