



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

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

Town Hall – 307 E. Kennedy Boulevard. 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 Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:31 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), Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Clifford Shepard, **Town Attorney**, Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director**, Chief Stanley Murray, **EPD**, Valerie Mundy, **Public Works Director** (**Absent:** Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**)

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 moving item #3 (Resolution 2024-27, Health Services provided by Grace Medical Home and the Central Florida Black Nurses Association of Orlando) to Council Decision; **Moved** by Councilwoman Randolph; **Second** by Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

The Town Clerk of the Town of Eatonville (Veronica King) was recognized by the Mayor and Town Council for her achievement in receiving the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) Designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), a testament to expertise in local governance, dedication, hard work, and commitment to excellence. Mayor Gardner read the congratulatory letter from the IIMC Region III Director, Lori McWilliams, MPA, MMC (Village Clerk of Village of Tequesta).

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – (7)

Cathy Mills – Expressed concerns about 41 Lincoln Ave (Sewer System), all information requested has been provided to fix the sewer system problem since March 29. There has been no follow-up and want to hear from the council. Signature and approval from sister-in-law have been provided to fix the problem. Acknowledgement of help from Ms. Mundy, Public Works Director was made with a request for her to assist senior citizens, people with a disability. Mayor Gardner clarified that the business of the CRA will have to be addressed at the CRA meeting on Thursday and that Councilwoman Randolph will give attention to the matter. Ms. Mundy will continue to help on the town side. Mayor Gardner will follow up tomorrow.

Nicholas O'Hara – (Passed on his public speaking minutes to Cathy Mills)

Tiffany Simmons – (Provided a draft of the Negro) Desire is to assist to bring unity and accountability. Grew up in Eatonville, attended a summer performing arts program headed up by PEC. Through travels and all

my triumphs, I always come back to this poem when I need motivation, inspiration, and accountability. There are a lot of negativities, so I want to give a dose of motivation and inspiration that I learned from Eatonville; have one more year in Eatonville to be of service, use the expertise being offered. There Negro Mother by Langston Hughes was oratorically presented along with a call to action previously given on May 24.

Victor McCall – (Passed on his public speaking minutes to Tiffany Simmons)

Joyce Irby – Expressed concerns in the requirements to hiring; read a formal complaint and call to action letter with concerns and observation of a current staff member (Darius Washington) inquiring as to why the letter (previously given to Mr. Pressley) was not placed in his employment file. The letter was not included in the file after requesting and reviewing the file. Inquired as to if the letter was removed by his wife in Human Resources; people need to be qualified for jobs, pay attention to who is being hired.

Ryan Novak – Thanked the 1887 First for putting on the night market and asked that the town would contribute more to the farmer's market, it is something the town needs and will bring in lots of people from all over; offered thanks and acknowledgments for taking care of the speed bumps; in response to a comment concerning the Code Enforcement Board, whatever changes are made, remember the people on the board are appointed by council, if you do not like how it is being ran or the people that are on that board, the board have the power to make the necessary change, whether that be a Magistrate as was suggested or putting the right members of the board who will take the necessary action per the town code; in this political climate be encouraged to fact check your sources.

Angela Johnson – Acknowledged staff and the Mayor for due diligence to the budget process, looking forward to its implementation specific to plans on how to reduce expenses to ensure a sustainable, viable and, financial status; presented comments/questions on the audit, the due to due to funds probably accumulated over the years, where it is known that the enterprise funds, stormwater, garbage and sewer funds are operating at a deficit, the general fund has probably been providing revenue, those funds can be operational. **Questions:** What is the town's plan to clear the due to due amounts from the town's financials, on page 42 of the council packet (page 9 of the audit report), the graph shows a percentage of 0% which makes no sense; did the contract for the waste/garbage expire on June 30th (no, has been extended), the RFP submittal deadline is the 30th, challenge the elected officials to time the issuance of the RFPs in the future so that they can be issued when you have the new rate structures, implement before the expiration of a contract; also the contract with Host Dime expired on June 30th and no new contract has been brought forward to hold them accountable for giving anything back to the residents of the historic Town of Eatonville.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Approval of the First Reading of Ordinance 2024-6 creating Chapter 38, Article VIII, operating golf carts on designated town streets. (Preamble Read): **Public Comments:** Angela Johnson - living in the Catalina Park neighborhood, there are a number of golf carts, have observed minors/children are driving golf carts with more people than the number of seats allow, what type of signage will be provided, request an explanation on how will enforcement be done, is it similar to a traffic violation (it is a statue), will and when will there be an information session, thanks to staff and chief for bringing this forward, looking forward to it being positively embraced from the community. Ryan Novak - not one for over governance, encourage before passing this ordinance not to overreach into something that is already a state statute (F.S. 316.212), operation of golf carts on certain roadways are already governed to include age restrictions, the statue is robust in that in the way that it is written, need to be 18 or older to operate, if minors are driving golf carts, the state statute already dictates it as being unlawful and is a ticket violation if ever observed by law enforcement, not against additional restrictions, but bear in mind that there is already a Florida state statute for operation of golf carts. **Council Comments:** If this passes, signage will be put up and the citizens who own golf carts will be educated, whoever purchase golf carts will need to get registered with the town, there needs to be a decal or some sort of identification that the golf cart is registered in the town, a safety class will be provided at the station to include a short informational video providing training and to talk about the statute, understanding the offenses, there

will be a first, second, and third offense, working out all the details through legal, streets under 35 miles per hour could be used for golf carts but legal is vetting and final details will be brought back before council, council can decide certain streets, notwithstanding that they could legally be put into the statute, not knowing if golf carts would be desired on Kennedy Blvd. **Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE the First Reading of Ordinance 2024-6 creating Chapter 38, Article VIII, operating golf carts on designated town streets; Moved by Vice Mayor Washington; Second by Councilman Mack; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE (Items #1 & #2) of the Consent Agenda approving the council meeting minutes (Council Meeting Minutes for September 3, 2024 only) and Resolution 2024-28 re-appointment of Rosa Pickett to the Historic Preservation Board for a two year term (9/20/24 – 9/20/26); Moved by Councilman Daniels; Second by Councilman Mack; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Comments: The 1st and 2nd Budget meeting minutes were not available for approval.

COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Approval of Resolution 2024- 2024-27 Health Services Provided by Grace Medical Home and the Central Florida Black Nurses Association of Orlando (CFBNA) in partnership with the town with amendment approving resolution based on the agreement of contract and any liability: **Comments:** There have been several instances where persons have been injured here in the town, if the mobile unit is going to be placed on town property, whether an individual will have to step up or down, if they fall, there will be an issue of insurance, would like to make certain that the proper documentation to show for liability is included in the approval, the approval would be based on the agreement of contract any liability, vendor will provide insurance and certificate of liability. (Preamble Read) **Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE Resolution 2024- 2024-27 Health Services Provided by Grace Medical Home and the Central Florida Black Nurses Association of Orlando (CFBNA) in partnership with the town with amendment approving resolution based on the agreement of contract and any liability; Moved by Councilman Daniels; Second by Councilman Mack; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

Approval of the Town of Eatonville FY 2023 Annual Financial Audit: **Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE Approval of the Town of Eatonville FY 2023 Annual Financial Audit; Moved by Councilwoman Randolph; Second by Councilman Daniels; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Comments:** The audit has been approved.

REPORTS:

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley – (Not Present) – Report was read by Valerie Mundy and a copy provided to the clerk for record keeping.

ATTORNEY: Clifford Shepard – Provided updates on the Hungerford property – Read an email from Karen Castel Dental (School Board Representative); her primary motivation as one member of the school board is to settle the lawsuit and do right by the town, the desire is to get the Hungerford property and never in a better position to get it because of the advocate the town has in Ms. Castel Dental who seemingly has managed to get the superintendent, Ms. Vasquez and also the new general counsel Mr. Pomeraney on board, when they (school board) vote, if we get that far, would love to see a packed house of calm but resolved people.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS -

Vice Mayor Theo Washington – loss cousin (Hippie) over the week, service will be held at Open Door; acknowledged the efforts done to resolve speed bumps; the air conditioning need to be fixed as soon as possible.

Councilman Rodney Daniels – Acknowledged Mr. Novak on information on fact check; not in favor of the budget process, must account for every dollar and ensure it fulfills the goals of what is needed for the town, according auditor, the budget is not required to reflect many years of reserve, but state policy requires one year; appreciate the report from Mr. Pressley indicating accomplishments, but recommend doing a survey to get feedback from residents on how we are doing as a town; request to get the trash situation corrected (picked up

time and trucks dumping trash); nice to know that the town may still have a chance to get the museum, heart would be overjoyed if the school board give the property (Hungerford); condolences to the Washington family.

Councilman Tarus Mack – condolences to Hippie, the family, and Vice Mayor Washington; there is no contract with HostDime which expired on June 30th before meeting the criteria, have the same issue with the trash pickup (there are improvements); spoke with the auditor who provided a lot of information, glad the audit was approved and headed in the direction of having a better financial situation, with the impact fees, those developing in the town will pay the cost; the tax money will allow opportunity to pay employees what they deserve (not satisfied with their pay), asked the financial director on the feasibility, did not get an answer, staff members do a sensational job, continue what you are, you are appreciated; voted to approve to work on Lincoln 41 through CRA, need to address this issue on Thursday to make sure that everything is being done to help; Julian Johnson (1887 First) does a terrific job, encourage others to help with his event; are there any lawsuits against the town (Legal responses, none that is not already known about); want to see sidewalk even if temporary, there are children walking up and down Kennedy Boulevard, especially on the west side where there are no sidewalk, need to move forward with some type of grant, do not want any fatalities happening, be careful walking down Kennedy, appreciate Ms. Mundy for everything that you do on a daily basis.

Councilwoman Wanda Randolph – Budget has passed, we are the legislative body, under the authority of the state, constitution, and the town charter, to make local laws and follow them accordingly including the mayor and council, thank the council members for their efforts and input; did not set a date when the COLA would be effective, hopefully whenever the paperwork is ready, some employees may want their COLA in their check, maybe separated, they may or may not want taxes taken out, think about the options for the employees; need to find ways to cut costs adhering to government functions by running the town in an efficient manner, cutting unnecessary and wasteful government spending; a resident was able to get speed bumps, but still waiting for the cleanup on my street (hydraulic fluid), it has been five months (Ms. Mundy-received estimates from contractors also working with the town of Maitland Public Works to schedule it for resurfacing or recoding, it is in process-Maitland will take care of the bill); code enforcement have been working on a lot of the town's issues, one resident mentioned about parking issues, in the neighborhood, parking is a problem in our neighborhoods and needs to be looked into to, there are three, four, five cars in a driveway or a parking yard, service vehicles in certain areas and people are trying to park.; reminding everyone that the chamber is having their State of the Chamber on Saturday, anyone interested in attending, contact the Chamber of Commerce.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Angie Gardner – Condolences to Hippie, to Tito and Frankie and James Earl Jones; have not received many waste management calls for trash pickup, there are improvements; the master plan kickoff is on September 28 from 10am to 1pm at Macedonian Missionary Baptist Church, come and give your input to make a difference in framing the town's future; there is a survey that can be accessed on the website, it is downloadable and can be completed, the impact fee notice is on the website, has been noticed in the Orlando Sentinel last Wednesday, looking to provide it in the water bill; to Ms. Mundy, add potholes on your to do list with everything else, you are doing a great job; in regards to cutting costs, it is the balance for me, we cannot give half a million dollars away to developers, giving away \$200,000, and waiving fees at an estimated cost of \$300,000 to \$400,000, those make a difference in our town, there are services that need to be fulfilled in the town that requires money, need to bring the level of service up, it is not the town wasting money, not spending money in the right places, we will get revenue on real estate, but it all makes a difference. Ms. Mills will get a call tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **Moved** by Councilman Mack; **Second** by Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:43pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

APPROVED

Veronica L King, Town Clerk

Angie Gardner, Mayor