



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 7:30 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 Critton called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and a quorum was established by Mrs. King.

PRESENT: (5) Councilman Tarus Mack, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilwoman LaDwyana Jordan, Vice Mayor Angela Thomas, Mayor Ruthi Critton

STAFF: (9) Marlin Daniels, **Chief Administrator Officer**; Veronica King, **Town Clerk**; Greg Jackson, **Interim Town Attorney**; Chief Stanley Murray and Lt. Felicita Hernandez, **EPD**; Faith Woods, **Executive Assistant to the Mayor**; Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director**; Valerie Mundy, **Public Works Director**; Baruti Abdallah-Nosakhere, **Code Enforcement**

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Mayor Critton MOTIONS to **APPROVE** the Agenda with **AMENDMENTS (Amendments)**: Moving consent items #3-5 to council decisions: (the Sale of Three Patrol Vehicles As Surplus Vehicles, approval of Resolution 2026-42 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025, and Ending September 30, 2026, approval of Resolution 2026-43 Approving the Change of Position Title of Records's Coordinator to Deputy Town Clerk), adding presentation from the Dr. Phillips Charities with updates on the Hungerford property, moving discussion items from 6:30pm workshop which consist of a Request for Vacating A Road Associated With THOMPSON SUB Q/1 LOT 12 & VAC R/W PER 8279/3639, discussion of a Proposed Legislative Planning Retreat, a discussion of Democratic Process Pertaining Meetings, Agenda Items, Proper Governance of Meetings and Best Practices, clarifying meeting minutes dates for May 19, June 2, June 8 (2026). **Moved** by Councilwoman Randolph; **Second** by Councilman Mack. **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

PRESENTATIONS: (Added to Agenda)

Updates from the Dr. Phillips Charities pertaining to the Hungerford School Property – Dr. Maroon (Chair of Dr. Phillips Advisory Committee) and Mr. Robinson gave a regular update to council, read the finalized mission, vision, values and pillars established the Eatonville Advisory Committee, outside of committee meetings, the advisory committee has been in the community attending several events in July, there is a Meet and Greet Town Hall coming on August 5, 2026, 5:30pm located Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church to hear from the community and to answer questions (food will be served), have submitted for the TDT Grant application for a proposed Eatonville Museum of History and Heritage Campus, the TDT is responsible for

scoring, evaluating, the decision making power is with the TDT, there is an open door opportunity to have community town halls, community workshops, community conversations, to sit down with the organizations and hear what their visions are, to attract opportunity not just for funding but also for collaboration. (Mr. Robinson) there are milestones that have to be met in the agreement with Orange County Public Schools, 4 acres of land will be set aside for Eatonville to build a new town hall/museum, Eatonville will own the land but have to build a town hall on the land (a museum as part of the town hall). Separately with the TDT grant a park, museum, and history trail is being proposed, there is an investment of \$20 million that will be contributed (by Dr. Philip's Charities) to make this happen,

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – None (0)

PUBLIC HEARING

Approval of 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2026-5 (Formerly 2026-2) Certified Recovery Residences (Preamble Read) – (No public nor council comments) item was previously approved but brought back for reassignment of a new index number. **Mayor Critton MOTIONS for APPROVAL** of 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2026-5 (Formerly 2026-2) Certified Recovery Residences, **moved** by Vice Mayor Thomas, **second** by Councilwoman Randolph. **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.** This is only for an index amendment.

CONSENT AGENDA Mayor Critton MOTIONS for APPROVAL of the Consent Agenda (items 1 and 2 only consisting of the approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes with clarified dates for May 19, 2026, June 2, 2026, June 8, 2026 and approval of Resolution 2026-40 approving fees for Election Signs for the 2026 Elections, **moved** by Councilman Mack, **second** by Vice Mayor Thomas. **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.** **Comments:** Consent Agenda Items 3, 4, and 5 were moved to Council Decisions.

Approval of The Sale of Three Patrol Vehicles As Surplus Vehicles – **Mayor Critton MOTIONED to APPROVE** the Sale of Three Patrol Vehicles As Surplus Vehicles **moved** by Councilman Mack, **second** by Vice Mayor Thomas. **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.** **Comments:** Surplus of vehicles through an auction, average in return on vehicles can be \$1500 - \$5,000, monies will go back to the vehicle line. The police department have no vehicles that is being paid or leased at this time. All vehicles are paid for. **Comments:** This item was asked to return back to consent. By consensus of the board, item would remain apart from consent and voted on prior to Council Decisions.

COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS:

Approval of Resolution 2026-42 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025, and Ending September 30, 2026 – There were discussions about changing the Records Coordinator's position from part-time to full-time. **(Randolph)** Requested to hold off on this item due to budget restraints do not feel there should be salary increases; inquired about the amount of funds in the contingency budget line, requested for information on the spending under contingency from the beginning of the fiscal year to present. **(Mack)** Request to wait until budget time **(King)** The Deputy Clerk is not a higher position than the Town Clerk. This is a reclassification of a part-time position to full-time within the current budget, there is a need to increase capacity in the clerk's office through efficient staffing **(Critton)** the town still needs to operate and are not working with an expanse of personnel, while being frugal and responsible, we do not want to be a disservice to the town by not having personnel in place that are qualified and have proven that they are willing to do the job, it is an investment into staff. **(Thomas)** is in favor of moving forward affirming that she (Marissa) is a professional, knows her role, continues to learn and is a big asset who is capable and willing. **(Jordan)** inquired about her being able to take on additional responsibilities. **(Daniels)** in the things that have been done with the records, how much money it would have cost in legalities, we have to outweigh the cost and look at capacity; preliminary evaluations are complete and the next evaluations are due September 1, 2026.

Approval of Resolution 2026-43 Approving the Change of Position Title of Records's Coordinator to Deputy Town Clerk – **Discussions:** There were further discussions beyond the discussion of Resolution 2026-42, which go along with this resolution

Discussion of Resolution 2026-32 – Establishing Community Engagement concerning the Host Dime AI/Data Center located in the Town of Eatonville – **(Randolph)** this has been discussed numerous times and keep bringing it up until we get to the put of community engagement, hearing a lot on the news and across and outside the State of Florida, not hearing much about the sound and environmental issues but more about the water, electric/utilities, would like updates on sound testing and environmental impacts on the community. **(Daniels)** Manny will come to the next meeting with updates, the only sound in question is during the testing of the generators which are at the same capacity being used in Catalina Park, there have not been any complaints. **(Critton)** spoke with Manny about informing the community when the sound testing are scheduled. **(Daniels)** there will be no impacts to taxpayer dollars, they had to pay extra money to harden the grid to ensure public safety and no tax dollars was used for that. **(Critton)** Duke ensured us that current customers are a priority and that there will be no compromise to the power and energy source, there are new legislative protections, energy companies are implementing tariffs for large consumption, we should bring legislative objectives that reinforce what the state is already saying to protect what we already have and what could come to the Town of Eatonville. **(Randolph)** inquired about communication about the testing being sent out through the robo calls and also asked about the yards signs indicating electric grid, Mr. Daniels in response will reach out for information and to observe the sound testing, Duke energy is putting down underground power lines, they (HostDime) are going through permitting, the daily fines are still adding up.

Discussion of Request for Vacating A Road Associated With THOMPSON SUB Q/1 LOT 12 & VAC R/W PER 8279/3639 – **(Mundy)** this is a request by a citizen or a resident of Maitland to vacate a portion of adjacent land/road to build an ADU onto her properties. She did not submit a proper request, we will have to her submit a proper request. A memo was provided to town council from Ms. Mundy stating that more information is needed. There is no decision to be made until the requester submits a full package.

Discussion of a Proposed Legislative Planning Retreat – **(Critton)** a document was provided with questions for you (council) to consider, Mr. Daniels sent out several emails requesting for legislative objectives.

Discussion of the Democratic Process Pertaining Meetings, Agenda Items, Proper Governance of Meetings and Best Practices – Attorney Jackson will bring back at a later time.

COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Approval of Resolution 2026-42 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025, and Ending September 30, 2026 – (Preamble Read) **Mayor Critton MOTIONED to APPROVE** Approval of Resolution 2026-42 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025, and Ending September 30, 2026; **moved** by Vice Mayor Thomas, **DIES for Lack of second MOTION DIES.**

Approval of Resolution 2026-43 Approving the Change of Position Title of Records's Coordinator to Deputy Town Clerk – (Preamble Read) **Mayor Critton MOTIONS for APPROVAL**, changing the Position Title of Records's Coordinator to Deputy Town Clerk **moved** by Vice Mayor Thomas, **second** by Councilwoman Jordan. **AYE:** Councilwoman LaDwyana Jordan, Vice Mayor Angela Thomas, Mayor Ruthi Critton **NAY:** Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Tarus Mack. **MOTION PASSES 3/2.**

Approval of Resolution 2026-41 For Clarity 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 2026-41 For Clarity 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 Councilman Mack. **Discussions: (Mack)** request to table **(Critton)** are there any prohibitions to an elected officials taking an individual position, no was stated from legal emphasizing that they cannot imply representation on behalf or directed by the board, must make clear of one's individual capacity, do not want council to feel like they do not have the right to support something even if it is not as a collective body. **(Jordan)** inquired about clarity of the council position through this resolution, is it supporting the non-profit who is filing the lawsuit? **(Randolph)** the resolution is in support of the transparency of Florida Sunshine Law. **(Thomas)** inquired as to if this is a position of assumption of a violation **(Critton)** we make an oath to abide by the Florida Sunshine Law, it is a no-brainer that we support government transparency, it is implied, almost assumed, and understood that as elected officials we support governmental transparency, concerned that there is no need for a resolution, while we are not adding ourselves as a party to that lawsuit, the concern is that we were expressing support for one side or another without the confirmation of the allegation that Sunshine Law was violated. If the resolution of the lawsuit is that Florida Sunshine was not violated or was found in violation, we still support governmental transparency by being elected officials, it is unnecessary to draft a resolution that could be used as a document of support in the lawsuit of public support for the legal action that was initiated. **(Thomas)** Allow me to speak for myself, agree will tabling. **(Mack)** want to turn a different leaf in orchestrating and getting things done, coming up with good initiatives that is going to be good for economic growth, want to table to give everyone an opportunity to meet with Mr. Robinson and Mr. Prather. **(Jordan)** inquired as to if the opportunity goes away if it is decided to approve (resolution) to support governmental transparency, do not see or know how the opportunity going away. **(Councilwoman)** requested that Mayor Critton restate her observations and concerns from the resolution. **(ACTIONS RESCINDED) Mayor Critton MOTIONS to TABLE Resolution 2026-41 For Clarity 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 Councilman Mack, **second** by Councilwoman Randolph. **AYE:** Councilwoman Jordan, Vice Mayor Angela Thomas, Councilman Mack, Mayor Critton, Councilwoman Randolph **NAY:** Councilwoman Thomas. **MOTION PASSES 4/1 (Item Tabled).**

REPORTS:

Town Clerk – Veronica King – handed flyers and extended training to the council on the new meeting devices.

Interim Town Attorney – Greg Jackson – Will draft a memo to council in regard to Senate Bill 1134 since the historic Town of Eatonville participates in various cultural activities; also requested by Mayor Critton to give a memo on bill 44 data centers.

Chief Administrative Officer - Marlin Daniels – RFPs for legal counsel have concluded, now talking with attorney and with procurement staff, a copy will be provided to council, council will have an opportunity to sit down and have individual discussions with them, looking to bring applicant to workshop on August 4th; when it comes to the budget, we have to look at historical data, benchmarks, and other details in order to make educated decisions, Ms. Gibson has created a timeline for the budget workshops recommending August 4th, 11th, and 19th, a final workshop will be determined is needed. Budget Hearings are scheduled for Wednesday, September 9th and Monday, September 21st. Consideration was made to have the preliminary budget workshop on August 11th. Thereafter, recommend for council to meet individually with the CAO to discuss requested changes. Ms. Gibson will send out the dates through clerk for the Budget Workshops and Hearings; budgets have to come with supporting documents; requested for town council send over their legislative objectives. **(King)** informed council that early voting and election day is in August, the council meetings, workshops and board meetings will be held at the Denton Johnson Center.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS -

Councilman Tarus Mack – Condolences for those suffering loss; inquired about HostDime receipt of occupancy and opening date (have not received their certificate of occupancy and expected to open in sometime in August), they are in the process of getting permits, there is infrastructure issues (with excessive flooding) that have not been brought to our attention that need looking into and answers; encouraged participation in the Bruce and Winnie Mount Scholarship; thanked Dr. Anna Eskamani and Dr. Phillips for their presentations, encouraged meeting with Dr. Philips about the scope of work for Hungerford; inquired about the refund to citizens for the water rate; recognize Ms. Mundy for her tireless efforts including the sidewalks, want to expand sidewalk to other areas; recognized to Marissa in the work that she does being a great asset, in favor of Marissa becoming full-time but want to do it a different way; acknowledged Chief Murray's leadership and the initiative towards Hurricane Preparedness; acknowledged Norm Lewis, Dr. Scot French, Mr. Lovett for their advocacy for the community, Eatonville 1887 means a lot to me, especially growing up in this community, is seeing the different changes, but not seeing enough changes, want to make sure that we are changing the economic growth and creating job opportunities for our kids and the people, we have a job to do,

Councilwoman LaDwyana Jordan – appreciate all the presentations and acknowledged Ms. Mundy for her immediate response when reaching out to her concerning the sulfur odor and requested for an update (missed a chlorine delivery, reports came back positively); looking forward to the Hurricane preparedness; thanked Dr. Philip.

Councilwoman Wanda Randolph – thanked the staff; spent a lot of money in Catalina Park, the building is sitting there with no staff, no visibility with law enforcement, nothing going on, want to see this address **(Mundy)** permits had to be approved through the fire department, should have permit from the building department this week and resume to building the around that facility **(Murray)** There is no need to interact if it is not necessary, officers who are very community oriented will go down there and talk, pulled somebody over who ran a stop sign, make the calls if there are any issues **(Critton)** through the grant there is personnel attributed to the building once the building is opened, there is programming that can occur with the approval of the council, there were some deadlines and extensions along with pleading and begging amongst the council about updates and moving forward to get some things done, there is some ownership as the governing body, there is still an opportunity to make good use of the building, Chief can provide clarity as to what can happen, it is tied to community policing, will be sure you get an update from staff; there are reports about signs on the right away, there are two permits for elections, code enforcement has been picking up signs; inquire about e-bikes, usually riding bikes in the bike lanes, have not had a lot of crossing the streets, the officers are monitoring; inquired about Founder's Day; if there is an issue with the CRA as far as funding projects and sitting on vacant property, is there any way that the town can utilize those funds to purchase property or affordable homes from the CRA **(Daniels)** talks are taking place with Dr. Johnson and Mr. Johnson, because the CRA is an entity of the town, we have not been able to figure out if that can happen **(Jackson)** if the CRA is truly viewed as a separate distinct legal entity, there can be a purchase between the two legal entities, there can be transfer of property (not within the grant); recommend that managing walk-on items be put to a resolution to cover emergency walk-ons. **(Daniels)** expressed the importance of receiving items on time to allow for legal to review, to help set the agenda; last minute items at times cannot get approved if in a meeting. Attorney Jackson, will put together a memo that speak to walk-on items.

Vice Mayor Angela Thomas – if you haven't met with Dr. Phillips, please do, it is very interesting and informative, I may not agree with everything, but as long as it benefits the Town of Eatonville, I might support; thanks Mrs. Gordan and Councilwoman Jordan for agreeing to volunteer on the committee (Bruce and Winnie Mount Scholarship); spoke to ordinance 2025-2 and the access to the ordinance and code of ordinance through the new device provided.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Ruthi Critton – Mentioned the community Meet and Greet from the Dr. Philips Charities August 5, 5:30 pm – 7:30 p.m. located at Macedonia missionary Baptist Church, food will be provided; Chief's Hurricane Preparedness events starts at 10:00 – Noon (at the Boys and Girls Club) and the Community Conversation starts at 10:30 located at St. Lawrence (AME Church), encouraged attendance, excited about the collaboration from all partners; was hoping to get the retreat in before budget, looking forward to identifying dates for retreat, legislative objectives are important and asked that council send them over to the CAO; for the scholarship, do not forget to tell a kid to apply, mentioned early voting, the deadline for registration if you were not registered for the August 18th primaries was yesterday (July 20), there is a general election in November and October 5th is the deadline to register, the clerk will send out the dates and times for early voting and election, spoke on signage for election, send concerns to the clerk and to code enforcement: Stakeholder's meeting is Monday, July 27th 6:00pm **(King)** Primary early voting is Monday, August the 3rd through Sunday, August the 16th, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and election day is Tuesday, August the 18th from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; CEO Daniels was asked to reach out to the council members to ensure that we incorporated any feedback, any recommendations, suggestions that we might want to see for Founders Day, there is a Save the Date flyer that will be going out, it will be a two-day function (Friday and Saturday).

HANDOUTS: Hurricane Preparedness Community event, Dr. Philips Charities Community Eatonville Initiative Meet and Greet, Community Conversations Event, House Representative Dr. Anna Eskamani Legislative Package with updates.

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Critton **Motions** for Adjournment of Meeting; **moved** by Councilman Mack; **second** by Vice Mayor Thomas; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 10:36pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

 Signed by:
Veronica King
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Veronica L King, Town Clerk

APPROVED
Signed by:
Ruthi Critton
B7C21BB6095E4AA...
Ruthi Critton, Mayor