



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 7, 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 7:30 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 (By Zoom), Councilwoman Ladwyana Jordan **NOTES:** Councilman Mack was on zoom and could not vote

STAFF: (11) Marlin Daniels, **Chief Administrator Officer;** Veronica King, **Town Clerk;** Greg Jackson, **Interim Town Attorney;** Marissa Bellenger, **Record's Coordinator;** Chief Stanley Murray and Detective Fraser **EPD;** Faith Woods, **Executive Assistant to the Mayor;** Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director;** Darius Washington, **Parks and Recreation Director;** Baruti Abdallah-Nosakhare and Sylvia Wellon, **Code Enforcement**

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Ruthi 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 Councilwoman Randolph; **Second by** Vice Mayor Thomas; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES, 4/0. Amendments:** Removal of the Presentation of HostDime With Updates on Construction, removal of the discussion of Resolution 2026-32 – Establishing Community Engagement Concerning the Host Dime AI/Data Center Located in the Town of Eatonville, removal of the approval of meeting minutes, and adding walk on item (Resolution 2026-39 Recertification for the Urban County Qualification for Participation in the Community Development Block Grant). **NOTES:** Councilman Mack was on zoom and could not vote.

PRESENTATION -

Proclamation - H.E.L.P. CDC's 30 Years of Service to Eatonville – Mayor Critton read proclamation into the record recognizing H.E.L.P. Community Development Corporation for 30 Years of Service to Families and Residents Across Eatonville, the Central Florida Region, and Surrounding Communities, Nicole Oriol (Help CDC Representative) gave words of appreciation, a photo with council was taken.

Presentation of the Town of Eatonville Staff Reports from the Departments Heads or their Appointed Designee Staff (Directors) provided updates on their departments; departments that presented were Code Enforcement, Recreation, Finance, Police, Public Works, Permitting/ Planning (By CAO), and Town Clerk

Presentation of HostDime With Updates on Construction – (Item Removed during agenda approval)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – (6)

Linder Greathouse – withdrew

John Beachum – Eatonville has the lowest crime rates thanks to Chief, to see the night market with the youth and police dancing reflects freedom, no police brutality, development if fine but what pays dividend is our culture, heritage, tourism, and arts, it is about creating a healthy community, when decisions are made think about the kids and their future, Eatonville is more than a piece of land.

Charles Bargaineer – withdrew

Angela Johnson – acknowledged the new website, it looks a lot better; expressed concerns from residents about the fighting that was happening, suggest that the town partner with families to put on a fireworks show; asked when the elected officials will adopt a housing strategy; inquired about the water rate reimbursement; what is the status of the analysis of a potential credit going back to the community; need to move away from favoritism in the code enforcement department, there are things (properties) on the main street that need attention, they are eye-sore; what is the status of the magistrate and the financial audit; requested for the dates for the budget workshops, is there an completed analysis on the impacts of the property taxes law, need to know the revenue status before committing funds; tree trimming and cleaning up the drains in preparation for hurricane season; it appears that pot holes are developing on Sunny View, Campus View, and a number of streets, suggest conducting a drive; people are blaring through the stop signs at Campus View, Sunny View up to Amador, is there potential for a speed bump (not one that will tear up the alignment) to ease and slow down the traffic; what is the status of the state oversite of the town dated back since 2024; inquired about the note-taking opportunity with the new technology as to if the noted will become public records.

Joyce Irby – Yielded time to Angela Johnson

Carol Moseley – (descendent of the founding families of Eatonville) representing the Mosely and Clark family, would like to have input into what will happen to the land.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Approval of 1st Reading of Ordinance 2026-5 (Formerly 2026-2) Certified Recovery Residences Ordinance (Preamble Read) (Mrs. King) This item was already adopted but is being brought back for reassignment of index number **Public Comments:** None; **Council Comments:** None; **Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE** the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2026-5 (Formerly 2026-2) Certified Recovery Residences Ordinance; **Moved** by Councilwoman Randolph; **Second** by Vice Mayor Thomas; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES, 4/0. Notes:** Councilman Mack was on zoom and could not vote.

CONSENT AGENDA: (No Action - Meeting Minutes were removed during agenda approval)

COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS: (No Action - discussion of Resolution 2026-32 Establishing Community Engagement Concerning the Host Dime AI/Data Center Located in the Town of Eatonville was removed during agenda approval)

COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Approval of Resolution 2026-33 – Appointing a Development Review Committee to Review Large Scale Development and Master Plan for Compliance on All Related projects Deemed by the Town of Eatonville Council – (Preamble Read) **Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE** Resolution 2026-33 – appointing a Development Review Committee to Review Large Scale Development and Master Plan for Compliance on All Related projects Deemed by the Town of Eatonville Council; **Moved** by Councilwoman Randolph; **Second** by Vice Mayor Thomas; **AYE:** Councilwoman Wanda Randolph; Councilwoman Ladwyana Jordan; **NAY:** Mayor Ruthi Critton, Vice Mayor Angela Thomas, **MOTION FAILS, 2/2. Notes:** Councilman Mack was on zoom and could not vote. **Comments:** (Councilwoman Randolph) Expressed the importance of bringing professionals who are the experts to review developments for the council; reviewed by Attorney Jackson; (Mayor Critton) it

is the staff job to the work and there is not a need for the resolution; there is some questionable language in the resolution; the professionals will access to town records.

Approval of Resolution 2026-38 Affirming The Town's Commitment To Government Transparency And Expressing Support For The Legal Action Taken To Enforce The Florida Sunshine Law And Protect The Historic Hungerford Property (Preamble Read) **Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE** Resolution 2026-38 Affirming The Town's Commitment To Government Transparency And Expressing Support For The Legal Action Taken To Enforce The Florida Sunshine Law And Protect The Historic Hungerford Property; **Moved** by Councilwoman Randolph; **Second** by Councilwoman Ladwyana Jordan; **AYE:** Councilwoman Wanda Randolph; Councilwoman Ladwyana Jordan; **NAY:** Mayor Ruthi Critton, Vice Mayor Angela Thomas, **MOTION FAILS, 2/2. Comments:** Reviewed by Attorney Jackson. (Councilwoman Randolph) This is support for transparency for the PEC and Southern Law Center lawsuit filed against the Orange County School board for violation of the Sunshine Law; this is not about litigation for the town, this is about supporting the transparency, standing together in solidarity. (Councilman Mack) will vote in favor although unavailable to vote, if this issue fails and comes back to the council (Councilwoman Jordan) it is important to support the efforts of this entity that is doing the heavy lifting (Legal) the violation is alleged and the resolution does not place the town in a position of being litigated against anyone, when judges look at cases they do look to see who is supporting and who is silent on the issue. (Councilwoman Randolph) an oath was taken to defend the town, many people have worked hard and stood up for Eatonville, cannot let them down, we cannot be divided on this. (Mayor Critton) to take a side without resolution of the issue is premature and irresponsible, to say that a lack of support for a lawsuit that was not discussed with us (council) before it was presented is not taking a stand for Eatonville is completely false. **Notes:** Councilman Mack was on zoom and could not vote.

(WALK ON) Approval of Resolution 2026-39 Recertification for the Urban County Qualification for Participation in the Community Development Block Grant (Preamble Read) **Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE** Resolution 2026-39 Recertification for the Urban County Qualification for Participation in the Community Development Block Grant; **Moved** Councilwoman Randolph; **Second by** Councilwoman Jordan; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES, 4/0. Comments:** (Mr. Daniels) this is a formality, this is letter is to continue participating in the CDBG funding through Orange County (All CDBG funding). **Notes:** Councilman Mack was on zoom and could not vote

REPORTS:

TOWN CLERK – Veronica King – We are weeks away from the deadline for the Bruce and Winnie program; in response to ae public comment, all notes whether written or digital are public records.

INTERIM TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT – Greg Jackson – No Report

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER – Marlin Daniels – getting with Attorney Jackson (has a PowerPoint) to talk about administrative versus legislative, will make available self to council to help talk though things, to help prepare better packets, get with Executive Administrative to come in talk, many times there is misinformation, we want to be a resource of solutions, Attorney Jackson will come up with a process (by resolution) to ensure resolutions are reviewed by legal for accuracy and legalities; we are transport mode, it gets worse before it gets better, there is a lot of cleanup, encouraged council to trust the process; GCI at no cost to the town has created a dashboard with overlays of the grants, permits will be digital, thanks to the clerk's office for getting through the record retention process and helping us go to the next level, have interns at no cost to help facilitate some of what was needed; will email information about the property taxes, will not go into effect into 2027-2028; request council to submit legislative objectives, this will help put them against the budget, during the week of July 20th through July 24th, council can schedule time to come in and meet with all the department heads and also meet about the legislative objectives to make the budget process easier, looking to have a workshop to talk about staffing adjustments; financial audit should be done by next (council) meeting, the holdup was due to having a single audit because e of the amount grant funding; already talked to public

works about tree trimming and the drains in Catalina parked are already cleared; public works is short staffed and looking at options private contracts.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS:

COUNCILWOMAN JORDAN – Appreciate the department head presentation, emphasized transparency; acknowledged Ms. Moseley addressing her desire to be involved with the process of the Hungerford property; inquired about when the HostDime presentation will come back to council (Mr. Daniels will follow up with HostDime, daily fines are calculating); inquired about the retreat; suggested incentivizing training for the public works department; thanks to Mrs. King and supportive of Marissa becoming full-time.

COUNCILMAN MACK – Apologized for absence; inquired about the opening up of HostDime, hoping that they will come before council; condolences to families experiencing loss including the loss of Kirk Sapp; inquired about the water rate reimbursement (Mrs. Gibson will follow up).

COUNCILWOMAN RANDOLPH – Called the TDT office, they have another cycle of funding (the ARK), should look into how to access the funding for culture heritage; Lake Hungerford needs a lot of attention; inquired as to if the town is still on the state list (no); received a copy of the update on the budget, appears to be in good shape except for the water and sewage (looking at different fees, the fee schedule, and at permit fees, will bring back recommendations on feasibility studies)

VICE MAYOR THOMAS – Have questions: what is the status on the post office; when is it time for a charter review; what is the status on the RFP for the attorneys (RFP are closed out), there is one submission for the magistrate and one submission for general counsel; how can we trust the process when we are not keep updated; please go over walk-ons before it is time to vote; who job is it to repair the street that was torn up when the house was built on Calhoun; policy procedure in HR should be a priority; inquired about Founder's Day; (Town Clerk) the next election is in 2028 which is a presidential election allowing us to piggy back on Orange County at no cost, if we decide to do a charter review before the next election there will be a cost to the town for a special election; walk-on items are usually emailed when received in advance notice.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

MAYOR CRITTON – looking forward to more dates for the scheduling of the retreat, as legislators can get on the same page; it is fine to have conversation with administration but nit okay to give instructions or ask for tasks per charter (section 2.06); charter (section 6.02)speaks to the periodic review of the charter as being every eight years; the retreat is a good time to have these conversations; staff is working with legislators that represent Eatonville to bring up-to-date information on the recent legislative sessions with guidelines to help with determining what's best in protecting the town; Representative Eskamani has reached to setup time to present to council; in addition to Lake Hungerford, request that public works also take a look at the extensive vegetation on the backside of Amador circle; Founder's Day is being worked by staff, utilizing templates, open to recommendations (forward to CAO), it is on a Saturday; thanks to the police department for Operation Stop and for the commitment to education, it is dangerous out there, spread the word that the speed limit on Kennedy is 25 in the school zone and 15 when the lights are flashing, be careful, stop, let the pedestrians cross and then continue on at the speed limit; acknowledged the Executive Assistant who spends a lot of time on the town's website, thank you Faith, she is diligently working on getting it up to date; announced upcoming events: Hurricane Prep, Stakeholder's meeting (4th Mondays); the CAO will get back about the post office; this Saturday (July 11) is a national conference with black girls through LANES (Lisa Williams) located Hungerford Elementary stating at 9:00 a.m.; it is a worthy cause that members of council are pursuing and voicing their support for what is happening to Eatonville, want to ensure that we are fully informed with accurate information, it is my only intention to advocate for the Town of Eatonville, we have different ways of doing that with responsibilities, I would never tell you how to do that and I would ask that you do not tell me how to do that,

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Critton Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **Moved by** Vice Mayor Thomas;

Second by Councilwoman Jordan; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 10:00pm.**

Handouts: Resolution 2026-39 Recertification for the Urban County Qualification for Participation in the Community Development Block Grant, Town Clerk Department Presentation, Activities coordinated through Parks and Recreation, Memorandum for Justification for Reclassification to Deputy Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Signed by:
Veronica King
72FBDE7143BF4AC...

Veronica L King, Town Clerk

APPROVED

Signed by:
Ruthi Critton
B7C21BB0095E4AA...

Ruthi Critton, Mayor