



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 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.*

CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM:

Mayor Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and a quorum was established through roll call by Mrs. Veronica King

PRESENT: (4) Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Marlin Daniels, Councilman Theo Washington, Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels, Mayor Angie Gardner. (**Absent:** Councilman M. Daniels)

STAFF: (5) Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Ryan Knight, **Town Attorney**, Stanley Murray, **Chief of Police**, Valerie Mundy, **Public Works**,

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Rev. Critton led the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

(*Replacement documents were provided reflecting corrections in items #2 and #4)

2. Carr, Riggs & Ingram CPA, and Advisors Engagement Letter for TOECRA FY 2023 Financial Audit.
4. Vacation pay-out for six officers who exceeds the 240 hours vacation threshold

Mayor Gardner Motions to move item #3 (Vacation pay-out for one employee who exceeds the 240 hours vacation threshold) and #4 (Vacation pay-out for six officers who exceeds the 240 hours vacation threshold) from Consent Agenda to Council Decision; Moved by Councilman Washington; Second by Vice Mayor R. Daniels; **AYE:** Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Marlin Daniels, Councilman Theo Washington, Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels **NAYE:** Mayor Angie Gardner; **MOTION PASSES.**

Mayor Gardner Motions to approve meeting agenda with amended changes; Moved by Councilwoman Randolph; Second by Councilman M. Daniels; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - (None)

APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA: (For Items #1 and #2 Only) Mayor Gardner Motions to approve Consent Agenda Approving of Audit Firm Carr, Riggs & Ingram CPA, and Advisors Engagement Letter for the Town's (TOE) FY 2023 Financial Audit and also approval of Audit Firm Carr, Riggs & Ingram CPA, and Advisors Engagement Letter for the Community Redevelopment Agency (TOECRA) FY 2023 Financial Audit; Moved by Vice Mayor R. Daniels; second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES**

COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Approval of Special Events Advisory Committee for the Town's (TOE) Large Events. **(Councilwoman Randolph)** Introduced item-A special events advisory committee is being recommended for large events calling people (volunteers) together who have the necessary skills to help work on the committee. Smaller events would not require having a committee, but some events basically have volunteer organizers of maybe 3-10 people. The committee will serve a three year term with requirements whether this type of committee will be selected by qualifications and approved/recommended by the town council, the swearing in of each member by the town clerk, there will be an application. (Solicit discussion to determine the desire of council). Ideal events assigned to the committee would be Founder's Day, MLK, and Juneteenth. For events with a thousand or more attendees, the committee would plan and make recommendations to the council. **Discussion:** **(Washington)** Town should not be involved in selection and swearing, most committees are nonprofits and private people doing an event in the community who have their own people but need space and law enforcement. An events coming to the town should not have to go through a committee first. Founders Day is the mayor event. **(R. Daniels)** The parade at one time was organized by citizens on a committee. **(Washington)** There was a committee group called the Eatonville Jaycees who organized events in the town, the town did not run the committee. **(R. Daniels)** There were appointed citizens who volunteered to help out with the organization of the parade. **(Gardner)** This is administrative, Mr. Pressley asked for a special project coordinator who could oversee events and other projects. Who coordinates the committee? Without a special project coordinator the responsibility falls on a staff member. **(Randolph)** The committee is volunteers working together as a community to help to assist the town. The plan for whatever we have planned that we would like to do as a town. **Mayor Gardner Motions to table** approval of Special Events Advisory Committee for the Town's (TOE) Large Events; Moved by Councilman Washington; second by Vice Mayor R. Daniels; **AYE:** Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Marlin Daniels, Councilman Theo Washington, Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels **NAYE:** Mayor Angie Gardner; **MOTION PASSES (Tabled).**

(Item #4) Approval of vacation pay-out for six officers (EPD) employee who exceeds the 240 hours vacation threshold **(Pressley)** This was discussed previously, because of staffing levels, not being properly monitored within the department, and due to unavoidable reasons this is being requested. Discussed with finance and staff, it is in the best interest to move forward with this matter. **Discussion:** **(Murray)** Applaud officers in how they are able to sustain the work they do, the goal is to increase manpower. The main issue is taking vacation versus being called in, it is counterproductive to give officers vacation time and then ask them to come in during the same week. If the council would allow the officers to be compensated for the hours they rightfully earned, would be appreciated. **(Pressley)** there is one employee for finance and these officers. Although the vote will be separate the information is the same. Looking at available hours to take prior to December 31st, these are the additional hours left. We are requesting the employees are given opportunity to buy out. Going into the new year, a plan is in place to avoid coming back for this same issue. **(Murray)** we will flex time to ensure the officers do not lose their time. Efforts are being made to bring in quality people and looking at the possibility of sponsoring two qualified contracted officers a year who would work certain number of years to help with retention and recruitment. **(R. Daniels)** Vacations are important for law enforcement officers and staff, they need a break. Policy and procedures is needed to ensure that employees are able to take their vacation. **(Further discussions)** increase in overtime (around 20 hours), community policing will require officers who are refreshed and ready to handle things properly, the sacrifices made to stay in compliance, accommodations to not losing their vacation hours, the need for four officers (accordingly budget), funding is available to pay the \$6500 (utilizing funds from personnel (budget line item #1200) specific to the deputy chief salary since position is frozen), concerns with banking hours, planned vacations, HR will assist with managing the hours of employees. **Mayor Gardner Motions** to approve vacation pay-out for six officers (EPD) employee who exceeds the 240 hours vacation threshold; Moved by Councilman Washington; Second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

(Item #3) Approval of vacation pay-out for one employee (finance) who exceeds the 240 hours vacation threshold. **Mayor Gardner Motions** to approve vacation pay-out for one employee (finance) employee who exceeds the 240 hours vacation threshold; **(Discussion): (R. Daniels)** What's in place to prevent this? **(Pressley)** Spoken finance director, there is the staffing level and meeting the proper thresholds of leaving on time and planning vacation. Also, HR will notify staff at points of the year. HR will put together a package to present back to council for approval to address options and incentives that may offer a one-time buyout (currently it is 80). **Mayor Gardner Motions** to approve vacation pay-out for one employee (finance) employee who exceeds the 240 hours vacation threshold; Moved by Councilman Washington; Second by Vice Mayor R. Daniels; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

REPORTS:

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley – UPDATES – Projects: Roof to be complete by end of the week; Christmas decorations have begun (lights are up); Christmas on the Boulevard is December 21st at 6:30 p.m.; Christmas schedule will be put out, staff will be limited but will have essential workers; thanks to public works and town clerk for the improvements in the chambers, job well done to Mrs. King for efforts and time, additional changes are forthcoming; there is a community meeting on Thursday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss water main and water quality, the focus is to make the community aware of what public works and staff are doing to ensure preventive measures moving forward, Ms. Valerie Mundy is doing a great job preparing the meeting.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS-

Councilwoman Wanda Randolph – Expressed concerns about dumpsters and the ordinance businesses have to follow (pictures were displayed), there is issues with required space, code enforcement is based off of the code requires; **(Pressley)** meeting with Waste Connection to find out who can use a fire dumpster and toter; need direction on either changing the ordinance or finding finds possibly through the CRA to assist with acquiring the enclosures; sharing dumpster would have to be worked out through Waste Connection to determine percentage; everyone need the rollaway toter;_need to check into the dumpster on Lincoln behind Redeeming Light church to determine whose dumpster and to address the illegal dumping; still waiting for blue bins from Waste Connection (Mr. Pressley with follow up); request updates on the Dixon property **(Attorney McKnight)** Received a writ of possession from the court, next step is for sheriff to serve the writ of possession putting the CRA back into possession of that property (should happen this week).

Councilman Theo Washington – Expressed concerns about the activity at the Dixon property, it's the town's property and we need to get control of it. **(Murray)** Working with public works to prepare proper boarding, already have a plan to take care of it once the paperwork is served. The property sits on another property, needs to be addressed along with the fencing issue, and get it ready to parcel the property.

Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels – Inquired about repairs on College Street and Eaton Street (stormwater leakage, not sewage), **(Mundy)** work has begun today and will take about 2-3 days to address, it is a stormwater clay pipe (under investigation to determine if the pipe has collapsed, if there is erosion, or some type of buildup underneath the storm pipe); was not treated as an emergency, went through the procurement process to have multiple contractors which took longer, will expedite next time; would like to see a recycle program in place; inquired about the freezing of the job position (decision was made by council during budget workshop); newsletter looks good, would like to see each council member say something towards Christmas; inquired about the big Christmas tree **(Pressley)** parks and recreation is working on finding a spot and a lighted tree that would not an issue with visibility for the triangle right of way); kudos to Mrs. King, excited about the mics, monitors, and looking forward processing higher.

Additional comments: (Councilwoman Randolph) town contractors are taking advantage of the St Lawrence AME property, they have taking upon themselves to use as a transportation corner to for their vehicles, complaints have been made to the companies to stop, the grounds are ruined/damaged (Mr. Pressley will look into it).

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Angie Gardner – Thanks to Mr. Pressley, Ms. Mundy, Chief Murray, Mrs. King, and to all staff including Ms. Gregg, acknowledging appreciation for the newsletter, chambers, grants, and the administration for pushing through regardless of the difficulty; looking forward to Christmas on the Boulevard, love the lights; (Community Meeting) glad we are reaching out to the citizens to get feedback; overall we are doing good things.

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; Moved by Councilman Washington; Second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:23 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

APPROVED

Veronica L King, Town Clerk

Angie Gardner, Mayor