



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 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 Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and a quorum was established by Mrs. King.

PRESENT: (4), Mayor Angie Gardner, Councilman Rodney Daniels, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Tarus Mack (**Absent:** Vice Mayor Theo Washington)

STAFF: (7) Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Clifford Shepard, **Town Attorney**, Stanley Murray, **Police Chief**, Katrina Gibson, **Finance**, Valerie Mundy, **Public Works** Baruti Abdulla-Nosakhere, **Code Enforcement**

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mayor Gardner Motions to **APPROVE** the meeting agenda adding Proclamations and amendment to the meeting minutes; **Moved by** Councilwoman Randolph; **Second by** Councilman Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

PRESENTATION – *(Some presentations were added to the agenda)*

- **Proclamation** (Municipal Clerk Week) – Presented by the Mayor Gardner, acknowledged the Town Clerk for the work she is doing for the Town of Eatonville, Celebrating the 56th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week, May 4 through May 10, 2025.
- **Proclamation** (National Teacher's Week) – Presented by the Mayor Gardner, National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 5–9, 2025. Teacher Appreciation Week is a national holiday celebrated in United States of America which takes place in the first full week of May.
- **Proclamation** (National Police Week) – Presented by the Mayor Gardner, acknowledged officers for their work and dedication to the Town of Eatonville, Celebrating National Police Week, May 11- 17, 2025.
- **Programming & Marketing Conference 2027 Blockbuster Project Team Introductions** - Presenter N. Y. Nathiri, Executive Director for P.E.C. presented a team of people (consultants) whose careers and accomplishments have helped to bring to the Town of Eatonville, a very fine project called Eatonville Rising, a celebration of milestones scheduled for August and September of 2027, pledging to bring to the town of Eatonville and the citizens of Orange County 50,500 people, that is the deliverable that must be accomplished, introductions consists of Everett Fly, Muhammad Nathiri, T K Walker, Winnifred Hurston, Zienzi Dillon, Julian Chambliss, Bryan Giemza, Clarissa West-White, Reginald Lewis, Jeffrey Cherisol, Melva Akens, Christopher Peace, Sheryl Taylor, Lonnie Graham, Lyman Brodie; Victor Watkins (Photographer) took a group photo with the team and the town council.
- **(Added to the agenda by consensus) Orange County Animal Services** – Presenter is Peggy Meeks (the assistant division manager) spoke on the Animal Services provided in Orange County (priority driven

agency), the priority agent cost are for bite animals, animals hit by cars, animals and traps; barking dog complaints and everything else takes a little bit of time to handle, normally for a bark of dog complaint, a nuisance letter is sent if there is an address of the owner which says do something with your dog, may end up writing a civil citation, animals are considered property that cannot be taken, can quarantine a dog if it bites, can bring to the facility or quarantine at home; (**Councilman Mack**) it is been a serious issue in the Town of Eatonville; can have a CAT team (Community action team) come out and do patrols, go through the streets, educate the citizens, give out pamphlets, and spay a neuter, they go out three days and can come out here to Eatonville (**Chief Murray**) confirmed that the request for the CAT team has been requested; tomorrow (May 7) at Barnett Park, there is an event with resources giving out free shots for dogs, free microchips, and rabies shots from 7am – 12pm, dog food will be given out, shot for rabies are required by law; (**Councilman Daniles**) inquired about cats, have a program called Trap Neuter Release (TNR) program, every citizen in Orange County can get up to five cats per year, basically spay, neutered and vaccinated, the program controls the population to stop reproduction and helps with behavior issues, will come out, deliver a trap and catch up to five cats, to spay or neuter and then release, do not pick up stray nuisance cats (not adoptable); another program is the Care Fee Line program, which is a nonprofit recommended, they trap and release; if you know of someone who is feeding cats or may own cats that are coming onto your property causing damage, and defecating, contact 311 (for domestic animals and small wildlife), provide the cat owner's information, their address, will come out to with you and the cat owner to try and get under control before it leads to citations; do not do alligators; (**Mr. Pressley**) thanks to Chief and Code Enforcement for staying on top of that, there is no additional cost because of the interlocal agreement with Orange County.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – (3)

Anthony Grant – concerned about PEC's role, they do some good things but can do a lot more, do not think PEC can lead the town, the town has to be a part of that process, to circumvent the town and the process leads to chaos and does not send a good message, the festival is an embarrassment and should be retooled, the board say they want to partner with the community with a sense of pride but how many board members live in the town; may need new leadership; inquired about the resolution for the Axis Realty, do to discussions within workshop, looking for the item to be tabled for procurement; acknowledged the clerk for the job being done in providing records when requested; inquired about Resolution 2024-40 that established the water and sewer rates, thought it was an ordinance that established rates (ordinances is law and resolution is a legislative policy), (**Legal**) the resolution for the rates as opposed to an ordinance has become the standard, the ordinance establishes that you have rates for the things that will be set by resolution, this will allow for rates to be raised or lowered more quickly than having an ordinance, the current standard is have a rate ordinance establishing that there are rates and the rates will be set by resolution so they can be changed much easier than the ordinance; (**Mr. Grant**) the ordinance that established the rates was repealed during the reading process, if you have no ordinance, the resolution is not applicable because of the repealed ordinance. (**Mr. Pressley**) the ordinance was not completely repealed, there were portions in the ordinance pulled out, but the ordinance was not fully repealed; Mayor Gardner recommends setting a meeting to further discuss the rates.

Ruthi Critton – pleased with the service received from the new contracted vendor for waste services, notice that they pick up both the trash and recyclables at the same time in addition to the regular recycle pickup on Wednesday, was told that it was a service of courtesy and would eventually go to where it needed to be (not sure if the residents are aware), satisfied with the services received; (Introduced Eric Chandler) a resident of Orlando, Florida, co-founder of the Black Market Network a community of influence for entrepreneurs, community activists, with a goal to network and connect individuals together with minority business owners and to promote them during activities, providing resources, and sufficient networks for them; been invited to through esteemed learning and the Town of Eatonville to work with the Juneteenth weekend June 19-21 as a marketing vetted partner helping out with the Youth Fest, Freedom Day, and Juneteenth Fest on that Saturday; in the area to make introduction and to say thanks for the opportunity; not partnered with the 1887

Night market (know of them and know a lot of their vendors, but not partnered with them), would like to continue networking with the town, will invite some of the local businesses here for that event as well as create and foster continual growth from the inside of the town of Eatonville and work together; announce and extended invitation to the Let's Talk Eatonville event on Saturday from 10 30 to 12 for community input.

Angela Johnson – Ms. Munday mentioned that there could be some pending application or needs for SRF funding, invite staff to work quickly to get financial statements published so that that does not impede on any of the financing that maybe required; What is staff doing to increase the amount of participation by employees in the deferred compensation plan, the notes to the financials indicated a low participation rate, maybe think about some type of study to help people contribute to those plans so that they can plan for retirement; what is the town's policy to clear the “do to do from” (been talking about this for years); concerned that the citizens were not properly educated on the rates going up on average \$20 a month, it is not a \$20-\$30 increase, was told that there would be public participation and hearings and then later informed that they had already occurred, there was truly a miscommunication and that the citizens were not really communicated with properly, bills have gone from \$80 to \$160 (unaffordable), bills have gone from \$80 to \$160; already have 60% uncollectable AR amounts on the financials where we are headed, brought to your attention that the published information indicated a charge per thousand gallons, what was published and what the council approved was \$8 and something cents up to 10,000 gallons, it never stated in that table that it was per thousand gallons; would like to be included in the meeting if it happens.

APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE the Consent Agenda; approving Town Council Meeting Minutes for 4-15-25, approval of the Contract For Engineering Services With CPH For The Water Plant And Water Storage Tank; **Moved by** Councilman Mack; **Second by** Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Approval of the Town of Eatonville FY 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Audit by Carr, Riggs, And Ingram CPA. Mayor Gardner **Motions to APPROVE** of the Town of Eatonville FY 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Audit by Carr, Riggs, And Ingram CPA; **MOVED** by Councilwoman Randolph; **SECOND** by Councilman Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Comment:** No Resolution/Preamble to read.

Approval of Resolution 2025-7 Recognizing The Axis Realty Agency As The Official Real Estate Agency for the Town of Eatonville. Mayor Gardner **Motions to TABLE** Resolution 2025-7 Recognizing The Axis Realty Agency As The Official Real Estate Agency for the Town of Eatonville; **MOVED** by Councilwoman Randolph; **SECOND** by Councilman Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Comments:** Item table; will go through the procurement process.

REPORTS:

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley – For clarity on the last item (Resolution 2025-7) the expectation is to proceed with a procurement process based off of the finance policies and purchasing procedures, the process takes between four to six weeks for the advertisement, for a scope, and a directional line established to cover that; condolences to Mark Haynes, one of our public works workers, older brother passed, please keep in prayer; the CDBGDR funding opportunity award was \$8.2 million; the master planning meeting will be June 11th to cover all of the input taken place up to date and will be brought before council; been working on the stormwater sufficiency rate study, looking to add in those additional properties that are not being captured as water customers for the town of Eatonville; the strategic planning session will cover goals 3-5 at the next meeting (May 20th); with the audit being approved, we can begin forecasting numbers and addressing some of the items that were brought up by Ms. Johnson and others, will have a meeting and ensure Ms. Johnson is invited to address both questions; in the process of some system overhauls, Edmunds is fully implemented, staff has been trained in April and getting fully acclimated to the system; working on several

studies such as the water and sewer, and the master plan; looking at some planning and permitting department change, will bring before council for approval; discussed the 526 Clark Street dumpster enclosure, met with the owners of the property and the business owner, it has been identified that the dumpster was placed on a non-conforming lot, it should not have been placed there, working with staff and the owners to mitigate and rectify will keep the council informed, the cost will be on the town; doing an overhaul review with the planning department on all enclosures within the town ensuring that it is cost efficient and within the zoning for the property; if interested in the youth football, cheering, volunteering, background checks are taking place tomorrow, May 7th at 6 pm at the Grant Avenue Neighborhood Center in Orlando, the league for the Eatonville Vikings; May 10th (10am-2pm) is the community pool reopening celebration, the big one, it has been a year since opening; June 11, 2025 is town's Master Planning meeting; looking forward to Councilman Mack's Cleanup Day along with Hurricane Preparedness Day in the town of Eatonville with police and public works department and other key entities such as Duke Energy, orange County Fire Department, tentative date is June 14, 2025, potentially there will be shredding services as well; the Mayor's Small Business Development Training Academy is starting, deadline for established business or those looking to establish a business is May 12th, the program begin on May 28th through the end of June, opportunity for businesses to be a part of the funding opportunities; reaching the timeline for ARPA funds were released back in 2021, there have been significant purchases such as the back on truck and the Jetter (approved by council) which have become valuable to the operations for the public works and utilities departments, there are videos available (will share with council) that show the increasing internal ability to do projects without having the larger surcharges using external companies.

ATTORNEY: Clifford Shepard – (Updates) As a general counsel for the Florida Redevelopment Association (FRA), was under attack during this legislative session which was intending to do away with CRA's by making it illegal to fund or create new projects after October 1st of this year, without the CRA the town would not get the tax dollars, the house wanted to get rid of CRAs altogether and the Senate wants the CRAs to be left along, the matter died for this legislative session, (advise) have to make sure that the CRA is only spending money the way it is legally able to spend, several cities were the poster child for why the CRA should be done away with, for reasons such as, spending money on marketing and special events, which is not what the CRA money is supposed to be spent on, the main target was for wasting money and not doing redevelopment, (advise) ensure that the spending are within the guidelines when looking at the budget, when not spending the money properly, the state does not intervene, but the county can., the county can report to the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee (JLAC) to run an audit, options when there is money left over are either to return the unspent money (TIF, Tax Increment Funding) to the county, or move the money to another project and spend it there (reallocate the money), to give back money to the county is making a mistake, there is no version of an event that the CRA can pay, can spend the money on the exterior of businesses. (Facade grants), for better streetlights, to improve drainage, must be outlined in the 1997 CRA plan, the four big rules of CRA spending is the spending has to be done in the district, has to be in the budget, has to be in the plan, and has to be in the statute, the statute I quoted in the memo provide by legal.

TOWN CLERK: Veronica King – For the public, the May Stakeholders Meeting scheduled for May 25th, will be canceled due to the Memorial Day holiday, the next Stakeholders Meeting will be June 23, 2025.

MAYOR REPORT:

Mayor Gardner – The law enforcement memorial ceremony was a nice event, worth going to if you have never attended; the Mayor's Business Development Training Academy is important for anyone that wants or thinks they a skillset that would be needed during all of the projects coming in the town, can be trained, get certified, and will be able to bid for town work and for work for any municipal (grant funding), this is great preparation for those that are entertaining the idea of being self-employed and being a part of what is going on, May 12, 2025 is the deadline to register, the event start on May 28, 2025, the literature will be multilingual; condolences to the Haynes family and other families.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS -

Councilman Tarus Mack – Thanks for coming out; acknowledged and appreciated the clerk for the work that is done and for going over and beyond; acknowledged and appreciated Chief Murray and the police for keeping the community safe, the police department is the best, fantastic job leading the officers; acknowledged and appreciated the Mayor who is an educator along with other educators who do not get the recognition they deserve, stick in there although it is tough at times but continue to do what your do; acknowledged code enforcement and Mr. Pressley for having Animal Control (Orange County) to come and educate on their operations, announced the event at Barnett Park to get shots for your animals over at Barnett Park on tomorrow (May 7, 7am-12pm), acknowledged and appreciate Ms. Nathiri (PEC) for the presentation, want to make sure that the town is partnering with her, moving forward doing all the things needed to better the Eatonville community, would like to see others within the town get involved; acknowledged and appreciated Mr. Washington (Recreations) for the work he is doing, without the amenities he is doing a terrific job being creative, specially bringing football and cheerleading back to the town, have until August 31 to sign up, visit website to register; excited about the Eatonville Water Sewer Infrastructure program that the Mayor brought to the table, will benefit the community, appreciate the Mayor's leadership and vision for that; acknowledged the pool's first birthday bash (Saturday, 10am-2pm) and thanked All Seasons for refinishing the town's pool; Juneteenth is a very important month, activities will take place starting Thursday, June 19th and will end Sunday (22nd), acknowledged Mrs. Critton and the committee for the job they are doing in representing the town of Eatonville, everyone come out enjoy Juneteenth; acknowledged and appreciated Mr. And Mr. Stanley for organizing a bike ride in Eatonville on the first Saturday of the month and for being an advocate in the community; encourage others to experience the 1887 First night market, there is no violence and no disruptions, everyone is friendly and get alone, it is a beautiful thing in the community; inquired about any lawsuits (there are no lawsuit per legal); condolences to wife (passing of father), to Mitch (friend in Winter Park who passed away), to the Mitchell family, to Nina Kelly, and to the Haynes family (Clarence Haynes), .

Councilwoman Wanda Randolph – Acknowledged special sympathy and love for the Haynes family; acknowledged Mr. Pressley for taking care of the issue with the dumpster (will send additional information); there is parking problems on Bethune Drive, need no parking on one side in consideration of the restaurant and patrons, fire truck cannot drive through (ask Chief to look into this matter); concerns about the information provide by Ms. Johnson (will be meeting with the auditor); had a strictly business networking group of all the Eatonville businesses on the 28th (April), was nice and allows for the businesses to hear, address concerns as business owners (Eatonville Only, partnered with the Chambers of Commerce), no membership required; inquired about the golf cart ordinance that passed, is everyone in compliance, it has been promoted since March 31, 2025 and no one has registered, Chief Murray will take a different approach by going door-to door to those who own a golf cart, if not able to comply citations will be written; acknowledged the staff for doing a good job of holding things together.

Councilman Rodney Daniels – Condolences to Councilman Mack and his wife (passing of father), the Haynes family, to Nina Kelly (sister-in-law's sister); acknowledged municipal clerks, teachers (special appreciation to teachers at Hungerford who give a lot); asked Mr. Pressley about getting with code enforcement about an ordinance for leaving out trash during times when not scheduled for pick up; inquired about an ordinance on basketball goals (family placed an basket goal in the ground that hangs over in the street (dangerous). ,

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **Moved** by Councilman Mack; **Second** by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:59pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by:


Veronica L King, Town Clerk

5 of 5 05062025CouncilMeetingMinutes

APPROVED


Angie Gardner, Mayor