



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 5, 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 7:35 p.m. and a quorum was established by Mrs. King.

PRESENT: (4), Mayor Ruthi Critton; Councilman Tarus Mack, Councilwoman LaDwyana Jordan, Councilwoman Angela Thomas; **Absent:** Councilwoman Wanda Randolph

STAFF: (8) Marlin Daniels, **Chief Administrator Officer;** Veronica King, **Town Clerk;** Clifford Shephard, **Town Attorney;** Valerie Mundy, **Public Works Director;** Tara Salmieri, **Town Planner;** Sgt. Boone/Det. Fraser, **EPD;** Darius Washington, **Recreation Director;** Faith Woods, **Executive Assistant;**

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Critton led with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. **Note:** Mayor Critton read the Pledge of Civility

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Mayor Critton MOTIONS to **APPROVE** the meeting agenda; **moved by** Councilman Mack; **second by** Vice Mayor Thomas; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITION; Nicholas Abrahams President/CEO of the Winter Park Health Foundation (WPHF) Investments presented to the Town Council by PowerPoint their Bold Goals, Core Commitments, their new brand, and their investments in the Town of Eatonville. Trifold Winter Park Foundation Brochure was given to the Town Council. Notes: PowerPoint will be provided town council; a picture was taken with the town council and members/partners of the WPHF.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – (3) – *Because the workshop time ran out, two minutes of additional time was given to those who did not get a chance to give comments during the workshop period.*

Joyce Irby – Spoke on the former town attorney Cliff Shepard being a great attorney who care for the Town of Eatonville and for the people who were trying to make things happen; thanked Mr. Shepard publicly, it is tragic not having a relationship with people that can help you get into the rooms

Angela Johnson – Yielded time to Joyce Irby

Ryan Novak – members of the public get three minutes unless minutes are yielded allowing for five minutes which they are strictly held to the minutes, have to be accurate, concise, talk about any charters, statutes, having to site them clearly and accurately 23 while finishing on the clock at the same time, getting cut off if you run over the time, noting that council members have unlimited time and too often used to restate the same point five different ways, laboring on what was has already been understood, extending meetings, the public time is not unlimited, coming from jobs, family, from things that need to be done and would like to get back to those

things, the public have chosen to be at the meeting to be involved and should not have to wait an hour for an item to be addressed, there should be a standard, bare minimum of directness respecting the public's time; there are no procedure to recourse, rebuttal to clarify on the record during the meeting in addressing the comments, comment need to be heard accurately.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance 2026-3 Dissolving the Board of Adjustment Board and Transferring Powers to the Planning Board (Preamble Read); presented by Town Planner Tara Salmieri (**Public Comments:** By Ryan Novak in favor of ordinance) **Mayor Critton MOTIONS** to **APPROVE** Ordinance 2026-3 Dissolving the Board of Adjustment Board and Transferring Powers to the Planning Board; **moved by** Councilman Mack; **second by** Vice Mayor Thomas; **No Council Comments; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

Ordinance 2026-2 Certified Recovery Residences Ordinance (Preamble Read); presented by Town Planner Tara Salmieri (**No Public Comments**): **Mayor Critton MOTIONS** to **APPROVE** 2026-2 Certified Recovery Residences Ordinance; **moved by** Vice Mayor Thomas; **second by** Councilman Mack; **No Council Comments; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Notes:** Preamble was read with corrected index.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Critton MOTIONS to APPROVE the Consent Agenda with Amendments; **moved by** Councilman Mack, **second by** Vice Mayor Thomas. **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Comments:** Mayor Critton read the date of the meeting minutes for approval (March 17). **Consent Agenda Items:** Approving Town Council Meeting Minutes for March 17, March 24, March 31 (2026); Resolution 2026-24 Reappointment to the Police Retirement Trust Board; and Resolution 2026-28 Approving The Chief Administrative Officer As An Authorized Reviewing Agent For All Bank Accounts For The Town Of Eatonville. **Note:** Item #4 Approval of Selection of Contractor for the Vereen Lift Station was moved to Council Decision.

COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Approval of Selection of Contractor for the Vereen Lift Station (Moved from the Consent Agenda) – Mayor Critton **MOVES** to Approval of Selection of Contractor for the Vereen Lift Station; **moved by** Vice Mayor Thomas; **second by** Councilman Mack. **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Notes:** Public Works was able to answer questions from council.

Approval of Resolution 2026-25 Appointment of three (3) individuals to the Board of Adjustment as a regular board member – **Comments:** This item was tabled due to the proposed ordinance. Board applicants will be contacted through the clerk's office to be informed about other board options. Mayor Critton **MOTIONS** to **TABLE** Resolution 2026-25 Appointment of three (3) individuals to the Board of Adjustment as a regular board member; **moved by** Councilman Mack, **second by** Vice Mayor Thomas. **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. (Item Tabled)**

REPORTS:

Chief Administrative Officer - Marlin Daniels – Reached out to Dr. Phillips, they are doing their due diligence with Orange County as part of the first stage (no updates available), expressed to Dr. Phillips the council's need to meet (individually and corporately), there is conversation taking place bank reconciliation between the town and the CRA (the "due to" and "due from").

Town Clerk, Veronica King – Gave reminder about the Bruce and Winnie Mount Scholarship, deadline is July 31, 2026, \$5,000 allocated

Town Attorney - Clifford Shepard – Lawsuit from the CRA was dismissed with prejudice (topic cannot be brought back by the CRA).

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS -

Councilman Tarus Mack – acknowledged the presentations, had questions for the CAO pertaining HostDime, the Water and Sewage, Hungerford, Catalina Park project, the widening of Kennedy Blvd., and about the infrastructure from Winter Park that will come through the town; participated in the bike ride and encourage others to get involved, inquired about board and job opportunities, provided response to public comments, spoke about an Orange County (Community Action Board) board, want to get someone on the council to sit on the Community Action on the board; commended the leadership of Attorney Shepard (The CAO provided feedback to the inquiries), as of the end of 2025 town owed the town \$16,000, looking forward to working to ensure alignment with policies and procedures on both the town and CRA side; spoke on purchases and wasteful spending; all p-cards will be audited by the CAO to ensure fiscal responsibility to include transparency with public request requests, add a good all staff meeting, want to ensure a 96 hour timeline when preparing for a hurricane, emergency management will provide their resources, want to change the culture on how things are done, will come back to council for funding, need to conduct feasibility studies, looking at budgets to include support documentation, June 1 begins the budget season for allocations for the next year, public records have improved; on May 8 (9am) is the Heros for Homes day, will have a workshop at the next meeting on the water and sewage impact fee, want it to take effect on August 31, 2026; need to know council legislative objectives for the rest of this year and next year, Vice Mayor would like to have a noise ordinance,

Councilwoman LaDwyana Jordan – Inquired about the RFP for the town attorney, thanked Attorney Shepard for his work; commended the efforts with the budget, inquired about when the budget will come back to council, acknowledged all the hard work; looking for more transparency; expressed concerned about the board for Dr. Phillips, do not want to lose sight on the Hungerford property.

Vice Mayor Angela Thomas – Would like to do the retreat, planning on doing classes on credit repair, finance class, and ethic and behavior classes for children.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Ruthi Critton – Thanks to the Winter Park Heath Foundation and Grace Medical, relationships matter, Grace Medical will be back tomorrow to do health screening (11am-2pm at Macedonia MBC0 Eboni Nutrition will be giving out produce, love the bicycle club, the impact ride is coming up on May 30th (9am-1pm), vendors are still welcomed, Juneteenth is coming up (looking for vendors), inquired starting back the Stakeholder meetings, condolences to community members that have lost love ones, thanked Attorney and staff on the work that went into the RFP, without legal counsel the town is crippled, thanks Attorney Shepard inaugurating her into this role [Mayor], cannot say thank you enough for your level of expertise, professionalism, and availability; mentioned the Bruce and Winnie Mount Scholarship, shared about the Boys and Girls Club business program; expressed the need to be proactive with the budget, the address to the staff was about professionalism; concerning Dr. Phillips, the conversations are just getting started, pray for safe return of the Eatonville Senior Supreme from there trip; it is former Mayor Eddie Cole's birthday. (Attorney Shepard spoke on the new law called SB or Senate Bill 1134 scheduled to go into law January 1, 2027.

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Critton Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **moved** by Councilman Mack; **second** by Vice Mayor Thomas; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 9:08pm.**

HANDOUTS: Meeting Minutes, Winter Park Foundation Brochure.

Respectfully Submitted by:

DS **ATTEST** Signed by:

Veronica King

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Veronica L King, Town Clerk

APPROVED Signed By:

Ruthi Critton

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Ruthi Critton, Mayor