



# HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

## CHARTER REVIEW

## MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 5:30 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.*

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### CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM:

Mayor Gardner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and quorum was established through roll call by Mrs. Veronica King

**PRESENT:** (4) Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Theo Washington, Mayor Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels, Angie Gardner. (Absent: Councilman Marlin Daniels)

**STAFF:** (4) Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Clifford Shepard, **Attorney**, Nicole Bonds, **CRA Executive Director**, Officer Jones, **EPD Police** (Absent: Demetrius Pressley, **Interim Chief Administrator Officer**)

### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Gardner led a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

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

**Angela Johnson** – Requested clarity on section 6.02 of the Charter inquiring about the Council appointing itself as the Charter Review Committee, when will there be more citizen participation, will a committee be appointed in 2024, the Residents need to be informed, educated on the importance and implications of what will be proposed.: Attorney Shepard provided clarity that the council can review the charter at any time when needed with 8 years being the minimum; the immediate matters that are not addressed in the charter needing resolve is the appointment of the Vice-Mayor when there is a standstill on the appointment through a non-majority vote and the issues on interim and unfilled vacancies when a decision cannot be confirmed; will not get on the ballot until March 2024 during the Presidential Primary Election. There is no violation to do the review now. The "Parking Lot" Issues will provide and encourage input from the public. There is also public input at every meeting. Nothing has been decided; after the review is completed an ordinance with two hearings will be required which also includes public participation. The proposed amendments will ultimately go to the voters for a decision. Ms. Johnson requested information from Attorney Shepard; email, the Florida cities by county indicating the form of government.

**Eddie Cole** – Provided history to the last Charter Review where a Charter Review Committee was selected by the Town Council; only two items recommended for changes came back to Council. Appointing a Charter Review Committee does work. Shared experience as a former Mayor of selecting a Vice-Mayor and hiring interim staff; was told by legal at that time that a selection of a Vice-Mayor was required; also told by legal at the time that hiring an interim could not be done; the Charter does not address hiring an interim. Consider getting an Attorney General's opinion; Attorney Shepard clarified that Attorney Mosley provided the initial opinion that the Mayor had the authority to hire an interim. Mr. Cole requested the written opinion of Attorney Mosley. Councilwoman Randolph stated that there needs to be a consistently to adhering to the Charter as to



how it is written; must do as the Charter says. Attorney Shepard provided clarity that the Council is not operating outside of the Charter. The Town Council unanimously agreed to review the Charter at this time. In 2024, if desired the Charter can be considered for another review should the amendments not be voted favorably by the voters. On the matter of hiring an interim, because of the inability of the city to operate, under the strong-mayor government the Mayor has the inherent power to appoint someone as an interim for 120 days. Further clarity was made emphasizing that the Council as a government cannot campaign or put flyers out for any of the issues; they can only encourage citizen to come out to the meeting to provide input, ask questions, and received honest true answer (not opinions).

#### **EXPLANATION OF CHARTER REVIEW:**

Attorney Clifford Shepard provided guidance on how the Charter Review will be conducted.

#### **COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

Charter Review of Articles 3 and 4 in the order as established in the Charter was facilitated by Attorney Clifford Shepard. Below is a list of matters discussed in the review of Articles 3 and 4.

Section 3.01(a)(c) - No Recommendations or Need for Changes.

Section 3.01(b) - Parking Lot Issue (Will change if form of government changes)

Section 3.02 - Combine with 2.01

Section 3.03 – No Recommendations or Need for Changes. (Council desire to keep as is)

Section 3.04 – No Recommendations or Need for Changes (unless form of government changes)

Sections 4.01 – 4.08 – No Recommendations or Need for Changes (highlighted areas will need to change if the form of government changes).

**(Article 2) - Revisited Sections 2.03 and 2.04** – Reviewed the recommended language drafted by legal from previous discussion in the last Charter Review meeting.

- Section 2.03 - No additional changes

- Section 2.04 - Change 240 days to 180 days

#### **COMMENTS:**

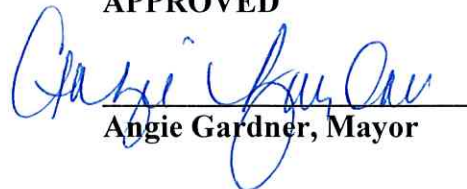
- Attorney Shepard recognized that he may come across passionately at times but never intended to be disrespectful and offered an apology.
- Vice-Mayor R. Daniels expressed desire to offer a public apology to Ms. Johnson
- Councilwoman Randolph requested information on the salaries of the CAO (City Manager)

**ADJOURNMENT** Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; Moved by Councilman Washington; Second by Vice-Mayor R. Daniels; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 6:42 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Veronica L King, Town Clerk

**APPROVED**

  
Angie Gardner, Mayor