



# HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

## REGULAR COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 7:30 PM

Town Hall (Council Chamber) - 307 E Kennedy Blvd. 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 Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and a quorum was established through roll call by Mrs. Veronica King

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

**STAFF: (7)** Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Ryan Knight, **Town Attorney**, Stanley Murray, **Chief of Police**, Katrina Gibson, **Finance**, Valerie Mundy, **Public Works**, Cobbin McGee, **Planner**

### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

**Mayor Gardner Motions (2<sup>nd</sup> Motion-1<sup>st</sup> Motion was rescinded)** to approve meeting agenda adding presentation from the 6:30pm workshop by Studio Jeřř, LLC, To Design, Fabricate, Install and Construct I-4 Ultimate Art Project, adding the citizen participation from the 6:30pm workshop, **tabling** item #2 (Organizational chart), and moving items #3 (Agreement with Jeřř, LLC) and #6 (New Purchasing Policy) from consent agenda to Council Decision; Moved by Councilwoman Randolph; Second by Councilman M. Daniels; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

### PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITION

- **Presentation** by Studio Jeřř, LLC, To Design, Fabricate, Install and Construct I-4 Ultimate Art Project; the I-4 Ultimate Project came with one and a half million dollars that was paid to the different municipalities for the sole purpose of art, Mr. Jeřř is here as the artist that came to us from the county who had worked Jeřř along with other artists. He was presented to the Council who looked at his design and ideas. This is the second presentation. Jeřř introduced himself as an artist from Orlando for about 20 years. Have done numerous art exhibits in Los Angeles and Lake Nona. Presented in Paris and many sculptures are nine to ten stories tall and all over the world. Currently doing the world's largest heart, which will be ten stories tall. Won the sculpture for the city of Jacksonville, on the waterfront. The idea that public art, if done right, can become viral in a good way and help generate eyes and ears. Was selected by my country, the Philippines to design our icon, which is 28 stories taller than the Statue of Liberty. For Eatonville, it is not about how big you make it, it is really about the story to share, want people to tell the story of the town that Freedom built in 1887 honoring and extending legacy and remembering and recalling what was here before. Although times have changed, times have not really changed emphasizing the point that we all can be equal. The idea

highlights the word freedom along I-4. This this sculpture is in the air and says freedom. This is not just a concept. It is 1887 inches tall, which is 157 feet. Art is about storytelling. Some of the money will be used to talk about the town that Freedom built, how the sculpture is being made, and how the people of this community make it what it is, which is a part of the art process. Because I work in Paris, L. A. and New York, I have met people who can help raise awareness of the town. **Discussions:** (Randolph) Concerned that the art does not reflect town (the town was not in shackles and the people were free) As an artist, my job is to work with the city and the council to figure out what the appropriate story will be. This art is an artist's interpretation of the idea of freedom. It is a metaphorical thought about what freedom was and was not. There are many variations of the idea. This is the first pass of an idea. As we move forward with an approval, the next step is the concept of designs by working with the community to design what is desired. It will take time, thought, and community support to get there. To start that process, the agreement is needed to proceed forward. Through a few stakeholder meetings and so forth, we can get to a final design. (Jefrë) Everything done up to this point has been on my own time and pro bono without a contract. Later in the contract, I waived the artist fee with time donated to this project. There is usually a 50 percent artist fee on the budget. The deadline was June 2022. (Mayor Gardner) After realizing what the \$180,000 check was for and that we were under the gun to make sure we could use the funds before giving it back, the county was able to help us by providing names of artists including Jefrë with which they had already worked. (Washington) The funds were more than \$180,000. It was \$220,000. \$47,000 was used for something else. (Pressley) The recommended location is Wymore and Kennedy on the Hungerford property, for which an easement can be given to do this art. The town's infrastructure would be considered, and the art will be placed behind the easement for safety purposes. (R. Daniels) The water tower is a beacon of Eatonville, have consideration been given to placing the light and the word freedom on top of the water tower to create the appearance and height desired? (The Water Tower is an historic element to the Town of Eatonville and creates another iconic moment for the town. Cities have more than one element to come, see, and be a part of. (M. Daniels) When changing the landscape of the town, it needs to have input from the citizens. (Jefrë) Having already spoken with the mayor and others in general from the city, also an artist, doing research, development and interpretation while working with community back and forth is part of the process. If stakeholders or anyone you want me to speak to as we move into this process, that is where we start talking to individuals. The purpose is to test the idea. This might not be the right solution, but this is starting somewhere. If the council approves moving forward, the artist will have the ability to set up meetings with staff and the community. (M. Daniels) There should have been multiple designs with multiple artists who would have given their input. (Randolph) An idea that reflects founding significance of the Town of Eatonville addressing Eatonville given attention of the signing of the charter, which happens in St. Lawrence A.M. E. Church. Also, the three men that made this town to be where it is, who laid a foundation to follow were with Josiah Eaton Lewis Lawrence, and Robert Hungerford. Would like to see more of how the town was founded. (Washington) What you like might not be what someone else likes. This is why teams sit down and do projects. Let him do the project. (Pressley) The purpose today is to get the presentation, an idea. There will be meetings for input to figure out how it comes together. Everybody's points are valid. The idea of listing a mission and goals of what should be accomplished should be on the checklist. (Jefrë) My role is to manage the process, create the concept, keep the vision, and then figure out the right people to put it together.

- Mayor Gardner read the proclamation Recognizing Week of The Family November 4 - 11, 2023. The mission of the week of the family is to strengthen family relationships through education, wholesome activities, fitness and community service.

### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - (The Three-minute rule was strictly enforced)**

**Lavonda Wilder** – Was not present when called upon.

**Louissteen Cummings** – Was not present when called upon.

**Frazier Vincent** – Concerns with Cataline Park not being able to park and fish in the lake, want to know why. Because people are. I there is no parking when the park is full, where do we park to get to the park or to go to the lake and to fish? Feel like privileges are taken away; need bathrooms in the park, little girls and boys are having to go behind the tree to use the restroom. Directed to contact the clerk, to provide contact to further reach out and to discuss a resolution.

**Kevin McKnight** – Expressed concerns and desires for restrooms in the park, water fountain, broken sidewalks (can trip and fall), and improvements in the play area.

**LaDwyana Jordan** – Was not present when called upon.

**Ryan Novak** – Spoke out against automated traffic racketeering and safety devices. A report from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Border Vehicles, as recently as 2022, for the five years preceding, found that automated traffic control devices, especially intersections with red light cameras, following their installations, there was an increase in the following crashes. While it is legal in the state of Florida for these cameras to be issued, make no mistake, they are unconstitutional. Thank you to the veterans who have served. I appreciate your service and thank you for defending our constitutional rights.

**Angela Johnson** – Spoke on the orange stripping being done throughout the town would like clarity on what are the marking for; concerns about the reimbursing HostDime \$200,000 as stated in the contract, which means that there is an upholding of one section of the contract and not section eight which speaks to the project completion for sale, there needs to be clear documentation, clear comments tonight on rather the funds are the towns or the CRA funds, How significant is \$200,000 on a scale of \$58 million? Would ask that you please take that into consideration when you're making your vote tonight; representing Catalina Park and the community group wanting to sit down and figure out the best course for the park safety and availability to all citizens for all residents (inoperable water fountain, no restrooms, and available fund to work together).

**APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA: (Item #2 was tabled and Items #3 & #6 were moved to Council Decision) Mayor Gardner Motions to approve Consent Agenda approving of Funding Agreement between the Town of Eatonville Metroplan Orlando (MPO) FY 2023-2024, approving the Surplus of Two Vehicles, and approving Agreement between The Town and Fred Fox Enterprises, Inc. to perform General Administration Services for the CDBG-MIT; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; second by Vice Mayor R. Daniels; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES (Item Tabled)****

## **COUNCIL DECISIONS:**

**Approval of Agreement with Studio Jefrë, LLC, (Jefrë Figueras Manuel) To Design, Fabricate, Install, and Construct I-4 Ultimate Art Project. Mayor Gardner Motions (2<sup>nd</sup> Motion-1<sup>st</sup> Motion was rescinded)** Approval of Agreement with Studio Jefrë, LLC, (Jefrë Figueras Manuel) To Design, Fabricate, Install, and Construct I-4 Ultimate Art Project.; Moved by Councilman Washington; second by Councilwoman Randolph; **(By Roll Call) AYE: Councilman M. Daniels, Councilwoman Randolph, Vice Mayor R. Daniels, Councilman Washington, Mayor Gardner; MOTION PASSES.**

**Discussions: (M. Daniels)** The reason for my vote was because the community should have input. (Randolph) In agreement that we should go forward with the project. Not an agreement of the type of project that is being presented to the town. The agreement states that the owner will work with the artist to develop a design. A design pursuant to the agreement is not set at this point. If approved, we as a group, as a town, all of us can come up with a compromise in which everyone would be satisfied. The water tower idea can be explored and determined if it makes sense or not. **(1<sup>st</sup> Action/Votes Rescinded).**

**Approval of Resolution 2023-22 Adopting the New Purchasing Policy. Mayor Gardner Motions** Approval of Resolution 2023-22 Adopting the New Purchasing Policy; Moved by Councilman Washington; second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES**

Approval of Approval of HostDime Reimbursement. Mayor Gardner Motions (2<sup>nd</sup> Motion-1<sup>st</sup> Motion was rescinded) Approval in moving forward with HostDime exploring an agreement that is fair for both parties when reimbursing for utilities and right away infrastructure improvements; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; second by Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES (Comments)** – Councilman M. Daniels request for tax implications/projections. **Discussions:** (Gardner) One of the concerns should that construction stop when it is at the end of the construction. We should ensure it is complete. If we are to give \$200,000, the town must protect itself. We cannot give \$200,000, on an old agreement. There needs to be a new agreement that is going to benefit the town. The request tonight was to get direction from counsel to proceed forward with the reimbursement up to \$200,000 towards the HostDime project. Documents have been received of the work in the categories for that \$200,000 with invoices of completion. If it is the desire of the council to proceed forward, the funds will be pulled from the reserve. A new agreement will be set in place with HostDime on the stipulations of how to proceed with the item to be brought back to Council. For clarity, nothing has started with the underground utilities. (Legal) Concerning to the reimbursement that is verifiable third-party cost and expenses to the owner, there is a provision where any other contribution used to reimburse the owner for utility improvements shall be used to reimburse the owner for the entrance road. (The portion for the utility was over the \$200,000 with the right of way improvements. Pending information that is incomplete. It is a matter of how to move forward based on legal's direction as to if we want to proceed with it from our town budget. CRA funds cannot be used. This vote is to move forward in preparing an agreement that works for the town and for HostDime. What is the tax implication of this \$58 million? (Finance will bring back to council projections on tax implications.

## **REPORTS:**

**CHIEF OF POLICE: Stanley Murray** - Gave a 100-day update. It is an honor to serve this town and thank you for support. **UPDATES:** Met with each officer individually, then met as a group to speak to their value, their importance and necessity to the community with an understanding of their real role; created three divisions (a patrol division with a lieutenant, an investigations division with newly promoted lieutenant, also a community relations division); meeting with public works and some residents about ideas to address the Catalina Park issue; implemented the signage to reinforce the rules (the citizens to know what is accepted); looking into upgrading the tasers/use tasers with ongoing testing through a grant; continuing a lot of community connections and will begin visiting places of worship; connected with school by attending Hispanic Day, will receive training in the summer with School Resource Officer (SRO); looking to have three new Reserve officers, will have consistent training in the areas of dealing with an active shooter or mass casualties to include hurricanes among other things; looking to have a records and evidence audit; in need of new vehicles; emphasized the importance of uniforms (how you present yourself); the goal is for officers to get out into the community understanding how to present themselves in addressing issues together (nothing personal); emphasized the importance of minimal noise in the council meetings due to recordings and public viewing; want to ensure security around the building (Town Hall); working with public works director to address the water areas including the tower.

**TOWN CLERK: Veronica King – UPDATES** - FileBank is in the process of doing our inventory, we are still on the timeline for completing that process by January of 2024; the chamber project-monitors have been installed with complete installation this week installing a third monitor (improving technology with digital and wireless capabilities), with needed training, we are expecting to fully launch no later than the first council meeting in December; as a reminder the election in 2024 will be March 19<sup>th</sup> due to the Federal Presidential Preference Primary, for seat numbers four and five. The Supervisor of Election deadline is set for December the 12th, the qualifying period is November 10th through November the 17th, starting this Friday at noon to the following Friday at noon. Qualifying assessment fee is \$200 for qualifying fee plus 1 percent of the annual salary of that seat. Packages are available for anyone running for a council seat. If interested, feel free to reach



out to the clerk's office. Part one of the package will explain what the requirements are to run a campaign for this election; acknowledging Vice Mayor in reference to the Robert's rule indicating a silence means yes. (For the sake of the subject at hand, we did a roll call on the initial vote, so another roll call was conducted for the proceeding vote; clarity was provided on the election qualifying period (date was changed by resolution which also indicated the qualifying period.

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley – UPDATES** – Projects: the roof/HVAC projects are starting as of today the roof to be complete by early December and end of January for the HVAC, the Kennedy streetscape, landscape and irrigation improvements has started, when the roof is complete, metal will be put on the side and will require painting around the building, silk coating the parking lot is taking place; had a meeting over at the Unity Credit of Eatonville; Christmas on the Boulevard is coming up in mid-December, there will be containers in different places, at our Denton Johnson and Town Hall lobby for those who would like to donate toys (More information forthcoming); there has been and will be additional meetings with the school board (Hungerford Property), will present back the full report to keep the council updated, our attorneys have met with the attorneys from the district school board district and working on resolutions to present back, will meet with P.E.C. to discuss their status with their lawsuit; thanks to those who supported the swearing in of charter officers; there was a water main break that took place on October 31<sup>st</sup>, an email was sent to Council to report the new standard operating procedure (SOP) along with the incident report from that water main break, several companies are trying to place Fiberoptic in the right of way, this contract had nothing to do with the HostDime. The Public Works Director has spoken with other municipal governments that are having problems with the installation of Fiberoptic, not properly inspected, or addressing quality control, we are working on something in house through the public works department to ensure isolation of valves and to create a better streamline process to contractors when they are installing Fiberoptic in the ground, accommodated some of events that were taking place due to Halloween (the Public Works Director did what she could to make sure that it was done properly), in that report you can see the details and the reimbursements that will come back to the town as well as the payment for that project.

**TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Ryan McKnight** – No report - will get to work on the HostDime reimbursement agreement; meetings pertaining to Hungerford are scheduled for next week and will provide updates.

#### **TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS-**

**Councilman Theo Washington** – Welcomed the Chief of the Police and acknowledged the official swearing in officers; need to make Catalina Park one of the state of the arts parks in this community (There is money to get it done); the Cataline Park trunks of treats event was successful (congratulations to the town for winning); We need to make things happen (let our citizens see something that we have done) in our infrastructure, the meetings (with school board), improving Kennedy Blvd (streetscape) and fixing the water tower, the buildings, and our parks.

**Councilwoman Wanda Randolph** – Good meeting tonight, very productive; congratulations to Chief it was beautiful ceremony at the Life Center Church; there is an eyesore at the corner of Wymore Road and Kennedy Boulevard (tall sign for the school board); there is a utility box (looks damaged between the chamber and Mrs. Kim's (right hand side, needs to be removed); still waiting on several requests (records); need to do better job communicating correct information in a timely manner; concerned as to items being placed on the agenda (If an agenda item originated from a person and it requires administration to do further research to bring it back to council, that item may be brought back by administration as a way of providing an update. So, it may originate with the council but in return may be brough back by administration with needed updates from any request asked at a previous meeting. Agenda item is put on the agenda by the staff as well as by the council members. If a council member and the administration both submit the same agenda item, typically whoever submits the agenda item first will be assigned to the agenda; spent a day with the National Trust who came to

Eatonville, we went to Mayor Deming's office, they are going to work with the town, the town council, the mayor, and Mr. Pressley about helping to assist with the needs of the town (government/community); requested for Ms. Mundy to give a little summary about the right-a-way and information sent today. (Mundy) there have been two water main breaks attributed to Fiberoptic directional drilling hitting our water mains and the delicate water main system. Because we have a new data center coming it will produce data wires, and there will be an onslaught of fiber needs for the town, we do have a new internet service provider trying to provide fiber to the homes. In future, we should have a discussion on goals, because of laws, we cannot stop communications lines from coming through the towns, however, expenses need to be covered, and need to ensure all kinds of waivers are signed before contractors come into our right-a-way. We are working with legal to make sure that we can have bonds, hold harmless and all other items to protect the town to avoid the expense of all of these internet fiber lines coming through the town, There is a contractor in partnership with Black Rock and AT&T proposing fire to the homes throughout the town. It is prevention and accountability making sure that contractors are doing their diligence in getting the ground penetrating radar, making sure that they are not running through the town and accountability when they do hit a line, they will know in advance what they are going to pay. A future workshop might be of help for all of us to understand what we are dealing with; we are working on a program that will ensure isolation of valves. Valves have not been exercised in about five years. The goal is to make sure things are operating and we can protect our system for what is to come. (Councilwoman) Want to make sure that we are getting our fair share as far as being inconvenience, are we fully assessing the damages, and the cost to the town, including the overtime that employees have put in for a day and a half? (the email with incident report reflects what is being collected back to the town and from the contractor); The annual Thanksgiving celebration community drive thru is on Monday (11-20-23) located at Denton Johnson Center and Mrs. Kim is giving a Thanksgiving Feast on that Wednesday (11-22-23) starting at 12 noon, appreciate all the support from the town, the mayor, the C.A O., and Mrs. Katrina. If you are an Eatonville resident, we have turkeys (first come, first served). A lot is provided by one of the foundations that worked with the Will the new light polls on Kennedy affect the widening of the road (It will, but the county have not acquired the additional right away for that area); commend Chief for the police presence during Halloween; need to do a better job on notifications, How can we get the updated robo calls and text? Must identify better ways of putting information out, creating key phone numbers (Ms. Mundy is working on several options to include signage, door hangers, the phone tree based on information given by the community); thanks to all veterans; on November 16th in the town, a group in partnership with the chamber will host the Power to the Ballot, a national campaign launch. They will kick off the classic weekend and bring 30-50 national and Florida organizations to help push the ballot. There will be a press conference on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. located in front of the chamber with national media coverage by coming to the oldest historic black town in America, the council and everybody is invited, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. there will be a fireside chat discussing issues within the African American communities, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 pm. They will go out to the community to educate people on benefits and different things.

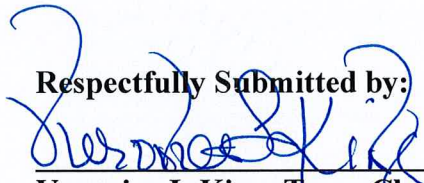
**Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels** – (HostDime) This matter should be at the forefront with legal involvement, request update on where we should with the HostDime project, unacceptable to put it off; (I-4 Arts Project) would like to see another perspective, maybe something with the water tower or something in the middle that would best represent; did a great job addressing the lights on the west side, the eastside (by St. Lawrence) still needs to be addressed (lights are on in the daytime), maybe we can cut off lights to save the town some money; Do we need to boil water, should get something out; apologies for not making the oath ceremony due to schedule change, would like for it to continue; kudos to the chamber for the bike safety event on Saturday, on behalf of C3 of the historic town of Eatonville and the Universal Kings and Motorcycle Club who bought hot dogs and purchased a bike with helmet for kids, helped about 30 people old and young; also kudos to the Life Center church, had an awesome time; was there for photo opportunity instead of bike rides for liability reasons; To Mrs. King, thank you for the awesome job on resolutions, turning them around on short notice for Commissioner Hill. Commissioner Hill was going to speak at the veteran's program but overcommitted (She will still receive the resolution); thanks, the police officers for scanning ensuring sure a haven here in the

council chambers. The Veterans' Program will take place Saturday at 11 a.m., at 10 a.m. the officers will clean the graves and provide flags, the ceremony at 11 a.m. will consist of sayings from the posts, the national anthem sung by LANES (led by Ms. Lisa Williams), come out and support the veterans. Chief Murray was recommended as the speaker for the veterans' program (Chief Jenkins confirmed his interest and availability).

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**Mayor Angie Gardner** – Welcome Chief; all the events around town were nice. Happy anniversary to Pastor Critton for 18 years at Beth Tehillah; to all the veterans, thank you, thanks to Mr. Pressley and staff for everything that you are doing, it is making a difference and improving; Did I sign the proclamation? (Clerk) a resolution for the veteran's event is historically provided. Thank you, council, for moving forward with the art project; condolences to Pastor Critton and family, Miss Mayola Jones, Heidi Castile, please keep them in your prayers.

**ADJOURNMENT** Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; Moved by Councilman M. Daniels; Second by Councilman Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 9:39 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted by:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Veronica L King, Town Clerk

APPROVED  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angie Gardner, Mayor