



# HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 7:30 PM

Town Hall (Council Chamber) - 307 E Kennedy Blvd. 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.*

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#### 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) Councilman Rodney Daniels, Mayor Angie Gardner, Vice Mayor Theo Washington, Councilman Tarus Mack (**Absent:** Councilwoman Wanda Randolph)

**STAFF:** (6) Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Clifford Shepard, **Town Attorney**, Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director**, Valerie Mundy, **Public Works 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 three additional agenda items (Confirmation of Promotion, Mutual Aid Agreement, resolution for Affordable Housing Development Proposal); **Moved by** Vice Mayor Washington Randolph; **Second by** Councilman Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

#### PRESENTATION AND RECOGNITION –

Officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – Chief Murray presented Certificate of Appreciation for Officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter to Officer Javahn Staley, a new officer that came hitting the ground running. This is a recognition of the exceptional job performance with the police department and the outstanding dedication to excellent public service. Pictures were taken; the Chief expressed his gratitude for the council's support guidance in the meetings, would like to meet with each council member individually to give insights of that are being done, met with county mayor, State Representative Eskamani, and Mr. Marco Rubio's (Senator) office to see what can be brought to the town and to help our police department become better, stronger, and wiser.

Resolution of Retirement – Presented after approval of consent agenda to allow time for family to arrive.

#### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – None.

#### APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA: **Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE Consent Agenda;**

**COMMENTS:** Approving the Town Council Meeting Minutes for July 2, 2024, as is allowing amendments at a later date if needed; **Moved by** Councilman Mack; **Second by** Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

Resolution of Retirement – (Presented after approval of consent agenda) Mayor Gardner read and presented resolution of retirement to Karin Dunn, a longtime employee for 24 years of dedication to the Town of

Eatonville. Former mayors Anthony Grant and Eddie Cole, Mayor Gardner, Katrina Gibson, and Demetris Pressley gave words of appreciation. Karin Dunn gave comments and pictures were taken.

## **COUNCIL DECISIONS:**

Approval of Confirmation of the Promotion of Mr. Darius Washington as the Director of Public Recreation (Community & Youth Services) **Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE** Confirmation of the Promotion of Mr. Darius Washington as the Director of Public Recreation (Community & Youth Services; **Moved by** Councilman Mack; **Second by** Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Comments:** There were seven applicants who applied for the role. (two out of town phone interviews, two in-person interviews), one did not meet the minimum qualifications. After the meetings with staff, it has been decided to promote within with Mr. Darius Washington, resume is provided, and he comes with over 20 plus years of experience as manager and overseer of Parks and Recreation. He is certified in the National Parks and Recreation Association with a bachelor's degree in political science, he is the best candidate for the position; the current salary range is \$50,000 to \$55,000, requesting \$62,000 in preparation for the next fiscal year; (Washington) the concern/expectation is to increase programming, and to ensure the upkeep of the town's facilities (tennis and basketball courts) and parks, currently working with the pool and special events; there are issues with one of the tennis courts, the basketball court, and trees.

Approval of the Mutual Aid Agreement Between the Sheriff of Orange County, Florida and the Town of Eatonville; **Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE** the Mutual Aid Agreement Between the Sheriff of Orange County, Florida and the Town of Eatonville; **Moved by** Vice Mayor Washington; **Second by** Councilman Daniels; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Comments:** This is a standard agreement, legal gave an opinion as to why it is good to have the agreement.

Approval of the Affordable Housing Development Proposal; **Mayor Gardner Motions to TABLE** the Affordable Housing Development Proposal; **Moved by** Vice Mayor Washington; **Second by** Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Comments:** Legal stated that there are problems with the proposal; (Pressley) spoke with Councilman Mack, legal and the planner (Tara Salmieri), there were procedures missed, to prevent from falling into issues with the project and process, it asked to table this item, will work towards bringing it back through the proper process, (Councilman Mack) this proposal will be discussed before moving forward covering the necessary criteria to include planning and zoning.

## **REPORTS:**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley** – Provided updates on upcoming events, pool party back to give away (will bring back with confirmed dates). Councilwoman Randolph is having a school supply giveaway (August 3), Founders Day (Flyer was emailed and will take place in August); pertaining to Club Eaton the work that was done meets the criteria as to what can be done, there was one step missed which resulted in a hold on the release of funding released which is being worked on, the work and the removal of the salvage was already within the scope because it is a restoration project, it is being restored based off the wall structures (not the interior), the inside was not salvageable and had to be removed and mitigated through an asbestos process; met with HostDime trying to finalize the date of completion of that project and figuring out what was the next step to determine if more time is required and what that looks like, next meet with HostDime is July 29<sup>th</sup> at the site to include a walk through; pertaining to the Audubon area, measurements have been received and waiting on the finalization of proposals for the replacement of sidewalks, the speed bumps have been submitted pending the contractors schedule; our public works partners are working on several major project, grants and preparation of the SRF Funding, we are close to getting our asset management and rate study for water and sewer complete; received and sent to legal the final draft for the impact fee, preparing an ordinance

for the first reading at the first meeting in August; the next community stakeholders meeting is next Monday on the 22nd at 5:30pm discussing the widening of West Kennedy, HostDime, the opening of Ekos (Apartments), the master planning, the community action plan, want feedback from the community; from an HR perspective 12 applications for the CRA Director has been received, council should have received the applicants information for you to fill out the matrix for further discussion at the CRA meeting on Thursday; had drones come through the town to capture video to see the progress that is taking place in our stormwater mitigation as we prepare for storm season, to also see what is taking place within our department, to have a correct presentation of our water tower (west), which is complete and back in service; we have met the criteria for the 5.9 million grant and the RFPs are out as of this week, we close on the \$665,000 grant for Vereen lift station improvements, in August, the process for \$4.1 and \$2 million will start for the townhomes and land acquisition, the CBDG grant for the renovation of the CRA building (funds have been approved); council should have received a reminder about virtual ethics training tomorrow (July 17) from 10am to 2pm; the training is required once a year.

**ATTORNEY: Clifford Shepard** – Have already drafted an impact fee ordinance, can bring for the first reading draft in early August and get it passed by the second meeting in August, 90 days after the second reading, the impact fees go into effect, would want to lift the moratorium by the end of November or early December. It is important that we get the report, to finalize and adopt the ordinance in order to start the 90-day period before collecting money on new developments, if the school board live up to their promise concerning the Hungerford property, the property turns into development and then into money.

**TOWN CLERK** – No Report

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Angie Gardner** – The night market was enjoyed by all, thank you for putting the time and effort into it; condolences to the Jones family; the cap appointment for the county, do we contact them in regards to the change (Yes), Councilman Mack is interested in going back on the board; great work on the water tower.

#### **TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS-**

**Vice Mayor Theo Washington** – Acknowledged Mr. Johnson for a wonderful event, people love coming to Eatonville for events, others have piggyback on what Eatonville is doing from our parades; great event Ms. Sealey put on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event at the Denton Johnson for the seniors; the town need to partner with these events (funding), have a booth at the farmers market, inquired about Ekos, they have a temporary seal, there was an outstanding balance and we can release them from seal, but they have met all of the requirements; thank Ms. Mundy for the clearing of the ditch (looking good on Kelle Rd. and Mustard Seed Lane); expressed concern of the dumpster truck damaging property.

**Councilman Rodney Daniels** – let Mr. Darius Washington know that we are asking for partnerships with the Boys and Girls Club, in response as an update Chief announced the midnight basketball on July 27, 9pm-midnight), partnership with other local police and deputy sheriffs who will be coming over to facilitate with all our youth; would like to see tennis (partner with Tina Waters), pickleball, and flag football; get ahead and fight for the programs we need in our town, congratulations to Mr. Washington but need to put these programs together; clarified that the sidewalk on the Audubon Way is not a replacement but a continuation and completion of the sidewalk; condolences to the Rentz family and the family of Corey Flowers; congratulations to Mrs. Dunn.

**Councilman Tarus Mack** – Concerned about HostDime, need to address the contract sooner than later; inquired about current lawsuits against the town (Legal) none that are not being handled by Insurance

Defense Council (there is no involvement once they are turned over to the insurance defense council), there is a lawsuit by a developer; congratulations to Mrs. Karin on her retirement; the back to school event is now anticipated to take place on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, anybody that is willing to come out, volunteer, help with the giveaway or give supplies, do have organizations, donors, and welcome others; congratulation to Darius Washington; acknowledged Mr. Pressley and Mayor Gardner, have seen the difference in the professionalism of the administration; Club Eaton is not being torn down, will do some construction on it which will come before the council and will be done for the betterment of this town; request an update on when the Kennedy Blvd project, inquired about putting temporary sidewalks; condolences to the Flowers family; inquired about board (yes, there are vacancies); acknowledged the staff by name and the work that they are doing; acknowledged the success of the farmer's market, the town should partner, the next one is August 3<sup>rd</sup>; acknowledge Ms. Sealey for doing a lot great things with the seniors; other concerns the Lincoln property; mentioned Edgewater being an wonderful opportunity for the youth traveling to UK, the first time in history in the state of Florida that team is going to represent the state of Florida in football (son is participating as well as Mayor Gardner grandson); the kids are outstanding with a 3.2 GPA; consider donating, cost is over \$200, 000.

**ADJOURNMENT** Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **Moved** by Councilman Mack; **Second** by Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:37 P.M.**

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

**APPROVED**

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**Veronica L King, Town Clerk**

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**Angie Gardner, Mayor**