



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA REGULAR COUNCIL & CRA COMBINED MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 3, 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: (5) Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Marlin Daniels, Councilman Theo Washington, Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels, Mayor Angie Gardner.

STAFF: (5) Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Clifford Shepard, **Town Attorney**, Joseph Jenkins, **Deputy Chief**, Katrina Gibson, **Finance**,

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 meeting agenda moving consent agenda item to Council Decision; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; Second by Councilman Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - (The Three-minute rule was strictly enforced)

Bishop Cornell King – To extend a personal invitation to the Community Fun Day on Saturday, October 28th, from 10 a. m. to 2 p. m. hosted by The Life Center Church in partnership with the Health CDC (Flyers provided). Excited and proud to be a part of the community and honored to serve you.

Ryan Novak – Expressed concerns on mountainous speed bumps down Gabriel, Bel Air that are scaping his car; recommending again that Council consider bringing pickleball to Eatonville, dining, retail, pickleball, and restaurants, are a massive draw that create revenue, draw people into a community; would like to see the free flow of information on the website to see current city projects, designs, plans, and provide feedback from the residents.

Louissteen Cummings – Express condolences to the Burns family (Passing of Willie Victor Burns (former Chief of Police) and ask support for the family.

PUBLIC HEARING

Approval of 2nd Reading of Charter Amendment by Ordinance 2023-8; **Preamble read.** This is the second reading of this Ordinance, which, if passed tonight, will be sent to Bill Cowles by the December 12th deadline for placement on the ballot. The election as part of the Presidential Preference Primary ballot will take place in March of next year. Charter Amendments will have a total of six questions and can be available by request to the clerk. There were no changes on the first reading. **(No Public Comments)** **Mayor Gardner Motions**

to approve the 2nd Reading of Charter Amendment by Ordinance 2023-8; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA: No Action Taken (Item was moved to Council decision)

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING RECESSED - Mayor Gardner Motions to recess the Town Council meeting; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Recessed at 7:41 p.m.**

Mayor Gardner ask Board Member Critton to join us at the Dias; called the Special CRA meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. and a quorum was established through roll call by Mrs. Veronica King

PRESENT: (6) Director Wanda Randolph, Director Marlin Daniels, Director Theo Washington, Director Ruthi Critton, Vice Chair Rodney Daniels, Chair Angie Gardner.

STAFF: (6) Demetrius Pressley, **Interim Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Greg Jackson, **CRA Attorney**, Joseph Jenkins, **Deputy Chief**, Katrina Gibson, **Finance**,

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - None

BOARD DECISIONS:

Approval of Moving Forward with The Hostdime Project Allocating Funds for The Infrastructure. Vice Chair Daniels introduced the agenda item yielding to the CAO for comments. Have had extensive conversations with our attorney and our CRA Attorney, met with the owner, and the contractors. Work has been done on the utility infrastructure of the project well over the \$200,000 that they are requesting. There is documentation. Legal's position is that the monies cannot be allocated for infrastructure projects. CRA dollars are not to be used to pay for town infrastructure projects. CRA Attorney and Town Attorney are in agreement that further conversation is needed in determining the best way to move forward. It is a town contract with HostDime not the CRA. There are no available funds from the Town, there may be flexibility in finding a creative way to have the funds come from the CRA to the Town (will need legal guidance). If there's a project with the Town of Eatonville that has been abandoned for three years, then funds can be reallocated, looking to work together to discuss if there is a three year period that has passed, and if monies that were set aside for certain projects can now be set aside from the town side using CRA monies for those projects. Clarity on CRA funds for projects that are already in your Capital Improvements Program (CIP), if it was in your CIP in the last three years, you can't take money and spend CRA funds. Certain kinds of infrastructure in a CRA, in which the CRA is the entire town can be used for infrastructure projects. There is an issue with trying to provide a program that didn't exist to justify expenditure that has already been committed to. Also, there is a matter of whether the developer or the owner of the project is in compliance with the agreement, they are substantially past due in which the contract states a penalty in which the town can take over the project completely. How did this become a CRA issue? It originally started on the town side, but decided by consensus of the board to place it on the CRA Budget. Tax projection from this project is anywhere between \$175,000 and \$260,000. There is a recommendation to table this item so the attorneys can work out resolution for this matter. **Councilwoman Randolph Motions** to **table** moving forward with the Hostdime Project allocating funds for the infrastructure; Moved by Director Randolph; second by Director Critton; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES (Item Tabled)**

Approval of Resolution CRA-A-2023-3 Release the Deferred Payment Loan Lien placed on property located at 213 W. Kennedy Blvd., Orlando, FL 32810. Director Randolph introduced the agenda item. **Mayor Gardner Motions** to **approve** Resolution CRA-A-2023-3 releasing the Deferred Payment Loan Lien placed on property located at 213 W. Kennedy Blvd (**Preamble Read**); Moved by Director Washington; second by

Director Randolph; **Discussions:** There are concerns with documentation pertaining to funds stating \$3,159. 36 was done in check, \$379. 91 was done in debit for a total of \$3,539. 27 also there is no indication in the application where a lien should have been placed on the property. **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES**
Comments: The board is giving Attorney Jackson approval to proceed with a lien release/notice of release of the lien.

STAFF COMMENTS - Mr. Pressley - The CRA Administrator (Mrs. Bonds) contract has termed out, based off our new fiscal budget, we are in search of a CRA Executive. Information have gone out to community, several sites, if there's any applicants interested or if you know of anyone that wants to apply for that position, it is now available.

Mayor Gardner Motions to adjourn the Special CRA meeting; Moved by Director M. Daniels; second by Vice Chair R. Daniels; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. CRA Meeting Ended at 7:58 p.m.**

(Mayor Gardner resumes the Town Council Meeting at 7:58 p.m.) – Attendance of Council and Staff remained the same)

COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Approval of Confirmation of the Hiring of Mr. Stanley Murray As The Chief of Police For The Town of Eatonville. **Comments:** Information has been provided, interviews were conducted with two of four candidates (one pulled out), a community meet the candidate was held to include conversations with the council and candidates. **Mayor Gardner Motions** Approval of confirmation of the Hiring of Mr. Stanley Murray as the Chief of Police; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; second by Councilman Washington; **Discussion:** Concerns pertaining to qualifications for the position, When were there updates to job vacancies/positions? The overhaul for job descriptions will be done after the hiring of an HR person, there have been some updates. This position had been out for a while and was based off what was already submitted to the public. The qualifications are outdated, but current standards was followed in this process. Mr. Murray's credentials show former training and experience with the Sheriff's Department, which is the largest agency within our county; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Comments:** Applause from audience and words expressed from the newly appointed Chief of Police Stanley Murray. Official start date will be October 23rd to include an official swearing in ceremony in November.

Approval of MOU For Public Services and Allocation of Funds Up To \$2,500.00. **Mayor Gardner Motions** Approval of Public Services and Allocation of Funds Up To \$2,500.00; Moved by Councilman Washington; second by Councilman M. Daniels; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES**

Approval of Resolution 2023 -19 designating the Mayor, Vice Mayor, or Chief Administrative Officer to sign checks through the Edmund Electronic Signature Software Feature. (Preamble Read) **Mayor Gardner Motions** Approval of Approval of Resolution 2023 -19 designating the Mayor, Vice Mayor, or Chief Administrative Officer to sign checks through the Edmund Electronic Signature Software Feature; Moved by Councilman Washington; second by Councilman M. Daniels; **Question:** Recommendation to table until we get procurement of this issue is in alignment. **(motions/actions rescinded)** **Mayor Gardner Motions to table** Approval of Resolution 2023 -19; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; second by Councilman Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES (Item Tabled)**

Approval of Right of Way Encroachment for 345 Eaton St. **Mayor Gardner Motions** Approval of Right of Way Encroachment for 345 Eaton St.; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; second by Councilwoman Randolph; **Discussion:** Reviewed and out together by Attorney Ryan Knight. The encroachment was identified

by survey, **Public Comment:** Vivian Jenkins, the town still owns the property and it will never be given up. Want to ensure that that property will stay with the town (Legal) Noone can never adversely possess property from a government. If property use is for a long period of time without the town's permission, a person can't take it away. You can take it away from private property owners, but never from the government. Property is in the historic district, Did it come before the Historic Preservation Board? (Pressley will bring information back) **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES**

Approval of Agreement with Studio JeFrè, LLC, (JeFrè Figueras Manuel) To Design, Fabricate, Install, and Construct I-4 Ultimate Art Project. **Mayor Gardner Motions** Approval of Agreement with Studio JeFrè, LLC, (JeFrè Figueras Manuel) To Design, Fabricate, Install, and Construct I-4 Ultimate Art Project.; Moved by Councilman Washington; second by Councilman M. Daniels; **Discussion:** This money came from when the I 4 ultimate project was upgraded. Each municipality was given a portion of a million dollars to do an art project that you can see from I 4, We received \$220,000, \$40,000 had already been spent. Leaving the remaining \$180,000 to be used for art. Orange County gave three artists including JeFrè who came and gave an idea of what he wanted to bring to Council. As a single source, it did not need to go through the procurement process, our procurement policy states the same. This should have come before the citizens and should have a say in how the \$180,000 should be spent. We will be added to the Stakeholder's meeting. Will reach out to JeFrè to come before our stakeholders with the design, get feedback from the community. (**Motion Rescinded**); **Mayor Gardner Motions to table** the Approval of Agreement with Studio JeFrè, LLC, (JeFrè Figueras Manuel) To Design, Fabricate, Install, and Construct I-4 Ultimate Art Project.; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: Councilman M. Daniels, Councilwoman Randolph, Vice Mayor R. Daniels; NAYE: Councilman Washington, Mayor Gardner; MOTION PASSES. (Item Tabled).**

REPORTS:

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley - Do have positions now in the new fiscal year, staff is currently working on closing out the year. There is a better process in closing out the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Several open positions: HR coordinator, Records Coordinator, CRA, Permit Clerk, Utility Building Clerk; Next Stakeholder's meeting, will cover different projects to include resiliency and a recovery program to be held at the Denton Johnson Center Monday, October 16th at 5:30.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Clifford Shepard – Met with School Board Representative Karen Castor Dentel and the Assistant School Superintendent along with the Mayor and Mr. Presley, Rep. castor Dentel would support the donation of the property (Hungerford Property) if it was legal, Their attorney believes it is not legal, further discussion and research is being done with a recommendation for school Board to seek an opinion from the State Attorney General.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS-

Councilwoman Wanda Randolph – Congratulations to Chief Murray; gave information on blue recycle bins not available on Bethune Drive, Park Place, and Tony Street (working to get bins on those streets), rain and flooding issues in Catalina due to the last hurricane, some have had damage, request report on the ditch/pond (looking into cleaning and pumping some of the water down), requesting for staff to look at the job requirements to ensure everything is in order; inquired about the Eaton Street water break, the Code Enforcement Officer status (completed training and pending scoring results), Code Enforcement Officer has started implementing the citation process and currently pursuing several cases within the town that will come before the), Code Enforcement, gave invitation to all to attend the Tinkled Pink breast cancer awareness event on Saturday, October 21st, from 10 am – 1pm.

Councilman Theo Washington – Acknowledged Mr. Murray appointment; with the School Board Property, we should start working on plans, renderings such as an amphitheater, football fields, green space, commercial upfront, add pictures to the property to showcase what we want.

Councilman Marlin Daniels – Condolences who have lost loved ones, Congratulations to Chief Murray, Domestic Violence awareness month, breast cancer month (Get checked); inquired about status on impact fee, have submitted all the documents to the Florida World Order for our capacity study, a feasibility study was done, but still have to do the actual impact study. We won't hold up projects if they're presented before us. Inquired about the study dealing with personnel and salaries (Not started pending quotes); continue to be transparent and have collaborative moments.

Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels – Acknowledged and congratulations to Mr. Murray appointment; request for information on the next Stakeholder's to be sent out; Eatonville flag needs replacement; October is breast cancer awareness month (men and women get checked).

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Angie Gardner – Acknowledged Chief Jenkins for staying beyond his desired time for retirement and congratulations to Chief Murray; Art should Shock, the art project was more than just a project to Jeffer. He's an urban planner who was given relics from the town he came back with this as an art concept. With efforts to erase our past, why not make our past big? And the shackles are large as you sit on them, one is closed representing slavery, the other one is open representing the town that Freedom built, the pole is 188.7 feet tall. Everything about it, has a meaning behind it; (Hungerford) Sometimes it's just a matter of discussing with the lawyer what we think we deserve; Thank you Mrs. King for being diligent. You have a lot of great things going on. Thank you, Attorney Shepard and thank you Mr. Pressley, I appreciate the work that you're doing and for everyone else.

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; Moved by Councilman Washington; Second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:54 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

APPROVED

Veronica L King, Town Clerk

Angie Gardner, Mayor