



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 7:30 PM

Town Hall – 307 E. Kennedy Blvd.

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 Critton called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. and a quorum was established by Mrs. King

PRESENT: (5) Mayor Ruthi Critton, Vice Mayor Angela Thomas, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Tarus Mack, Councilwoman Ladwyana Jordan

STAFF: (7) Marlin Daniels, **Chief Administrative Officer**; Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Trinetta Fisher, **Interim Town Attorney**, Valerie Mundy, **Public Works Director**; Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director**; Chief Murray and Det. Fraser, **EPD**; Faith Woods, **Executive Assistant**;

Other: Clifford Shepard (on zoom)

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Critton led the Invocation in a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE Agenda with amendments; Moved by Councilman Mack; Second by Councilwoman Randolph; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES, 5/0. NOTES: Minutes approved on consent are 4-7-26, 4-10-26, 4-21-26, 4-24-26, added to the agenda was the discussion from the 6:30pm workshop discussing the nuisance abatement board.

PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITION:

National Public Works Week Proclamation – Proclamation was read into the record by Mayor Critton urging all citizens to join with representatives of the American Public Works Association and government agencies in activities, events, and ceremonies designed to pay tribute to our public works professionals, engineers, managers, and employees, and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and advancing quality of life for all.

Historic Preservation Month Proclamation – Proclamation was read into the record by Mayor Critton highlighting how the Town of Eatonville town council continues to demonstrate its commitment to historic preservation, and in part, call upon the people of Town of Eatonville to join their fellow citizens across the United States in recognizing and participating in this special observance of National Historic Preservation Month

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – (1)

Joyce Irby – (Resident) Acknowledged Malcom X 101st birthday, did not just talk but walked the talk, he was maligned, ostracized, excommunicated, and threatened with death, asking why did we go fight for a country that assaults our voting rights which is happening now, tries to erase our history which is happening now, and deprives us of equal education which is happening now. Joe Clark, the mayor's great uncle said Eatonville was founded on three principles family, religion, and education, the things that he said then reigns true today, just wanted to mention him.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE Consent Agenda approving Town Council Meeting Minutes (4-7-26, 4-10-26, 4-21-26, 4-24-26); **Moved by** Vice Mayor Thomas; **Second by** Councilman Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES, 5/0.**

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Nuisance Abatement Board – This board was established but not yet activated. Board information to include requirements is provided in the board package, would like to see the board activated and implemented, recommending for consideration that some of the individuals that were on the previous boards (Code Enforcement and Board of Adjustments) serve on the Nuisance Abatement Board, requires seven board (Mr. Daniels) Vice Mayor has come to administration to bring forth a noise ordinance, there has been talk about addressing a noise ordinance with the nuisance abatement, it will all come in alignment for facilitation, will be forthcoming soon. The police department currently hears the noise complaints, the nuisance abatement board works in collaboration with the Eatonville Police Department, an officer will have to be appointed, who will receive the complaints and then the hearings will come forward. (Vice Mayor) what is covered under the nuisance and abatement other than the noise ordinance, whatever the code defines as a qualifying nuisance in which noise is one but not the only thing covered. (Mr. Daniels) highlighted qualified nuisance in the code and in Florida Statute 874.03. (Police Chief Murray) the nuisance is not to a person but to a property. The Nuisance Abatement Board was passed on July 2020, the officer selected will be someone that is verse in the statute and will be able to train the board. (Councilwoman Randolph) inquired about the most recent nuisance, response: noise (loud music with inappropriate language), former problems with one of the restaurants playing loud music on the weekend, residents have complaint, (Police Chief Murray) through the county commercial works a little different, restaurants can play music up until a certain time, there is one particular address that has periodically been a nuisance, they have been spoken to on several occasions and will get directly with the owner to advise them of what is going to happen, PD does a good job listening to the citizens to take information under advisement and to track. (Vice Mayor Thomas) the loud music is rattling the walls of my home. (Mrs. King), the nuisance abatement hearing officer is appointed by town council, the recommendations are to come before you (council) for a decision, section 2.187 will let you know the requirements of the officer. (Mayor Critton) noted the dense nature of the community with streets being residential and being very close to commercial streets, want to consider respectfully and considerably the desire to drive attendance into the Town of Eatonville, have development coming, want walkability on the front streets, want entertainment to come into the town, there are festivals year-round, in consideration the ordinance may need some guidelines, set some leeway, some measures and metrics to include the rights and responsibilities of the of the residents as well. Councilman Mack) due to a heritage and cultural environment, the community is going to have music, especially when considering taverns, bars, restaurants (code states that a special event permit allows for music up until 10:00 p.m.) Mayor Critton suggested having some conversation where the community can weigh in. The council wants to move forward with activating the board, applications are available, the clerk can reach out to former board members from the boards that have been newly dissolved.

COUNCIL DECISIONS: None

REPORTS:

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER – Marlin Daniels – RFP for general council has not gone out due to staffing issues, will have it completed by Wednesday, there have been over twenty plus meetings since March 17th and the (meeting) minutes are behind, recommend a month for minutes to come to council, the meeting minute approval will be done on the last meeting of the month; in negotiations and creating competition inconsideration to the budget and costs, we are comparing vendors who offer services (risk management, health insurance); sidewalks will start June 1st to be completed before school starts; the widening of Kennedy is coming, Orange County has put up sign and suppose to start around June 1st, they are starting to pull permits; updates on code enforcement near the Walgreens; the part-time code enforcement officer will be filled within the next week; the personnel policy has not been updated in at least 20 years, the consultant that was hired for HR will need about three months to get through everything; the auditors have provided two recommendations of individuals to help us get our finances situated, to come of the list and come into compliance; need to look at a date in June for the retreat; June will be the last Night Market on town property in the parking lot, they are moving to West Street in between the club and the daycare using the CRA lots, they are putting in for the permits to close the road off between the nightclub and the fenced in area; the CRA due to due from was \$322,000, as of today after working through everything including the money that was recouped from the town for payroll for all those years, it looks like the CRA may get a net of \$22,000 up through the month of May not including the last paycheck that is getting ready to hit this month, which they will be given a net of roughly about \$14,000; the CRA is stating that from 1997 to 2005 payment was not sent to the CRA from the town side, it is stated that they collected from the tax collector's office in the amount of \$892,8346 with a possible penalty that could be added of 5% which is \$44,605.17, the amount owed to the CRA could be \$936,68763, will have meetings to and will need to workshop to get guidance from the attorneys, also contacting Orange County tomorrow.

TOWN CLERK – Veronica King – No Report

INTERIM TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT – Trinetta Fisher – reported out on a settlement agreement that require signature by June 4th.

CLIFFORD SHEPERD - nothing new to report, continuing to be available when needed and available until there is a permanent replacement. (Mr. Daniels) Attorney Shepard's firm have been working on the other code enforcement issues to include the foreclosure.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS:

COUNCILMAN MACK - condolences to anyone that have suffered a loss, including myself, Tamara Jones died in an accident, keep family in your prayers, thanks for all the presentations tonight, excited about the water and sewer (impact fees); recommend appointing someone to the CAB board, ask that Mr. Daniel reach out to Orange County to make that happen; have a cleanup day coming up in partnership with Chief on Saturday June 6, 2026; request explanation on why the reimbursement or credit cannot be dispersed to the citizens because of the error made by the town; concerned about the actual opening of the DOJ community center, (policing center) in Cataline Park; acknowledged Mr. Washington for the Social Sunday event (monthly event), it was a great time for adults only, 50% of the people that look like us (black) cannot swim, there are lifeguards on duty; acknowledged the National Historic Preservation as well as Public Works, for everything they do to keep the community clean, hats off to Ms. Monday and staff for always doing tremendous job, making sure that we are safe, especially with the roads; pleased with the sidewalk project and the widening of the roads; do we have any lawsuits pending against the Town of Eatonville (Attorney Shepard no longer keep up with pending lawsuit, no longer the town attorney), acknowledged Cobra an organization that came into the town to give (a house) to a citizen that served in the military (Sergeant Golden), she did her due diligence in serving in this town, protecting

us; want to know more about the infrastructure with Winter Park coming through the town; Happy Birthday 101st birthday for Malcolm X.

COUNCILWOMAN RANDOLPH – thanked Ms. Monday for a wonderful job for the water infrastructure (information) to the public, it was good important information; LaVonder at the chamber welcomes and invite small talks with the neighborhood residents in the future for those on the west side who may not want to go to the Denton Johnson Center; inquired about updates with the Dr. Phillips, (Mr. Daniels response, Dr. Phillips is in the due diligence phase with Orange County Public Schools, they are still open to having individual meetings and will come back collectively), they need to come before the council and have more community engagement (Mr. Daniels will reach out to Dr. Phillips to inquire about their availability), will bring back the resolution for an advisory council representing the town for this project, Dr. Phillips put together an advisory without giving the respect or by recognizing the council; what does the town own to CRA and what does the CRA owes the town, in response (in response by Mr. Daniels, it is stated that \$900,000 is owed to the CRA between the period of 1997 to 2005), we (the council) are held accountable for every penny of the taxpayer's money, no one should be forgiven, requesting for the correct documentation for this matter; for accountability of funds, what is the amount of the contingency and how much money is in reserves, he town should be banking money, a hardcopy and email to council is requested by Councilman Mack; need to have community engagement about HostDime, need updates on the water, noise level, utility rates, air quality, hearing about different issues concerning these centers (Data centers), need to let residents know what is going on; need an ordinance to protect the town and the residents (in response by Mr. Daniels, if a facility has already been permitted, it is hard to go back and put an ordinance in place, (Attorney Shepard) data centers are a huge user of resources, small cities/towns are having this issue, they are being targeted because typically they do not have all the regulations in place to address the things that a data center brings in terms of usage of resources like water, it is no accident that a data center has come to Eatonville, it is a lack of knowledge or understanding of its impacts, there have been many ongoing attempts to figure out how they can be regulated, there are huge public outcries about not wanting them in the towns, cities, or close to neighbors, Mr. Daniels is correct-There is nothing that can be done for the one (data center) that is already permitted, it is absolutely appropriate to get something on the books to try to address others (data centers) from a zoning or usage perspective, the concerns raised are valid and being experienced in many cities and towns of whom are significantly larger than Eatonville, need to educate the community to protect our people so they can protect themselves and also the children, need to put something in place to be protected by a utility rate change from big companies and ensure they are not passing down their cost down to the residents, Governor DeSantis signed a bill that takes affect July 1st, afterwards, all ordinances would have to align with what the governor has put in place, (Mr. Daniels) according to CPH a there is a one-time amount of 300,000 (inner circulatory loop), it is a self-contained unit; the post office has been running a deficit for the last four or five years, it is time to do something, will come back and make some other recommendations, can maintain mail services like stamps and use the building as a Katherine Alexander tourist destination shop, request information on the amount of boxes (postal) being used and the revenue received, request an update; in reference to e-bikes and e-scooters (a kid was hurt), may want to consider an ordinance for safety for our children since the summer is coming up (Chief will come back with something); expressed confusion about the two roles of the attorneys (in response by Mr. Daniels, have not exceeded near what we have been spending, still utilizing attorney Shepherd at the same time or we will fall behind items currently being facilitated), do not understand the emergency (emergency hire of interim counsel), the voting rights for attorney on any level lies with the town council, (Mayor Critton) states that the emergency (hire) level lies with the mayor, the RFP will go out and will come before the council, the nature of the emergency was due to having grants out, having planning and zoning issues to be dealt with immediately, lack of counsel is an emergency, that designation lies with the office of the mayor, the decision for emergency only lies with the office of the mayor, the permanent general counsel decision lies with the council, this was made clear, there was a discussion in which you were provided the personnel policies and procedures section 500 within the packet during the meeting sometime in April or May when attorney Fischer was brought in, the emergencies were listed and discussed, the lack of

counsel (due to a voluntary resignation) when having two ordinances on the agenda scheduled to be discussed, the RFP is being addressed immediately, we are still in the window designated by the policies and procedure to have the emergency hire, the needs are great, the voluntary resignation opened the door for that emergency, encourage the council be patient and diligent, the RFP will be going out, encourage your attorney friends, associates, or acquaintances to be on the lookout, they can apply so we can have those conversations collectively; would have liked to have had the members of the historic preservation board present to be recognized (during the proclamation), (Councilman Mack) expressed his desire for Attorney Shepard to return as the interim counsel, do not want Attorney Fisher sitting in the capacity as the interim attorney due to disrespect. (Mayor Critton) request the need to go speak with the attorneys to ensure that the town of Eatonville has done their due diligence in making sure that we move forward appropriately, not going to break the law by not following procedure.

VICE MAYOR THOMAS – Expressed concerns for the back and forth arguing; instead of putting up a fence (near Walgreens) can they keep the grass cut so the homeless cannot go into that area (response by Chief Murray, that won't be a problem); if the streets cannot be repaired can we at least get a street sweeper to come through and keep the streets clean, maybe residents can get together and try to keep our streets clean and looking good, Mr. Daniels stated the street sweeper come once a month and only does the main street and not the side streets; do not have a problem having a meeting about HostDime, but do not have a meeting listening to the street committee, the street committee do not run nothing, bring facts, everybody has an opinion, the news reporters have an opinion, come with facts or what is the use of having a meeting, if it is factual and lawful, let's have it.

COUNCILWOMAN JORDAN – inquired about distinct programs for the kids for this summer (Chief Murray and Mr. Daniels provided response, police is collaborating with recreation on a program starting on June 2nd and there will be also a program in Catalina); inquired about communication to the residents and if all kids will be included, will include Thomas Leadership Academy offering space, there will be a curriculum or guidance for swimming, transportation and food will be provided), we know what could potentially happen if we do not keep our kids engaged, would like to see us be more proactive versus reactive, thanked the Chief Murray for all his efforts, (Councilwoman Thomas)there are a lot of artistic children in the community that we need to work with and make sure there is something for them as well, could use artistic children for different events, for set up and take down, never know what they may be able to do; inquired as to if Ms. Sealey is collaborating with the town, she does a phenomenal job with the senior program but does not feel well at times in which the program may not take place, consider identifying someone from the town side that can help (Mr. Daniels response, seniors from the apartments complexes (west end) are playing bingo, games, participating in giveaways down on that end to encourage and engage them as well, Ms. Perisha and Mr. Washington are working on this, there is a special event for seniors coming up; thanked Chief Murray for going into the homeless area, after the cleaning out are of the area, is there community resources that could potentially help them move about so they are not on our streets, is there a social worker (Chief Murray's response, the neighborhood children and families deals a lot with the individuals, police collaborates with them, a trailer to allow showers is coming), is available and would like to get with Chief to work in the areas of social work, mental health along with the mobile shower unit, want to ensure we are taking care of the community, provide resources.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

MAYOR CRITTON - Life Cycle has impact ride on the 30th, look out for advertisement; the Sunday Social was a blast, thanks to Danielle, Mr. Washington, and Ms. Perisha for a great event, Councilman Mack cleanup day is June 6, it is always a big turnout, United Against Poverty is partnering with the town to do some food giveaways, on May 28th from 2 to 4 PM at the Denton Johnson Center, there will be some bags of goodies, and fresh produce along with talks about services offered, the library did its historic preservation project at the Florida Library Association conference, they took their quilt project over to for exposure, it was nice setup and panel, acknowledged Ms. Sarah, Ms. Lisa, Dr. Candace Finley, and the panelists, Juneteenth is coming, the

town is hosting its annual celebration on Saturday, June 20th (at the Hungerford property), school is getting ready to end next Wednesday, let us look out for a safe summer, mentioned Gabby Day from last year, hosted with the life cycle club a resource fair that talked about bike safety, pool safety, walkability, looking forward to it coming back to the town, graduations are coming up, kudos to all the graduates, Travel Leisure does the graduation scholarship program for our Edgewater graduates, they gave five full ride scholarships to five seniors, wish we had thought to invite the historic preservation board as well as the public work's employees to properly love on them, owe a belated police appreciation week to Eatonville Police Department, Industry day yesterday was a treat, it was a room full of representation, condolences specific to Councilman Mack who has lose someone frequently, condolences to the Critton and Washington families, to the RFP and RFQ process, Councilman Mack, please do not take my comments as disrespect, let us be proactive in making sure we follow protocol, policy, procedure, that we are informed, educated, and proficient, with the Mr. Lawrence conversation it does not seem like we did our due diligence across both boards, there were multiple boards involved with that that decision and it was bought without consulting both sides, let us make sure in moving forward we ask our staff to get those RFPs and RFQS out so we can bring those people in, if it is outside of the procurement thresholds, we want to follow the rules; Baker Barrios came and they did a master planning, some master planning workshops, in addition to reaching out to Dr. Phillips would like to also reach out to Baker Barrios to see if they can come an explain to us the blanks that were left unfilled or the collaboration between the governing body and the community on what master planning looks like, being proactive and thinking five generations out, let us get them back in here to finish that conversation; there has been a lot of conversation about AI data centers, if we meet with HostDime let us come in with an open mind even if we are holding feet to the fire, asking how can you work with the town of Eatonville, it is not a bashing session. We want to invite businesses into the town of Eatonville making sure that we are doing palatable business, we want to make sure that business owners understand what we are looking for and what we expect when they come into this town. The impact fees are going to be huge and exciting to get them implemented, every neighbor, tell a neighbor to come so you can hear what is being said, as a collective community, we can hold business owners to the standards that we set as a community; about the post office, Catherine Alexander as my great-great grandmother. I am proud of that, proud of the different entities in the town of Eatonville that give us identity, our police department, our self-governance, our post office, we spend money in this town on a lot of different things, there are ways to be proactive, there are ways to be proficient and responsible with our finances, need to have an open conversation about what that looks like, we are stepping into a new era of delivery, maybe it is time to have an updated conversation about the service of our post office, I caution us to not give away anything else that makes us an independent incorporated municipality, although important, we understand that we have a fiscal responsibility to the town; Attorney Fischer, thank you for stepping into the heat of the moment, Attorney Shephard, thank you for staying on board in the midst of rocky waters, thank you both for your services, your counsel, and your insight in places where we as constituents, elected officials, staff members lack knowledge, Councilman Mack, I understand concern, let us have a conversation and be sure to cross our tees and dot our eyes, if we have procurement policies in place that we are required to follow, let us follow those policies to the letter, if not necessary, then have the vote, we do not want to give anyone a reason to come back and say we did wrong, directed CEO Daniels to get with Attorney Shepard and Attorney Fischer to ensure that we have what we need and ensure that the RFP goes out as quickly as possible.

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Critton Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **Moved by** Councilman Mack;
Second by Vice Mayor Thomas; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 9:42pm.**

Handouts: meeting minutes for 4-7-26, 4-10-26, 4-21-26, 4-24-26

DS **Respectfully Submitted by:**

Signed by:



Veronica King

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Veronica L King, Town Clerk

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APPROVED

Signed by:

Ruthi Critton

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Ruthi Critton, Mayor