



# MINUTES

## Special City Commission Meeting

5:30 PM – Tuesday, February 11, 2025 – City Hall

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**Invocation: Moment of Silence**

**Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Michael Holland**

**Call to Order: 5:34 p.m.**

**Acknowledge of Quorum and Proper Notice**

PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Holland, Commissioner Emily Lee, Commissioner George Asbate, Vice Mayor Gary Ashcraft and Mayor Willie Hawkins

**1. Agenda Update: NONE**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

January 13, 2025 City Commission Workshop

January 16, 2025 City Commission Meeting

Motion made by Commissioner Holland, Seconded by Vice Mayor Ashcraft, to approve the Minutes. Motion passed on the following vote:

Voting Yea: Commissioner Holland, Vice Mayor Ashcraft, Commissioner Asbate, Commissioner Lee, Mayor Hawkins

**3. Presentations**

3.1 Proclamation declaring February Black History Month and recognizing 31st Annual African American Heritage Celebration

Mayor Hawkins read the Proclamation declaring February Black History Month and recognizing the 31st Annual African American Heritage Celebration. He presented the signed proclamation to representatives of the Eustis African American Heritage Committee.

**4. Audience to be Heard**

No one came forward at that time.

**5. Consent Agenda**

5.1 Resolution Number 25-02: Appointing and Designating a Special Magistrate as City's Local Hearing Officer pursuant to Ordinance 24-11 and Chapter 316, Florida Statutes for school zone speed infraction hearings

5.2 Resolution Number 25-14: Parks & Rec: Pickleball Courts and Basketball Courts

Motion made by Commissioner Holland, Seconded by Vice Mayor Ashcraft, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed on the following vote:

Voting Yea: Commissioner Holland, Vice Mayor Ashcraft, Commissioner Asbate, Commissioner Lee, Mayor Hawkins

## **6. Future Agenda Items and Comments**

### **6.1 City Commission**

Vice Mayor Ashcraft asked about a new agreement from Eustis Housing Authority with Mr. Carrino indicating he had not seen a new agreement but would check on it.

Vice Mayor Ashcraft asked if the City had reached out to Habitat for Humanity regarding the City's housing rehab program with Mr. Carrino responding they had met with them and they had asked to review some of what the City has done with program.

Commissioner Asbate suggested revisiting the allowance of chickens within the City and the fees for conditional use permits for chickens in the City of Eustis.

Mr. Carrino explained the \$800 fee is for a Conditional Use Permit and would actually be to allow an agricultural use in a residential district.

Discussion was held regarding what the Commission had previously discussed regarding chickens with Mr. Carrino indicating that no specific restrictions have been created but each application would be on a case-by-case basis. He stated he would get the current information to the Commissioners regarding where an agricultural use would be allowed.

Commissioner Lee commented on Pocket Park and the new photo opportunity with butterfly wings. She thanked Public Works and others for their work in beautifying the area. She noted the kickoff event of Running of the Georges for Georgefest. Ms. Lee commented on how they are spreading the message for America in Bloom (AIB) and cited the need for volunteers to add sculptures and flowers in Eustis and the cemetery.

Commissioner Asbate cited Chamber of Commerce events and stated 98 people walked through Downtown Eustis for the Sip and Stroll event. He noted the need for lights in Pocket Park and indicated he would be willing to contribute power from his building for lighting. He added that the Chamber has suggested adding a tour to some of their events for out-of-town visitors. He cited House Bill 215 which provides \$25,000 for businesses affected by FDOT projects. He commented on a Latin restaurant coming to the Lollygaggers building.

### **6.2 Mayor**

Mayor Hawkins cited various Georgefest activities and the African American Heritage Festival.

### **6.3 City Manager**

Mr. Carrino highlighted the Sign Shop employees, Lee and Alex, and their signs throughout the city as well as the creative projects. He explained the tour of ReWorld could not be scheduled prior to consideration of the Waste Management contract. He indicated he would be reaching out to Commissioners to schedule joint workshops with the Eustis Housing Authority and the Code Enforcement Board.

### **6.4 City Attorney: NONE**

## **7. Adjournment: 5:58 p.m.**

*\*These minutes reflect the actions taken and portions of the discussion during the meeting. To review the entire discussion concerning any agenda item, go to [www.eustis.org](http://www.eustis.org) and click on the video for the meeting in question. A DVD of the entire meeting or CD of the entire audio recording of the meeting can be obtained from the office of the City Clerk for a fee.*

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CHRISTINE HALLORAN, City Clerk

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WILLIE L. HAWKINS, Mayor/Commissioner