



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

1ST BUDGET HEARING

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 5:15 PM

Town Hall – 307 E. Kennedy Blvd., Eatonville, FL 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 5:15 p.m. and a quorum was established by Veronica King, Town Clerk

PRESENT: (5), Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Tarus Mack (Arrived after roll call), Councilman Rodney Daniels, Vice Mayor Theo Washington (Arrived after roll call), Mayor Angie Gardner

STAFF: (7) Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director**, Chief Stanley Murray, **EPD**, Valerie Mundy, **Public Works Director**, Darius Washington, **Recreation Director**, Nichole Washington, **Human Resource**

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Invocation through a moment of silence led by Mayor Gardner followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Gardner Motions to **APPROVE** Resolution #2025-22 (Preamble Read), Adopting the Proposed Tentative Tax Levy on All Real Property Within the Boundaries of the Town of Eatonville; **moved by** Councilwoman Randolph, **second by** Councilman Daniels. **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES (4/0).** **Note:** Vice Mayor Washington arrived after the vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2025-5 Approving Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 Town Budget – (Preamble Read) **(NO PUBLIC COMMENTS)**

Mayor Gardner MOTIONS to **APPROVE** First Reading of Ordinance 2025-5 Approving Fiscal Year 2025–2026 Town Budget; **moved by** Councilwoman Randolph, **second by** Councilman Daniels. **DISCUSSIONS:** (Councilman Mack) Request to hire part-time staff for Code Enforcement and move back to CRA or Planning (from Police Department). (Mr. Pressley) Gave an budget overview of updates from the budget workshops, budget reflects a merit raise up to 5% for regular employees, 7% for public work employees, and then a 10% for the sworn officers, evaluations will be done to determine the final percentage the employee will receive, health insurance went up to \$332,800, \$502,000 (General liability, workman comp, all insurances) has been out for the Florida League of Cities, debt services fund went down from 94,000 to 74,000, fire services is \$812,000 (two payments). (Councilwoman Randolph) inquired about the evaluations not being completed. (Councilman Mack) expressed concern about evaluations not being done prior to budget, suggest giving the recommended 5%, 7%, 10% raise (across the board) regardless of evaluations, next year do the evaluations before budget. (Councilman Daniels) suggest doing a COLA, a merit should be based on performance, (Councilwoman) a merit has to be done during the first part of the fiscal year, there have not been any goals established to go by. (Councilwoman) the town clerk is underpaid, at \$58,000 for all

that is done, the 10% would not be enough to take her to the level she needs to be, (Councilman Mack) expressed concern about the budget meeting being scheduled on the same day as a Code Enforcement meeting; recommend all Directors get a 10% raise, regular get 5%, public works get 7%, and officers get 10%. (Mayor Gardner) The budget has been presented, numbers are being thrown out without looking at the budget in totality, if one person deserves more money because their interaction is more than another position that is working just as hard, that is not fair, we are picking and choosing who gets higher raises, to give the 5%, 7%, 10% across the board is fine and if a merit is giving based on how well you do your job, these are almost equitable. (Councilwoman Randolph) requested clarity on who will get the 7% in public work (the field workers and/or the administrative staff within public works), (Councilman Daniels) requested a written breakdown of the percentages and who gets the raise based on the percentages.

Mayor Gardner MOTIONS to APPROVE the 5%, 7%, 10% raise across the board (no merit); moved by Councilman Mack, second by Councilwoman Randolph. AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES (5/0).

Councilman Mack MOTIONS to APPROVE the 10% raise for all Directors including the Town Clerk; moved by Councilman Daniels, second by Councilwoman Randolph. Comments: Director for Recreation, Public Works, Finance, the Chief of Police, Town Clerk, Chief Administrative Officer will get the 10%, the budget will be brought back balanced on the second reading reflecting the increases; **AYE:** Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Tarus Mack, Councilman Rodney Daniels; **NAYE:** Vice Mayor Theo Washington, Mayor Angie Gardner, **MOTION PASSES (3/2).**

FURTHER BUDGET DISCUSSIONS: (Gibson): the votes takes care of the salary portion of the budget; only one change was made to the budget since the last budget workshop (the election cost for the clerk was added to the budget), suggest going through each budget accounts; **(511 LEGISLATIVE LINE)** clerk does not get overtime, the clerk and department (directors) receive four to five administrative days; the \$200 special projects was for the special women's event recognizing past/present Mayors and Councilwomen; Registration should be switched (\$4,000 for Town Council and \$1,000 for the Mayor); **(512 EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATIVE LINE)** insurance for the Florida League of Cities increased by \$200,000 due to claims and increase in the law enforcement liability, will shop around for possible affordable options, (Councilman Daniels) requested for a written breakdown of reasons the insurance went up; **(514 LEGAL COUNSEL)** the additional expenses was dealing with the UP Development matter; **(515 PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEV.)** does not include the Planner salary, the position will be kept but not funded, **(521 POLICE DEPARTMENT.)** request for Code Enforcement to be moved back to either the CRA or back to Planning; while there is an interlocal agreement with the CRA, the employee (Code Enforcement) is a town employee, the governance of what that employee do is under the town, would create an issue legally for the town because the services have to be provided by the town not the CRA. **(recording stopped/resumed);** request is for Attorney to be present at all budget hearings.

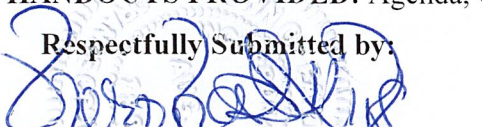
Mayor Gardner MOTIONS to RECESS meeting (at 6:27 PM); moved by Councilman Daniels, second by Councilman Mack; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES (5/0) Discussion/comments: Meeting should not recess, a continuation is required.

Mayor Gardner RECONVENE meeting (at 6:28 PM)

Mayor Gardner MOTIONS for CONTINUATION (at 6:29 PM); moved by Councilman Daniels, second by Councilman Mack. AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES (5/0).

HANDOUTS PROVIDED: Agenda, Certification of Taxable Value,

Respectfully Submitted by:


Veronica L King, Town Clerk

APPROVED


Angie Gardner, Mayor