



# HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 03, 2024, at 7:30 PM

Denton Johnson Center – 400 Ruffel St., 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.*

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## CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM:

Mayor Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and a quorum was established by Mrs. King

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

**STAFF:** (6) Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Ryan Knight, **Town Attorney**, Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director**, Chief Stanley Murray, **EPD**, Valerie Mundy, **Public Works Director**

## INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Rev. Critton led the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

## APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

**Mayor Gardner Motions** to **APPROVE** the meeting agenda; **Moved by** Councilman Mack; **Second by** Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION –

**Joyce Irby** – Expressed concerns for the rehire of Michael Johnson (CRA Executive Director); will be here all the time, going door to door explaining to the people how money is being thrown away hiring friends who are not qualified, who are thieves, and basically economically violating the citizens of this town.

## PUBLIC HEARING:

Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance 2024-10 – Repealing Ordinance No. 97-07 and Ordinance No. 2016-4; Providing for the Future Adoption of Water And Wastewater Service Rates and Fees By Resolution. **Mayor Gardner Motions** to **APPROVE** the Second Reading of Ordinance 2024-10 – Repealing Ordinance No. 97-07 and Ordinance No. 2016-4; Providing for the Future Adoption of Water And Wastewater Service Rates and Fees By Resolution; (Preamble Read) Citizen Comments: (Ruthi Critton) requesting to hear from the council in layman terms in how this will be implemented, what kind of effects citizens are looking at, do a comparison with the current water bill, and how this new ordinance will affect our bill. Council Comments: None **Moved by** Vice Mayor Washington; **Second by** Councilman Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

**APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA:** **Mayor Gardner Motions** to **APPROVE** the Consent Agenda approving Resolution 2024-40 Implementing Increased Water and Wastewater Service Rates, approving the Award to Fred Fox Enterprises, Inc. for Grant Administration Services, and approval of the Audit Firm Carr, Riggs & Ingram CPA and Advisors Engagement letter for FY 2024 financial audit, and the approval of Award To Waste Pro For Solid Waste Collection For The Town of Eatonville; **Moved by** Councilwoman Randolph; **Second by** Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

## COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Approval of Resolution 2024-38 Appointing Chair of the Town of Eatonville Community Redevelopment Agency (TOECRA): (Preamble Read) **Comments:** Councilman Mack - I am recommending the changes with the appointments of chair and vice chair, want to go back to the original way that it has been done, always felt like the mayor should be the chair and the vice mayor should be the vice chair for this particular entity within the town, losing the executive director and then having to go through all the steps that we had to go through, just trying to physically and mentally figure out how we are going to process everything, feel that it would be more efficient, the mayor is the CEO of the entire town. Councilman Daniels - for years, which is how it has been and should have been until one night that the council made Councilman Washington the chairman, the council at that time wanted to go in another direction. Mayor Angie Gardner was nominated **Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE** 2024-38 Appointing Angie Gardner as Chair of the Town of Eatonville Community Redevelopment Agency (TOECRA); **Moved by** Councilman Mack; **Second by** Councilman Daniels; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

Approval of Resolution 2024-39 Appointing Vice Chair of the Town of Eatonville Community Redevelopment Agency (TOECRA): **Comments:** None. Vice Mayor Theo Washington was nominated (Preamble Read) **Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE** Approval of Resolution 2024-39 Appointing Theo Washington as Vice Chair of the Town of Eatonville Community Redevelopment Agency (TOECRA); **Moved by** Vice Mayor Washington; **Second by** Councilman Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

## REPORTS:

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley** – did have the tree lighting to place tonight, the new Christmas tree was donated from our neighbors, it is nice that we have a fountain there, the public works team under Valerie's leadership did a great job, there is a festive spirit for the holidays with the Christmas tree lighting; saved the day for the Christmas on the Boulevard scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup>, collecting toys at the Denton Johnson and Town Hall; working in the Christmas party and will keep council informed; spoke with legal in regards HostDime, they have given a projected finish time, the attorneys are going to work closely with them to address; staff is working on the sidewalks as well as the change grant that was submitted, thanks to the team, Ms. Brittany, and Ms. Mundy for working diligently; The Edmunds new system is in operation, the signature cards and the full implementation of the planning portion and code enforcement is taking place, as that is finalized we will see the improvement; working with the finance department on the procuring process. making sure to follow the same steps for all, ensuring that the process is clear and meets all guidelines in the statute; thank you for reaching out concerning family dynamics, prayers are appreciated.

**ATTORNEY: Ryan Knight** – will get with Mr. Pressley about the amendment to the HostDime agreement, get some time frames and address the \$200,000.

**TOWN CLERK: Veronica King** – No Report

## TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS -

**Councilman Rodney Daniels** – not the only one that feels that the town has been taken advantage of for years; the \$75,000 given to a non-profit (Eatonville Main Street), asking for information, statement of what have done for the street state, main street, for the Town of Eatonville with the \$75,000, call Carolyn Beck who runs the Florida Main Street and was told that there is probably nothing that can be done, will fight for the money to be given back or show what will be done for the town, why was the money not put into the streetscape or trimming trees or paying bills to businesses, the email received provided an itemized budget from Eatonville Main Street showing Founder's day kickoff luncheon, \$4,000 Imperial Hall, \$1,000, Rod Z, \$200, Catering \$1,000 totaling \$6,200, inquired about the rest of the money; thank to the citizens of 1887 and Mr. or Mrs. James, they are

appreciated for helping to keep the Town Council honest; asked Mr. Pressley to follow up and assess the morale of the staff, consider doing a retreat, believes there is a disconnect; will contact Attorney Shepard to discuss a legal matter; how can St. Augustine being oldest city in Florida get funding and Eatonville being the oldest black town do not get funding, need to get lobbyists up in Tallahassee to fight for Eatonville; believe in Eatonville and will fight for Eatonville.

**Councilman Tarus Mack** – Express the importance of coming to the council meetings; thanks to Councilwoman Randolph for bringing resources to the town; thanks to Ms. Kim for giving food away and giving back to the community; sat down with Mr. Pressley and appreciate the clarity you provide on the things going on within the town; congratulates all the new employees; special condolence to my family, recently lost father in November and cousin lost his life away this past Monday; congratulations to my son, it is work to raise a child, but to be able to have a child that succeed in academic as well as on the football field is something, he's one of the top safeties in the country and earned a full scholarship to play on the D one level at a major university, he will be signing his NLI tomorrow at Edgewater High School at 2pm; commend the staff for everything that is done in making sure that the town is ran properly, it is a positive trajectory on Eatonville is looking right now; Council is a team as legislators who do not handle no administrations, it is the mayor's job in making sure the administration is functioning on a daily basis, the legislator's is to make law and ensuring that everything is done to make the town safe; inquired about any pending lawsuit (no);

**Councilwoman Wanda Randolph** – Thanks to the community, the town, staff, and everyone for a successful Thanksgiving drive, had about 65 meals, 600 turkeys with vegetables (\$10,000 worth of food), appreciative of the volunteers, the staff support, the former mayor Eddie Cole, the people in the community, and corporate sponsors; requested an update on the Night Market (Pressley - it is on the calendar for this upcoming week, public works and the team are finalizing the analysis of all information, in fairness to what took place last month, they will host the last one as part of the pilot program), want to ensure that the selling of alcohol is addressed properly (If they have alcohol, they have to have the police department there, they have to sign off for and pay the associated fees required, they will sell alcohol and have to have a license to sell alcohol and must have a designated space that is monitored at all times.); looking at the process for the water rates and also the sewer rates, was there created another process for the review, according to the information, it was the public works director, the CEO, and the finance director, are we establishing a committee or another process for identifying what vendors will be favorable for the town, normally it has to come before the council to discuss and make decisions on what is best for the town (Pressley - there is no new process, the procurement process was followed based on what the current finance policy requires and also the Florida statues requirements, any procurement includes an RFP, invitations and bids, the standard was followed, the reviewing committee includes individuals that have either a skill set, deals with it, or has a background with it internally), when having these processes, it is recommended that the process is presented to the council so council will know in advance what the process is for selecting someone, requesting a copy of the established new process for selection of these vendors; inquired about the logo, staff will follow up with the item and provide specific dates; inquired about the status of Lieutenant McIntyre, requesting information and what is the next step.

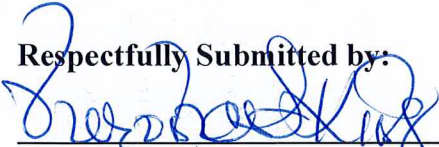
**Vice Mayor Theo Washington** – Expressed concerns about statements made indicating that the town is being ripped off, will not fight personal battles when using my name, there are two sides to every story, When taking this seat (as council member), it expected that some things voted on will or will not be liked by some people, there will always be opposition; no one is talking about how apartment companies can come in and get over on millions of dollars, cannot get public records or where the approval came from council, cannot find a permit.

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Angie Gardner** – Congratulations to Councilman Mack's son for his hard work; acknowledged the lighting ceremony of the Christmas Tree; condolences to the bereaved families who lost loved ones, especially during the holidays, the Harry Rosen family; thanks to OCPS for being a great partner and allowing use of the property (Hungerford) for the upcoming December 19th event (Christmas on the Boulevard), looking forward to the event; Mr. Pressley had a retreat for the staff earlier this year, after the retreat, the

administration brought a budget that had raises in it and it was sliced to COLA, when we talk about morale, perhaps after the retreat, then the council should step up and do their part, that was one way to have boosted morale, Mr. Pressley's morale need to be boosted as well, need to consider how you speak to him and anyone else; to piggyback on what Vice Mayor said, giving away over half a million dollars, given our budget, that cannot be swept under the rug, cannot give \$200,000, waive fees over \$300,000, and doing a resolution saying to take them out according to their contract, stop pointing the finger and look at what we can do better making sure we understand what it is that we are doing up here, hopefully in the new year we can turn this around; To Councilman Daniels, look at the spreadsheet again, you have to click all tabs for the other costs, the \$6,000 figure was incorrect.

**ADJOURNMENT** Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **Moved** by Councilman Mack;  
**Second** by Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
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Veronica L King, Town Clerk

APPROVED

  
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Angie Gardner, Mayor