



# HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

## REGULAR COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 17, 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 7:31 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**, Ryan Knight, **Town Attorney**, Stanley Murray/Joseph Jenkin, **Chief of Police/Deputy Chief**,

#### 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; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; Second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. (Rescinded Motion/Actions).**

**Mayor Gardner Motions** to approve meeting agenda moving Consent item #2 to Council Decision; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; Second by Councilman Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. (Rescinded Motion/Actions).** *\*Please Note: This action was done prior to approving the consent agenda\*\**

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

**Louissteen Cummings** – Inquired on how to get a resolution when losing a loved one. Can you put something in the mail? (currently on website, bulletin, word of mouth, and can possibly go out in the mail with a robo call).

**Ryan Novak** – Support shutting down the Main Street for town events for MLK, Founders Day, Zora; other concerns mentioned: speed bumps, pickleball, potholes; Thanks to all, been coming for almost two years and have been impressed every one of you in how you challenge one another, work together.

**Angela Johnson** – Recommendation: Consider for post office a physical address with suites; expressed thanks for the Stakeholder's Meetings and the voices being heard (resulting in the removal of the three structures on Hungerford property); Ask for continued support. We will be having our first annual trunk a tree event on Sunday, October 29th from 2 to 4, those who live in and outside Catalina Park come decorate your car, contact either myself or Adrian Hewitt here and connect with us on social media platform. You can donate two large bags of candy. Confirmed time from 4-6 pm.

**APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Gardner Motions** to approve the consent agenda approving (Items 1, 3, 4) Town Council Meeting Minutes for September 19, 2023, Resolution 2023-20 Reappointing Two Individuals To The Planning and Zoning Board, Resolution 2023-21 Reappointing Two Individuals To The Board of Adjustment); Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; Second by Councilman Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

## **COUNCIL DECISIONS:**

Approval of Town Pool Facility Improvement and Purchase of Pool Equipment. The quote provided is for replacement of motor, the remaining amount to be used towards the facility upgrades: painting and bathroom issues. There are some donations provided for this project. This is brought before council to approve staff to proceed in the purchase of motor. **Discussion:** Companies are local on the business list. The preferred company is graciously offering pro bono services to assist us with the restoration of this pool, quotes were requested from all. (Randolph) Have concerns that the recommendation is not the very favorable choice, other than the pool needing repair, what other needs are there at the facility, such as the bathrooms to include the building that's on premises, there has to be more than just the pump that is need of repair. (Pressley) Through public works and recreation, items needing repairs and attention have been discovered and the health department have done an assessment. There is a list of items to be done in order to meet the required standards for approval. (Washington) Recommends demolishing the old pool and investing in a new pool with an aquatic center instead of spending \$14,000-15,000 to repair old pool. (Pressley) Previously, Council gave direction to proceed in getting the pool open and staff has been working towards opening the pool. There is funding through Orange County CDBG for repairs. Upon approval with parts in place, it will take between six to eight weeks to have pool open. **Mayor Gardner Motions Approval of Town Pool Facility Improvement and Purchase of Pool Equipment;** Moved by Director M. Daniels; second by Vice Chair R. Daniels; **AYE: Councilwoman Randolph, Councilman M. Daniels, Vice Mayor R. Daniels, Mayor Gardner; NAYE Councilman Washington; MOTION PASSES.**

## **REPORTS:**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley** – Had a successful Stakeholder's meeting discussing the recovery plan. Projects have been identified and goal is to implement a plan and seek federal grants for fud projects. There is a Thanksgiving event being planned (information forthcoming). Christmas on the Boulevard will be around December 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>. On October 11th, there was a story regarding funding from FEMA from Hurricane Ian, there was flood damage, structural damage to certain facilities and residential properties. The story was about whether the town had received federal or state funding or grants from Hurricane Ian. The answer is no. However for clarity, there is a local mitigation strategy team that every county has. Each municipal government is supposed to sign a resolution from council to be included and eligible to receive those state and federal grants. At that time, the town did not participate. Council has received a memo stating that we are working with a team to make sure we can address this properly. As of July 13th, the town have sent a resolution to be a part of the local mitigation strategy team. Opportunities for grants whether state or federal, the town has the eligibility to be considered and have since received information from the county regarding additional funding from the community development block grant, disaster recovery in the amount of \$219 million that is accessible within the county. Projects have been sent in for consideration that includes the public facilities specific to right of ways and stormwater. There is opportunities for the community to submit information for residential issues that may have occurred from Hurricane Ian. That information is on the county's website, in the lobby and provided during the meeting (Stakeholder's Meeting), also putting together a time for residents that need assistance to sign up or review during certain days throughout the week.

## **TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Ryan Knight – No Report**

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

**Mayor Angie Gardner** – The statement made on television was based on a question regarding grant writing not specific to Hurricane Ian. I want to make it clear regarding the statement that I made was based on preemptive measures. The statement made was not malicious and was based on preemptive measures that would have ultimately mitigated any future storm, storm damage as well as current needs of the town, regardless of funding source and funding availability. I support the statement that Mr. Pressley gave in his report with hopes that we can move on. An apology was provided if anyone was offended. Happy Birthday to Mabel Hall (100 years old today) and the birthday party was beautiful. Movie night was great. Condolences to the Burns, Glover, and other bereaving families in the community. Thanks to Mr. Pressley and staff for coordinating the Stakeholder's meeting. The first meeting in November, Jeffre, the artist may do another presentation on the I 4 Ultimate Project. Appreciate everything Puff & Stuff has done for the town over the years.

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

**Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels** – In favor of post office remaining open with hopes that it can operate with the funding that Labor has given, kudos to Councilwoman Randolph for holding us accountable to for every dime. The zip code has been a desired option explored in the past but was not able to be done at the time due to the cost. The Zora Festival is a historic staple in the town and should be a partnership where both the Zora Festival and the town can both thrive and benefit from. It has dwindled down and needs to be reassessed. To determine how we get it back to where it was through partnership with the Town. Extending invitation to come out to the Veterans Day Event November 11, 2023, 11am in partnership with Post 331 with Commissioner Regina Hill as speaker, there will also be a chorale to sing the National Anthem (food will be provided). Have concerns about the news report, but will wait for opportunity to speak on it.

**Councilman Theo Washington** – Condolences to Glover and Burns families with hopes that the families received resolutions. Still say we need to do something new with the pool. If we can find money for the pool, we can find money for the post office.

**Councilman Marlin Daniels** – Condolences to all the families that have lost loved ones. Zora Festival - I am very acceptable to culture, because of black information/history, questions have to be asked publicly for information and clarity purposes. It is breast cancer awareness month, we need to push for people to go out and get checked especially in the African American community, (both men, women, to include young people); it is also domestic violence awareness month, check and love on people, continue to love on people. There is lots of money available but we must push collaboration with our local and federal elected officials, there are resources, opportunities, but we need to get out and have the necessary conversations. There's money coming that deals with the CARES Act and on the federal level. We must love people over politics. As a Councilman the money received goes back out, it's about the love of our community. Thanks to Mr. Pressley for the memo that went out, and thanks to the Mayor for her comments referencing the article. Must be slow to speak. For the record, the resolution never came to this council. During that hurricane, I rode with the police officer to see what was happening. Never was I trying to stop funding from going to Catalina Park or for any money that could help this community.

**Councilwoman Wanda Randolph** – Keeping the bereaved families in prayer. We need to resolve the HostDime issue, do we have information (attorneys are working on this matter), information forthcoming. Inquired about the status on the special advisory committee, homeless ordinance (Maitland is addressing the homeless community beyond Eatonville's boundaries), and the town logo. In Catalina Park, there is a

right of way issue on who is responsible for maintaining (cutting the grass) the right a way in front of a residential house, the owner, or the town (Mr. Pressley will review the Ordinance and provide feedback). Inquiring about the plans for MLK, the electrical box right passed the Chamber on the right hand side on the front street needs to be moved. There is a collaboration between the town for the Thanksgiving event planned for Monday, November the 20th at the Denton Johnson Center. In addition, Thanksgiving with Miss Kim will be held at the Denton Johnson Center for Eatonville residents to come out and get a free meal (she want to give something back to the community). There are pending agenda items that need follow up and follow through. We keep adding more new things, but we're not resolving some of the previous item (There is a list pending information in order to bring back to Council). The Stakeholder's meeting was very informative. To the newly appointed Chief, I would like to see installed a metal detector system to ensure a safe environment for everyone. Would also like to see more involvement with law enforcement and not for officials to be in stationary position of sitting. When people walk through the door and you're standing, you can better identify whether someone is a potential threat to themselves or someone else. Officers should arrive early for proper scanning purposes. In the case of an emergency, we need to make sure people know the evacuation route in the building. Inviting everyone out to the Tickle Pink Community Health Fair this Saturday from 10am – 1pm.

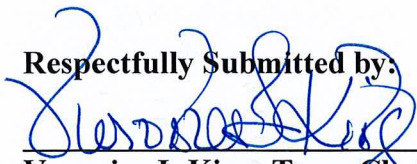
**TOWN CLERK: Veronica King** – Want to make an appeal to the council and residents, that we have board vacancies. The Board of Adjustment have two regular member vacancies and two alternate vacancies, Code Enforcement have a vacancy. Soliciting any recommendation from council. File Bank has our retention records in their possession and in the process of taking records through an inventory. If anyone has a need for a resolution of proclamation, please send request to the clerk's office. Information is on the website, went out in the last newsletter, and is located on the bulletin board outside the town hall.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

**(Mayor Gardner)** On November 2nd at Life Center Church at 6:00pm, the newly appointed Chief of Police will be sworn in along with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Town Clerk. Please come out and support them. For Vice Mayor Daniels, on Thursday's agenda at CRA meeting, a V.A. Veterans Expo will be discussed. Because of the needs of the vets in the town, and the coordinating of the Veteran's Day event on Saturday, I'm going to ask you if you want to coordinate the expo since you might be already talking to them.

**ADJOURNMENT** Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; Second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Veronica L King, Town Clerk

APPROVED

  
Angie Gardner, Mayor