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HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD MEETING
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Denton Johnson Center – 400 Ruffel Street, 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: Chair Rosa Pickett called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Quorum was established by roll call through Ms. Bellenger, Clerk's Office.

PRESENT: **(5)** Chair Rosa Pickett **Board Members:** Vice Chair Ann Dawkins-Curtis, Laverne Bellamy Williams, John Beacham, Tiffany Simmons

STAFF: **(4)** Marissa Bellenger, **Deputy Town Clerk;** Veronica King, **Town Clerk;** Greg Jackson, **Interim Town Attorney;** Jennifer Cockcroft, **TG Law**

OTHER ATTENDEES: (4) Jenny Wolfe, **Community Planning Collaborative (via Zoom);** Melissa Jest, **African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund (via Zoom);** Mayor Ruthi Critton, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Rosa Pickett led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Pickett moved Staff Comments before Citizen Participation.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Veronica King, Town Clerk – Early voting is currently taking place at Town Hall. Election Day is August 18th. Attorney Greg Jackson is sitting at the diocese as Interim Town Attorney. Mrs. King then introduced the new Town Attorney, Jennifer Cockcroft, from TG Law. After Mayor Critton, Mrs. King continued her comments by announcing an update of tablets available to the Board during meetings. She also announced the reclassification of Ms. Bellenger to Deputy Clerk. Ms. Bellenger made brief comments to the Board.

Ruthi Critton, Mayor – Mayor Critton announced an administrative update to the Board. Staff are putting together a task force of residents for a historic markers project with the National Park Service. Your feedback and recommendations would be appreciated. The Town Council recently passed a resolution to create a heritage tourism district. The CRA has applied for TDT funding. I will make sure Executive Director Johnson gives you a copy of the presentation. Board Member Simmons – Is there a map of the district? Attorney Jackson – There is no established map yet, but we are working on it. There are sites (Thomas House, St. Lawrence, Club Eaton) which will be included. Mayor Critton clarified it will be a town recognized district. Conversations will be held within the TOECRA Board. Board Member Beacham requested a video of the TDT presentation.

Councilwoman Wanda Randolph gave a brief report on historic preservation initiatives. On Saturday, August 15th, St. Lawrence will be hosting an event (The Festival of St. Lawrence) which will showcase historical artifacts.

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CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Rosa Pickett **MOTIONS** to **APPROVE** meeting minutes for July 2, 2026; **moved** by Board Member Simmons; **second** by Vice Chair Dawkins-Curtis; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES, 5/0.**

BOARD DISCUSSIONS/DECISIONS:

Eatonville Historic Survey Recommendation – Tara Salmieri, Planner began the discussion by stating that the next steps were for the Historic Preservation Board to figure out what they are doing with the survey. Chair Pickett – Do we approve the recommendations? Attorney Jackson – First, determine which recommendations you want to take out or change. Chair Pickett asked the Board if they had any additional recommendations or would like to change the current ones. The Board did not have any further recommendations or changes.

Chair Pickett MOTIONS to APPROVE the Historic Resources Survey and Advance it to the Town Council; moved by Board Member Simmons, **second** by Vice Chair Dawkins-Curtis. **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES 5/0. Comments:** Attorney Jackson discussed next steps and stated that the decision is now in the hands of the Town Council. Board Member Beacham inquired about the recommendation to expand the boundaries of the Town. Attorney Jackson clarified that it is not necessary to put forth a motion because it is part of the survey recommendations. Chair Pickett encouraged the Board to attend the Town Council meeting in which the survey is discussed. Attorney Jackson recommended doing a workshop with the Board to emphasize their recommendations to the Town Council. Tara Salmieri – Staff will go to the CAO to discuss the will of the Board. The CAO will then determine a date, and the Board will be notified.

ADJOURNMENT Chair Pickett **adjourned the meeting at 6:44pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by: Marissa Bellenger

ATTEST

Signed by:
Veronica King
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Veronica King, Town Clerk