



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 8, 2026, at 5:00 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 Gardner called the meeting to order at 5:00 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: (5) Marlin Daniels, **Chief Administrative Officer**; Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Attorney Hand, **Interim Town Attorney**; Attorney Hand, **Attorney**, Detective Fraser, **EPD**

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – (1)

Ryan Novak – (Resident) in the handout that I gave you, is cited all the bylaws and statutes and procurement provisions that kind of governs the matter pertaining to the interim, town attorney position and council's authority, this was by two separate attorneys to get, multiple opinions, both agreed that the mayor has full authority to procure interim services to fill a need for the town staff, where they then differ is where you as the legislative body and your authority, have the authority to vote to fire an interim hire, the mayor having full authority and exclusive right to procure services for the town, it is not a permanent position, it is an interim position, the RFP process is underway, does this really solve for infighting and bickering, when the full legislative RFP and voting process will come to a head in about three weeks, focus on what truly matters, seek additional opinions on what it is that govern that provision.

COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Approval of Resolution 2026-34 Rescinding the Emergency Hiring of the Interim General Counsel (Preamble Read) - Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE Resolution 2026-34 Rescinding the Emergency Hiring of the Interim General Counsel Moved by Councilman Mack; Second by: Councilwoman Randolph with questions from Mayor Critton Comments: (Attorney Hand) for resolution 2026-24 there is not the ability to resend the hire, for resolution 2026-35 (next resolution) there are some unclarity as far as what that procedure actually look like, what is in Section 3.03 Charter does provide Council the authority for termination of the Town Attorney, it is not standing, whether the individual is sitting in the role as an interim or in a permanent role, it is still the town attorney, the best interpretation of the Charter would be that the Council has the ability to make that determination if it so desires (Attorney Fisher) the rules state that once someone's appointed to work in the town, they are then considered an employee. There's a prohibitory period (Section 500.02), you can't just fire someone without there being some type of evaluation process, Section 500, conditions of employment, that

there should be a probationary period, is an important part of the employee process review, and shall be utilized for evaluation of an employee's performance, adaptability to position, and or rejecting an employee who does not meet the desired standards. That period is 6 months, which, as I am the interim attorney, I cannot serve in this position for longer than 6 months because the RFP has been sent out, if considered an employee, a fire cannot take place without some type of probationary period and evaluation (**actions rescinded**); **Mayor Critton Motions to TABLE** Resolution 2026-34; **Moved by** Councilman Mack; **Second by:** Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE:ALL, MOTION PASSES, 5/0 item tabled. Notes:** Attorney Hand recommended a table of Resolution 2026-34 was tabled

Approval of Resolution 2026-35 Termination of the current Interim General Council (Preamble Read) – **Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE** Resolution 2026-35 Termination of the current Interim General Council; **Moved by** Councilman Mack; **Second by:** Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE:** Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Tarus Mack, Councilwoman Ladwyana Jordan **NAY:** Mayor Ruthi Critton, Vice Mayor Angela Thomas, **MOTION PASSES, 3/2.**

Approval of Resolution 2026-36 Hiring An Interim General Town Attorney for the Town of Eatonville (Preamble Read) – **Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE** Resolution 2026-36 Hiring An Individual As Interim General Town Attorney for the Town of Eatonville; **Moved by** Councilman Mack; **Second by:** Councilwoman Randolph, **Comments:** (Councilman Mack) nominates Greg Jackson; (Councilwoman Randolph) asked the assumed duties and responsibilities other than council meetings, (Mayor Critton) outside of the board meetings, would need to give legal input and guidance, would have to have interdepartmental knowledge, work with grants with public works, work with planning and zoning, work with the town planner, the historic preservation board, and any outstanding legal action, council did agree (previously) to keep Attorney Shepard's firm in the background to help with the transition while we get through the RFP process (Councilman Mack) there is reservation from the Council about the attorneys, Attorney Jackson is more incapable of doing the job (Mayor Critton) recommend Attorney Sheperd as the interim (Mr. Daniels) Attorney Jackson is available as interim and will not put in for permanent general counsel (Councilwoman Randolph) where are we with the RFP (Councilwoman Thomas) why are we adding another attorney when we already have an attorney; **Mayor Critton Amends the Motions to APPROVE** Resolution 2026-36 Hiring Greg Jackson As Interim General Town Attorney for the Town of Eatonville; **Moved by** Councilman Mack; **Second by:** Councilwoman Randolph, **AYE:** Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Tarus Mack, Councilwoman Ladwyana Jordan **NAY:** Mayor Ruthi Critton, Vice Mayor Angela Thomas, **MOTION PASSES, 3/2. Comments:** There was an error in the index number, Greg Jackson was the nominee and appointed interim counsel. Attorney Shepard will remain on to assist with the transition.

Approval of Resolution 2026-30 Appointing/Confirming Individual to the Community Redevelopment Agency (TOECRA) (Preamble Read) – (**Actions listed below**)

Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE Resolution 2026-30 Appointing/Confirming Dwayne Rackard (nominated by Mayor Critton) to the Community Redevelopment Agency (TOECRA); **Moved by** Councilwoman Jordan **MOTION DIES FOR LACK OF SECOND**

Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE Resolution 2026-30 Appointing/Confirming Theo Washington (nominated by Councilman Mack) to the Community Redevelopment Agency (TOECRA); **Moved by** Councilwoman Randolph **MOTION DIES FOR LACK OF SECOND**

Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE Resolution 2026-30 Appointing/Confirming Adrienne Jackson to the Community Redevelopment Agency (TOECRA); **Moved by** Councilman Mack **MOTION DIES FOR LACK OF SECOND**

Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE Resolution 2026-30 Appointing/Confirming Ryan Novak to the Community Redevelopment Agency (TOECRA); Moved by Vice Mayor Thomas MOTION DIES FOR LACK OF SECOND

Comments: (Councilwoman) requested to hear from the candidates, Rackard, Novak, Jackson, and Washington, each one spoke on why they would be the best candidate, interest, and expertise, this appointment ends in July, spoke to Attorney Jackson about that discrepancy, and he advised that we do have the authority to go ahead and make that extension while we're up here, recommend tabling.

Mayor Critton Motions to TABLE Resolution 2026-30 Appointing/Confirming Individual to the Community Redevelopment Agency (TOECRA); Moved by Councilwoman Randolph; Second by: Councilwoman Jordan, AYE: Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Tarus Mack, Councilwoman Ladwyana Jordan Mayor Ruthi Critton, NAY: Vice Mayor Angela Thomas MOTION PASSES, 4/1. Item Tabled Comments: Will bring resolution back.

Approval of Resolution 2026-31 – Authorizing Funding A Request For Proposal (RFP) For Development Consulting and Advisory Services for the Town of Eatonville (Preamble Read) – Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE Resolution 2026-31 – Authorizing Funding A Request For Proposal (RFP) For Development Consulting and Advisory Services for the Town of Eatonville, Mayor Critton Amends Motions to TABLE Moved by Councilman Mack; Second by: Councilwoman Thomas, AYE: ALL MOTION PASSES, 5/0. Item Tabled Comments: Councilman Mack request to table; the town already have professional staff such as town attorney, planner, and GCI is staff;

Approval of Resolution 2026-32 Establishing Community Engagement for the AI/Data Centers (Preamble Read) – Mayor Critton Motions to TABLE Resolution 2026-32 Establishing Community Engagement for the AI/Data Centers, Moved by Councilman Mack; Second by: Councilwoman Thomas, AYE: ALL MOTION PASSES, 5/0

Approval of Resolution 2026-33 Appointing A Development Review Committee To Review Large Scale Development Plans and Master Plans for the Compliance with the Land Development Code, Zoning, and Other Applicable Development and Technical Standards (Preamble Read) – Mayor Critton Motions to TABLE 2026-33 Appointing A Development Review Committee To Review Large Scale Development Plans and Master Plans for the Compliance with the Land Development Code, Zoning, and Other Applicable Development and Technical Standards, Moved by Councilman Mack; Second by: Councilwoman Thomas, AYE: ALL MOTION PASSES, 5/0

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Critton Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; Moved by Councilman Mack; Second by Vice Mayor Thomas; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 6:37pm.

Handouts: Resolution 2026-33; Written Statement for the Record (by Ryan Novak)

Respectfully Submitted by:


Signed by:
Veronica L King, Town Clerk
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APPROVED


Signed by:
Ruthi Critton, Mayor
B7C21BB6095E4AA...