



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 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 Critton called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and a quorum was established by Mrs. King

PRESENT: (5) Mayor Ruthi Critton, Vice Mayor Angela Thomas, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Tarus Mack, Councilwoman Ladwyana Jordan

STAFF: (7) Marlin Daniels, **Chief Administrative Officer;** Veronica King, **Interim Clerk,** Greg Jackson, **Interim Town Attorney,** Valerie Mundy, **Public Works Director;** Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director** Tara Salmieri, **Town Planner,** Chief Murray, **EPD**

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Ruthi Critton led the Invocation in a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE Agenda with amendments; Moved by Councilwoman Randolph; **Second by** Councilman Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES, 5/0. Comments:** A presentation about Dr. Phillips with Dr. Moroon was added to the agenda before citizen participation,

PRESENTATION -

Dr. Phillips Charities (Hungerford Property) - Dr. Maroon, the chair of the Dr. Phillips Charities Eatonville Initiative Advisory Committee provided updates on the Hungerford Property - the advisory committee met for its first meeting in June and spent the entirety of the session going over what the mission statement will be, advisory committee members are going to be participating in a dinner for Friday, June 19th, for Juneteenth hosted by Esteem and other committee members will be participating in events on the June 20th at the Hungerford site, the role as an advisory committee is to spend this period of time participating, emphasized that Dr. Phillips Charities is in its due diligence phrase, the advisory committee begins when the land is closed, the advisory committee responsibility to be in community, to go to events, to participate in things that are already happening, to listen on a regular basis, and to come alongside events that are already taking place in the community, it was an honor to participate in the Revive Zora Fest, several other advisory committee members were there in support, council members were there in support, the mayor was there in support, and many of you (community members) were present, it is a wonderful moment to recognize the way that we can all show up, collaborate together, share spaces together, moving toward the same goal.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – (5)

Qualana Picker (by email) – The clerk read into the record the email opposing Resolution 2026-37 the town's support of the Lawsuit by the Association to Preserve Eatonville. Request the town remain neutral.

Jasmyne Reese (by email) – The clerk read into the record the email opposing the town’s support of the Lawsuit by the Association to Preserve Eatonville; oppose data centers.

Ryan Novak – (Resident) in the Resolution 2026-32 the operative clause names the CRA is the enacting body, not the town council (not right); a resolution cannot compel a private developer to disclose anything that requires a code provision, it requires a development agreement condition (not a resolution); item six for the development review committee. Has a problem with it, PEC has been to this DRC while actively litigating to void its transaction, this committee would be reviewing something that is in litigation to stop, there is a finance person and unidentified infrastructure developer that are not compliance functions for this role, any adverse DRC findings uh would basically be pre-impeachable the moment a land use attorney points at that roster; item seven calls for vote to simultaneously fund a development consultant, what is this person going to do that the town planner cannot already do except waste money, going to create a development review committee with a resolution to formally demand the underlining transaction to be halted, are you (council) putting together review bodies to support development and support the community or are you (council) putting together resolutions to get on board with PEC and calling into question any future review that you might make, as Tara (Town Planner) stated during workshop, you (council) do not need to concern yourselves with a seat at the table, you (council) are the table, you (council) have full functional authority on everything that happens through HPD, you (council) already have a resolution in place that allows you (council) full governing body over the entity.

Michelle Fort – highlighted the Florida Senate Bill 484 in regard to Councilman Randolph resolution pertaining to the data center, there is already a Senate bill in place which establishes requirements concerning the regulations and review of those facilities (data centers), given that it is a state law already and it addresses the data center development, are there some gaps or deficiencies that you are using this resolution to address, has the town attorney reviewed the resolution to determine whether it is consistent with state law or if there is any exposure to the town, if it is not needed, then we do not have to have the administration meet when there is already a state law.

James William Jr. – want to know when the council is going to get serious, been wasting time for the last several months, when is council going to think about the citizens of Eatonville, there are personal agenda that accomplishes nothing, the last three council meetings was spent arguing about an interim (temporary) position, to Attorney Jackson, what business could not have been accomplished with the last interim; why concern yourself with a lawsuit that you actually do not have to be involved in, if the lawsuit wins, then you still get to accomplish whatever it was that you were trying to accomplish, if the lawsuit loses, you still get to build on the relationship that you already started with Dr. Phillips Charities, at the last council meeting you talked about being able to move forward, do not think that you are thinking about the ramifications of what could happen by getting involved with the lawsuit, like keeping Dr. Phillips Charities from keeping their promises if you are going to stab them in the back, need to start thinking with logic instead of with emotions and actually handle business.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Approval of the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2026-4 Establishing Water and Sewer Impact Fee (Preamble Read)

Public Comments: None; Council Comments: Councilwoman asked if this ordinance is for residential and commercial (Yes), Councilman Mack inquired about the attorneys review and agreement of the ordinance (Attorney Jackson confirmed yes aside from what option the council would choose), Mr. Daniels confirmed that it was option B that council selected last time (during 1st reading), Mayor Critton pointed out the fifth and sixth whereas clauses along with exhibit A which indicates the option; **Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE** the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2026-4 Establishing Water and Sewer Impact Fee with option B; **Moved** by Councilman Mack; **Second** by Vice Mayor Thomas; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES, 5/0. COMMENTS:** To be implemented 90 days from today (June 16, 2026)

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE the consent agenda; **Moved** by Councilman Mack; **Second by** Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES, 5/0. Notes:** Consent agenda consisted of Town Council Meeting Minutes for 5-5-26

COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Approval of the reallocation of funds from the Deputy Chief's salary based on senior tenure employees from the Police Department and Town Employees – Chief Murray introduced item, the deputy position was frozen with a balance of \$69,000, the council voting that money be allocated back to the department, created a step plan based on years of service, evaluations, and how they operate within the agency; **Council Comments:** (Councilwoman Randolph) this is a strategy to move officers from the \$40,000 salary range, service calls have increased, the allocations went to officers and not the Chief's salary (Councilman Mack) inquired as to how the funds will be dispersed (Chief referred him to and highlighted details in the updated information provided), feel that code enforcement should be involved in getting some of the funding, request to find a way to increase his (code officer) salary, need to be fair across the board when giving the funds out, inquired about the hiring of part-time officer (hired); (Councilwoman Randolph) inquired about the code enforcement budget being under police department to ensure a balance budget, requested for Mr. Daniels to check into this matter, to ensure the money follows the code enforcement. (Mayor Critton) asks for clarity on the movement of the code officer's position and his budget line item, as well as a question on the updated information that did not come with a budget adjustment form, inquired about the amount being reallocated (the whole \$69,000), the Deputy Chief position will remain frozen. (Councilman Mack) want to see more quality reserve officers, want to look at getting a Deputy Chief - **Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE** the reallocation of funds from the Deputy Chief's salary based on senior tenure employees from the Police Department and Town Employees; **Moved** Councilwoman Randolph; **Second by** Councilman Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES, 5/0. Notes:** Vote was made without resolution; revised information (EPD Budget) was provided.

Approval of Resolution 2026-30 Appointing Individual to the TOECRA (Preamble Read) **Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE** Resolution 2026-30 Appointing Linder Greathouse to the TOECRA; **Moved** Councilwoman Randolph; **Second by** Vice Mayor Thomas; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES, 5/0. Note:** Linder Greathouse was appointed to the CRA Board. **Notes:** Additional Board Application was provided; Linder Greathouse was given an opportunity to speak to the board on why she would be a good candidate for the CRA Board.

Approval of Resolution 2026-31 – Authorizing Funding A Request For Proposal (RFP) For Development Consulting and Advisory Services for the Town (Preamble Read) **Mayor Critton Motions to APPROVE** Resolution 2026-31 – Authorizing Funding A Request For Proposal (RFP) For Development Consulting and Advisory Services for the Town; **Council Comments:** (Councilman Mack) want to table this item because we've already got all the resources that we need with all the different departments we already have, think we should be irresponsible with spending, can do a RFP if there is a need to outside our resources (Mr. Daniels) have a planner, attorney, and subject matter experts, do not see why a consultant is needed, it is up to the council. (Councilwoman Randolph) if we have the qualifications for those individuals in place that can perform these services, would not want to duplicate anything extra (Councilwoman Jordan) need to hear more from the departments (Mayor Critton) need to take Hungerford out of the equation, need to hear more about all developments, will work on more transparency and communication, will bring back stakeholders meetings **Moved** Councilwoman Randolph; **Second by** Councilman Mack with questions, already have all resources needed, people in place as subject experts (Councilwoman Randolph) if qualified individuals are in place, would not want to duplicate but do stand on this resolution (Councilwoman Jordan) emphasized adequate communication, can benefit by receiving more reports/updates on developments (Mayor Critton) more clarification and updates will be provided on all developments, emphasized bringing stakeholder meetings back for communications and transparency (Councilman Mack) expressed having the staff give information (Vice Mayor) start going to classes to learn about what our (council) position, the phone and email works **AYE:**

Councilwoman Wanda Randolph; **NAY:** Mayor Ruthi Critton, Vice Mayor Angela Thomas, Councilman Tarus Mack, Councilwoman Ladwyana Jordan **ALL, MOTION FAILS, 1/4.**

Approval of Resolution 2026-32 Community Engagement for the AI/Data Centers (Preamble Read) – Mayor Critton **Motions to APPROVE** Resolution 2026-32 Community Engagement for the AI/Data Centers. (Councilwoman Randolph) introduced the item indicating that there needs to be measures put in place to protect the town, there are possible health hazards and environmental impacts that we need to be aware of, we have not as a community received any education for residents about the center, hearing about the water consumption, the electrical power services, the environment issues, and the noise among other things, do we have adequate water supply for the center (Mundy) UES has come back and taken a look at the numbers pertaining to the person count and not necessarily chiller flows, we can accommodate the flows that was originally presented, lots of the dialogue is about water usage that pertains to the type of chiller that they (Data Centers) use to cool the servers, UES's role is to make sure and confirm that the chillers that they (HostDime) had proposed when they submitted are the same chillers that they installed, have to get the final decision before the Certificate of Occupancy, they had proposed a closed system, which does not require continuous water usage, they have a water use and recycle it continuously, it is not like the other high user water demand, looking for a final assessment from UES to inspect and see that they (HostDime) did what they said they were going to do, in reference to increase utility bills, (Councilman Mack) inquired possible negative impacts or concerns (Mundy) it would be appropriate for HostDime to consult this body about what they are doing, they have a very complex infrastructure for power, all the transmission lines that are being installed are accommodating the data center, Lisa Kuran who is the government relations person (Duke Energy) and needs to make that statement to the town; (Councilwoman Randolph) expressed the need for community engagement, have an information session; **Moved** Councilwoman Randolph; **Second by** Councilman Mack; **ALL ACTIONS RESCINDED, NO FURTHER ACTION TAKEN. Note:** There is a discrepancy in the content of the resolution that would have to be considered during the motion; the “Now therefore clause” should be resolved by the Town of Eatonville, not the Town of Eatonville Community Redevelopment Agency. **Notes:** There is concern as to whether a resolution is needed, desire Mr. Manny to come with updates, cannot direct the developer to disclose the facilities consumption of electricity, water, noise.

Approval of Resolution 2026-33 – Appointing a Development Review Committee to review Large Scale Development and Master Plan for compliance on all related projects deemed by the Town of Eatonville Council (Preamble Read) Mayor Critton **Motions to TABLE** Resolution 2026-33 – Appointing a Development Review Committee to review Large Scale Development and Master Plan for compliance on all related projects deemed by the Town of Eatonville Council; **Moved** Councilwoman Randolph; **Second by** Vice Mayor Thomas; **AYE: ALL, MOTION TABLED, 5/0. Note:** Councilwoman Randolph request to table this item

Approval of Resolution 2026-37 Town of Eatonville Town Council to commitment to Government Transparency to support the Lawsuit by the Association to Preserve Eatonville Community Filed by the Southern Poverty Law Center (Preamble Read) Mayor Critton **Motions to APPROVE** Resolution 2026-37 Town of Eatonville Town Council to commitment to Government Transparency to support the Lawsuit by the Association to Preserve Eatonville Community Filed by the Southern Poverty Law Center; **Moved** Councilwoman Randolph; **Second by** Councilman Mack with question; (Legal) the request is for support by way of resolution or by way of amicus brief to the court drafted by an attorney. (Councilman Mack) Do not support this resolution, a relationship is being built with Dr. Philips who will have to come before town during the developmental process (Mayor Critton) expressed concerns about a decision made without communicating with the town and community, concerned about taking a position when the town is not a party to the lawsuit **AYE:** Councilwoman Wanda Randolph; Councilwoman Ladwyana Jordan; **NAY:** Mayor Ruthi Critton, Vice Mayor Angela Thomas, Councilman Tarus Mack, **MOTION FAILS, 2/3. Note:** Asking for a commitment to transparency.

REPORTS:

TOWN CLERK – Providing the EPD Calls for service also gave reminder of the Bruce and Winnie Mount Scholarship deadline being July 31, 2926

INTERIM TOWN ATTORNEY’S REPORT – Greg Jackson – reported out on a legal summons pertaining to a default on a promissory note by Mr. Green, the town was notified (named) due to a current lien on the property through code enforcement; introduced Attorney Pedro Mallorette who will be assisting Attorney Jackson; spoke on the differences of the legislative role of council and the administrative roles.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER – Currently looking at budgets (will provide two budgets); budget workshops will be held in August and September (schedule is forthcoming), request council recommendations by July 15th to include legislative objectives to properly plan a budget; Florida legislation passed joint resolution HGR1-F saving homes from excessive property taxes is on the ballot come November 3rd, to take effect January 1st, waiting on preliminary numbers, municipalities will lose money; consultant is updating job description and looking at salaries; inquired about the date for the retreat (will look for another date); the night market (July 4-5) will move its location to west/lemon street (street closure), request feedback from council; there are permits getting ready to go through for the Club, there is high risk of having an event near the club; need MOU for the Night Market; position for the part-time code enforcement officer has been filled.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS:

COUNCILWOMAN RANDOLPH – Expressed concerns about the night market having an event on a Sunday and how it will conflict with the churches, recommend a location across the street; want to move forward with community engagement on the Ai/data center, will be asking for updates during each meeting, need to find solutions for the 2-4 million dollar appropriation, need to locate land; inquired about who the inspector is for the infrastructure (UES and CPH); the Florida League of Cities have a toolkit online that can assist with the projections that may result from the property tax bill.

COUNCILMAN MACK – Condolences to those who have suffered loss; thanked Dr. Moroon for the updates; the Revive Zora event was sensational; great turnout for the 1887 night market; the cleanup event was great and thanks to the council, staff and to Chief for the hurricane awareness information; thankful to Ms. Mundy for the completion of the sidewalk project; congratulation to Attorney Jackson (appointment as interim town attorney); acknowledged Ms. Greathouse (CRA appointment); inquired about the completion of HostDime (July 1st), holding the developer to the fire; spoke on the importance of the history of Juneteenth; thanked and acknowledged Attorney Mallorette for coming to be a part of the town; acknowledged Keith Givens the first black commissioner in Maitland (was present); inquired about lawsuits (none to report out on by legal).

COUNCILWOMAN JORDAN – Acknowledged the citizens and the attorney; expressed a desire for community engagement and to bring back the stakeholder meeting; the quad leaders is a good way to disseminate information; need to inform the residents about projects, to educate citizens on the property taxes, need help on getting the word out, invite others to reach out and come and assist with this initiative (give Councilwoman Jordan a call); inquired to the best and appropriate ways to respond to text messages that are received.

VICE MAYOR THOMAS – Inquired to about what is being done about the motor bikes and golf carts (beginning to post renewals); thanks to Mrs. king for the digital services, will be great (for the council); when asking a question remember a question is a question and not an opinion on how you are going to vote; there are dangerous dogs on the street; when speaking (having conversation) be cognizant of everyone’s time, be professional and respectful; request information on the Zora Festival.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

MAYOR CRITTON – Thanked Attorney Jackson on the legislative and administrative information, request that information be disseminated; acknowledged Mr. Givens; gave information on the Juneteenth festivities; Friday

is the youth jam, noon-4pm, Saturday is the town fest, 12-7pm, and Sunday locate at Macedonia is the Lift Every Voice dinner showcase; emphasized the importance of community engagement; want to schedule a Stakeholder's meeting in July; engagement with Mr. Manny (HostDime); staff is exploring was for community engagement; want to meet people where they are; prefer for workshops to take place in August; please send over legislative objectives; spoke on voter education and a breakfast event attended at Macedonia with a message entitled "Get Up", there are items on the ballot that will affect the town, want to see more initiatives on voter education and resources; emphasized transparency on the grants by providing updates; inquired about reaching to Baker Barrios on finishing the master plan (have reached out; nothing has been passed by the council), request for a workshop; spoke on the July 25th Hurricane Preparation Expo (10am-12pm; acknowledged community cleanup as a kick off to hurricane season, hurricane season started June 1st; had many conversations about the property taxes, will reach out to representative Eskamani to come and present information to the council.

ADJOURNMENT Mayor Critton Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **Moved by** Councilman Mack; **Second by** Vice Mayor Thomas; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 10:13pm.**

Handouts: Meeting minutes for Updated EPD Budget information, CRA Board Application, Recommendations for Technical Committee, Revive Zora Flyer, Hurricane Preparedness Community Expo flyer, EPD Calls for service.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Signed by:

Veronica King

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Veronica L King, Town Clerk

APPROVED

Signed by:

Ruthi Critton

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Ruthi Critton, Mayor