



# HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 01, 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 7:33 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:** (4) Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Clifford Shepard, **Town Attorney**, Stanley Murray, **Police Chief**,

#### 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; **Moved** by Councilwoman Randolph; **Second** by Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

#### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – (1)

Kelvan Franklin – Provided historic information about mother's original address being Route 2. Box 77B dated 1949 (handout given to the council); Gave updates on the Chamber for Commerce as an ambassador: on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:30–8:30pm there will be a free professional perspective network event (Open to the public), professional head shots are available for \$10, vending and shopping will be available with an opportunity to support local small businesses, food will be available for purchase. Councilman Daniels expressed concerns about the event being on a Tuesday and not a Saturday (weekend).

**APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA: Public Statement:** Does any member of the council or the public wish to pull an item from the consent for discussion? (None); Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE the Consent Agenda; approving Town Council Meeting Minutes for 3-18-25, and approval of the Service Contract for Waste Pro For Solid Waste Collection For The Town of Eatonville; **Moved** by Councilman Mack; **Second** by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

**COUNCIL DECISIONS:** None.

#### REPORTS:

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley** – (Updates) thank the team for a great job getting the solid waste, good for the town, for sustainability and just understanding those processes, thanks to WastePro, Ms. Dolan from Tallahassee was in attendance to support; the April Pools event is Saturday (5<sup>th</sup>) from 2:00-4:00 p.m. hosted by the recreation department with Alma Swim Foundation, this is a way to open up the pool; the 1887 night market and a dive in movie night at the pool will also take place on Saturday, the movie showing is the Little Mermaid while the adults and kids get a chance to swim, Mr. Washington is doing a great job, the Eatonville Vikings (football) are starting back up in the Orlando circuit for five to eight year old, current



employee Mr. Dominique Taylor in his spare time will help with the Eatonville Vikings along with the recreation department; the economic development team is ensuring that businesses are coming to the town, Angels Chicken Express is opening soon, will update council with the dates for grand opening (business flyer was provided to council); have an economic development plan for the Town of Eatonville associated with majority of our grants, preparing to work along with the chambers and other non-profit organizations, hoping the program will start with between 10 to 15 new businesses in or around Eatonville, advertising to make sure that the businesses such as GCI (Town's Program Manager) and Waste Pro have a business tax receipt in Eatonville; did get an update from the county about adding additional temporary sidewalks on the west side (Lake Destiny up to Keller Road), received an update on the West Kennedy project which is going to start January, 2026, the procurement process has begun and the construction company and plan should be defined by the end of this year, an analysis is being done on the timeframe between adding sidewalks in the first phase that will extend to Forest City Road (being looked at and will depend on timing; had the ranking today for the CDBGDR (the stormwater park along with the upgrades for the two resiliency hubs), thanks to the team for a good job, this is a potential and additional \$15 million dollars towards storm water preservation and resilience for the town of Eatonville; did research for the prayer and invocation during meetings, other communities are doing the invocation by way of an ecumenical call to all, can work with the clerk to put an all call out for the invocation (if council would like to move forward), there could be Muslim, Agnostic groups that participate, the churches or the faith-based community in Eatonville can be used in rotation; have the water sufficiency rate study program underway; the Duke Energy have completed over 59% of the homes within Eatonville, about 580 homes serviced through the energy savings program; to Mr. Pressley, Councilman Daniels inquired about doing words of encouragement from Pastor Critton as an alternative to prayer (legal will address).

**ATTORNEY: Clifford Shepard** – According to the Supreme Court, it is fine to pray to Jesus, as long as there is an opportunity for others to come and pray on behalf of what they believe including satanists, referenced a headline in Lake County where an individual wanted to give a satanic invocation at a Lake County meeting, there was a lawsuit over it, cannot control the message in a government setting, you have to welcome all or welcome none, words of encouragement would be fine if the person is not vested with the cloak of religion (non-religious in nature); Maitland did an ecumenical call, which led to an organization threatening to sue if they were not allowed to come (they later lost interest and stop coming), Maitland decided to a moment of silence. There is a legal way to have an invocation with religion involved, but there is no way to control the type of religion, this is what the law allows; (CRAs) the legislature has put a big target on CRAs, the current form of bills that are in front of the legislature that may pass is ending all CRAs in 2045, no new projects after October of 2025, meaning that if it is not in the budget or money is not spent this year based on projects that are in the budget, there will be no more projects and effectively other than paying off the bond debt, nothing can be done with the money except to send it back to the county), this will be a huge impact on the town/CRA, the entire town is a CRA, what can be done, call your legislative delegation and oppose (it will ruin the town and a lot of others); why the target on CRAs - a specific city was using the CRA money on marketing events and special events which are not bricks and mortar projects, by statute they are not permitted, the city insisted that it could be done causing the legislature to act potentially messing it up for everybody, the bill that is most onerous is House Bill 991 has that all CRAs will end by 2045, no new projects, and no new funding of new projects after October 2025, was told that the House really wants this bill, but not so much the Senate, the Senate bill only has that all CRAs will come to an end by 2045, if the Senate has something to get through the house, and the house has something to get through the Senate, they will swap (horse trading), encouraging people to call their legislative delegation, tell them what this would do and how much the CRA means if it goes away (loss of money); gave council opportunity to ask me questions about what is appropriate for a walk-on during meetings and workshops, a writing opinion was previously provided to council by email.

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Angie Gardner** – it was a lovely memorial gathering in honor of former mayor Ada Sims, condolences and prayers to the bereaved families; please by the turnout of the CRA event, the town's people will benefit should that grant get approved for the housing repairs; had a positive press conference to



announce the water sewer grant, highly professional and organized; thanked the staff, Ms. Gragg, Mrs. King, and Mr. Pressley; the rendering of the resource facility in Catalina is forthcoming, Ms. Mundy is working with the architect to get that together, will bring before the public for feedback; Ms. Monday prepared and executed a wonderful professional presentation for the CDBG grant, the quality of the presentation is one that should result in the town being one on the list; Mr. Presley; along with Mr. Pressley, we will continue to meet and state the town's position with the school board members, appreciate meeting with them to introduce ourselves for a more personal connection; great seeing the horses at the Stogies at Sunset event, had a great time; the Duke Energy Savings Program is helping our citizens, the little things make a difference; very pleased with the direction that our town is headed in, thanks to Mr. Presley for his leadership, thanks to the staff members, nothing will happen without the total commitment, thanks to Chief for keeping the town safe; for updates on the water program visit [www.eatonvillewaterprogram.com](http://www.eatonvillewaterprogram.com)

## **TOWN COUNCIL REPORT -**

**Councilman Tarus Mack** – Thanked everybody that came out engaged in town's business, thanks to the staff, thanks to WastePro for coming in when they came in, thanks to Mr. President, the event the town had with the CRA and with Vice Mayor Washington was a great event with no drama, confusing, nor arguments, Chief Murray and your staff are doing an impeccable job making sure the community is safe at all times, there are high talks about the police activity; looking forward to the April Pool's day, acknowledged the beautiful pool done by All Seasons Pools, who helped out the community, acknowledged the bike ride Axis Realty on Saturday morning (April 5, 8:00am); the market night starts at 5:00pm; condolences to anybody that have lost anyone, Charlotte Blue and the blue family and also Angie Curry; inquired to legal as to if there are any new lawsuits (no new lawsuit), the one lawsuit has been dismissed with prejudice based on the settlement; recognized the seriousness of keeping CRAs, it is going to take a collaboration of all of us sticking together and making sure that we push legislatures in Tallahassee so that they hear our voice; cannot sit back and allow things to continue to happen; Mr. Kelvan does a fantastic job for the Chamber of Commerce keeping the council/community updated on information; referenced what Councilman Daniels stated about the event date, maybe come up with a date that could suit everybody like a weekend where everybody can be involved versus on the Tuesday.

**Councilwoman Wanda Randolph** – In the honor of (former) Mayor Ada Sims, it was an honor to be at her funeral on Saturday, Mrs. Gloria Ware spoke highly of Mr. Sims, appreciate the staff for everything done to commemorate Mrs. Sims (the half masked flag and the memorial display in the lobby), gathered for the vigil, on Thursday night, do think it should have been publicized with the media, other people should have been aware of it (not just Eatonville), a message was sent to the media, the media does whatever they want to do, would like to see written procedures in the future in handling officials who have passed away; the West Street apartment situation (last Wednesday), appreciate Mr. Pressley having the water restored, the water was shut off on an entire apartment complex, there were several situations concerning the the master meter, inquired about an explanation about what is being done, there are a few more commercial meters that have to be installed, once installed with the new rates, the new system, there will be an updated pricing metrics for the commercial, this particular one (apartment complex) had not paid their bill in four months (in excess of \$10,000), trying to use the metrics of shutoff to impact only the owner, found out that the previous owner installed a shutoff system for the units to control those who did not pay their rent (not legal), this is being addressed, when the meter was shut off, the owner impacted over 10 to 15 of the units based on those who reported, have to put in a new process to recoup those funds and figure out another way to address and correct, when businesses are behind or low, the normal practice is to not cut them off, the owner had been refusing to respond, they responded when the master meter was shut off, they made a payment, the utility and public works are working on a method to correct it for future purpose; the water is constantly leaking, who is paying for that (will look into it); the Dukes and Boots Rodeo events was nice, everything was orderly and everyone seemed to have a good time, were there any problems with horse dropping (yes, was cleaned up on Monday; for the



attorney, can you explain how the property tax issue will affect local government, in response getting rid of the property tax will ruin us, would have to replace the property tax in this state, with the sales tax (possibly 12, 15, 20%), hopeful that somebody at the legislative level will have the smarts to say no; on West Kennedy where people are walking, alligators have been spotted, police has to be informed, the alligators can be found and located, call 911 and police will respond, can close off the area so nobody can walk in the area, that is the goal.

**Councilman Rodney Daniels** – (alligator siting) suggest putting up a sign to inform the people not to walk there, especially at night. I just want residents to be aware of what's going away; inquired about an ordinance on putting your trash out (outside of the designated times), would this be a code enforcement matter, give a warning; on the corner of Washington is it a roll off and is it permissible, is the tarp that permissible, it is an eyesore, makes the front street look bad; inquired to the attorney on the dismissal on the lawsuit, in response, with prejudice means it cannot come back, the dismissal was the result of the settlement that the council approved (with UP Development); When the flags are half masked make sure all flags are half masked (post office); expressed disappointment about businesses being able to go three and four months without payment when as resident who forgot to pay bill gets turned off, it should be the same for businesses, expressed concerns about if there should be a late fee or a reconnect fee; acknowledged Councilwoman Randolph thinks and how she operates as a business person, recommend her to be the chair over Founder's Day and Juneteenth; condolences to, you know, our, our, our friends, uh, Charlotte, blue Angie.

And, you know, miss, like I said, at her acknowledgement of, she didn't teach me, but I knew my mom talked about it. Like I said, she was, she was tenacious, she was, she didn't, no nonsense. She didn't play the radio. So, uh, just those condolences and thank everyone for coming out and have a great night. Oh, oh, sorry, one more.

Chief, if we can, I would be honored to be one of those people that walk out in the crosswalk to get those people that are, that are not stopping, like I said, I would be that one. They're set up. Who? That guy? Uh, yeah. I mean, but they're supposed to stop. It's the state law, right? They're supposed to stop when we step in and they're not, and you have to like really like, yo, yo, if we can get some of those signs on, on our end down here on West, we don't have those signs.

I guess they've been hit. Right. If we can do that, like I said, I would, I would be more than happy to take my day. And, uh, I'm also looking at a, a, um, initiative with all the whole crosswalk itself. The lines need to be redrawn. Okay, gotcha. There, there, there's no indicator until you get right up on it.

Exactly. Because it is not fully, uh, visible. There's the small traffic stent you see in the middle. Mm-hmm. I want to look at different parts going down. Can you, not all the way down, but in certain parts as well that's gonna do that as well. So yes. Have you been to, um, man, I forgot with Melbourne. Have you seen the, the lights that are in the street in Melbourne that are like crosswalk?

Yes. Yeah. Yeah, I know. We got the lights down there. That's really great in Kelly Park. So it's just finding the funding, the funding that Well, I thought they would take care of that. No, I thought they did. 'cause I thought we took care of the lights down here at, at, at, uh, capital Park and Kennedy, but they said that A DOT did.

Trying to find out.

**Vice Mayor Theo Washington** – Thank you man. Wait, before you get started, um, for that water program and the water grant, I just wanna give a a website, um, eatonville water program.com. If you wanna follow the

water grant progress eatonville order program.com. Vice I apologize. First, I like to give my, um, condolences to all the families that lost loved one.

Especially my teacher, miss the first female mayor here. I met her back in seventh grade, uh, in the seventies, so early, late seventies. And, um, she taught me some things and, um, about life fitting this world period that you'd be doing every day, like signing checks, doing resumes, doing applications. That's one of the classes she taught at Megan Junior High School.

So I, you know. When I met her there, then she ended up moving here, being the mayor, and I helped her out with her campaigns and all that stuff there. But she was a, um, trooper, like Mr. Damon said. She definitely was a trooper. First. I like, welcome back to E Vikings. Um, I coached e Vikings back in my day. We won a couple championships, city, Orlando League.

Um, Dominique was one of our players that was on our team. So was Tim. Um, we lost the championship with Tim, then on it. To, um, predators. So my main thing is I'm glad those guys gave him back, you know, and I gave em some, um, I gave 'em some coaching shirts with he up ing on, 'cause I came in that was with 'em.

So I told 'em, Hey, there some shirts for, you guys have to write this so you guys have uniform. That's one thing. When we did, when we did run PW licenses, we were very classic. We had several uniforms. We didn't have just one set of uniform away. We had a uniform like Colorado, you put uh, uh, uh, a jersey and a pair of pants match everything.

So we were very classic when we had that organization. It, we was funded by the weed seed grant back in the day that bought us a couple helmets. We had two sets of helmets, four jerseys and two or three pair of pants. Gray, white, purple, you know, we had, I mean, gold, white, purple. So, like I said. That's what I wanted to make sure we get back to this.

What make our organization is, I'm glad we started with two teams and build on that. And I do have two nephews that I would be having them put out there. And there are hell players. I'll tell you that right now at their age there are hell A players, so I would definitely get 'em on this program, in this program ASAP once we get it going.

And I like to thank the Lifecycle Bike Club for this weekend bike ride coming up. I will be participating in that. I don't have to read this weekend. So I will be on my trip and riding around this great level of time to Eatonville and with the water meters down in Oak Apartments. That's what I'm gonna call 'em.

It's a hot mess. Honestly. I mean, I don't think we was on duty water on public works. Um, oh, the water department when this guy went down there and did reconfigured that apartment complex. And while one of the bills are high. That apartment bill is high because she getting all the water that's filtering through the system on her meter. That's the reason that Bill is high and she's taking the burden of it. Somebody told my bill like \$5,000, so we need to fix that because when they did that apartment complex down there, he just did what he wanted to do and it is a hot mess. So that gonna be a lot to take care of. And on this weekend, it was a lovely event.



thank everybody that put participated. From staff to citizens. That was out, came out. I think that, um, it's the talk of Eatonville. People love coming to Eatonville. They said all the time at night. Um, at night market, they said, and we had people from all over the place, like the night market. They had people come from Fort Valley State in Fort Valley, Georgia.

We had people come from Daytona, Leesburg. I met some of my clients in Burg, they walking up here and I'm like, okay. So it is, I mean, Ville is known, we are on the map for doing things like good things in in the community and from the parade, Zora, I mean, founders Day, these people are coming to the town of Eagleville. So we just get welcome and like I said, with no incidents. We had no incidents whatsoever. And that's what it's all about. And people enjoyed themselves.

**ADJOURNMENT** Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **Moved** by Councilwoman Randolph; **Second** by Councilman Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:28pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Veronica L King, Town Clerk

APPROVED

  
Angie Gardner, Mayor