

TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
June 21, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Angie Gardner, Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Marlin Daniels, and Councilman Theo Washington. **STAFF:** Attorney Dean Mosley, **Town Attorney**, Cathlene Williams, **Interim Chief Administrative Officer**, Veronica King, **Interim Town Clerk**, Albert English, **Public Works Director**, Eric McIntyre, **Lieutenant Officer**, and Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director**.

I. CALL TO ORDER & VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

Mayor Gardner called to order the Town Council meeting for 8:28 PM, verifying that there is a quorum.

II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Critton led the Prayer of Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Gardner moved for approval of agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Washington; ; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

IV. PRESENTATION AND RECOGNITIONS: No Presentations or Recognitions

V. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (THREE (3) MINUTES STRICTLY ENFORCED).

Mayor Gardner called for citizen participation; with (4) Participating citizens.

RYAN NOVAK (Topic-General comments related to Town operations) - Police are underpaid in salary; It would be easy to increase pay in the next fiscal year; include in the budget planning, and on the agenda as a line item. Considering whether salary or hourly, Florida is a salary exempt state where salary employees do not accrue salary overtime. Therefore, police would be hourly pay because of extra hours of work; the salary would be augmented. CRA approval of Board Member; where was this posted and discussed? Where is phrase two of the CRA Audit? It is not there because it has yet to be approved. Agenda topics – citizens bring recommendations and concerns that are not put on the agenda or brought to floor for voting. Educating citizens- Council talks among each other but not with or to the citizens. Lowering tax- Need more businesses. Majority of the tax revenue comes from the Eatonville property taxes. Need to increase draw to our destination. Jobs- make a LinkedIn page for the Town to post jobs. Information dissemination- want transparency; disseminate information in an effective timely way. Meeting minutes are still missing for the past month.

ALTHEA MONTGOMERY (Property Owner-Topic-access minutes and notes from public meetings)- Challenge becoming a resident. Minutes are online there but no archive of dialogue. Unable to get information on the meetings. Tried to access the Historical Board and not on website. What is the black clock for?

GEORGE WILLIAMS – (Topic New Unity of Eatonville Federal Credit Union). First financial institution in the Town of Eatonville to be proud of. Credit Union started operations last Friday; temporary housed at the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church (2nd floor) with limited access. Permanent location is being renovated in the shopping center next door and will be ready for operations in about 60-90 days. Eligibility to be a member you must live, work , or worship in the Town of Eatonville. Encouraging membership- Call 407-637-5657 to set up appointment for a savings account. Other services that will be available; credit counseling and financial literacy classes. Some products available- saving accounts first then will move to offer checking accounts, certificates of deposits, loans on new and used cars, unsecured loans, direct deposit, wire transfers, debit cards, and atm access. This is a historical event.

JAMES BENDERSON – (Eaton Street – Handed out material related to topic of discussion) – Information keeps appearing showing connection between Angie Gardner, Dean Mosley, and Michael Johnson. Angie Gardner ran a campaign for Mayor stating she was for the people and wanted to clean up the Town. Since

being in office, she has obstructed due process with the CRA Board and Town Council meetings. Mayor Gardner along with other staff members paid out Michael Johnson 90+ thousand dollars. Attorney Mosley stated in the text provided that Michael Johnson wanted to get fired so that Mayor Gardner could pay Michael out. Why would she do that? Makes sense to why there is so much connection between Mayor Gardner and Michael Johnson. She along with other Council members are linked to corruption covered up within the CRA; linked to Michael Johnson for years. Attorney Moseley sent text messages about Angie Gardner defending Michael Johnson in public for chances of winning the election as Mayor. During a May 2022 meeting it was presented to the Council and public that Michael Johnson and his staff Ms. Bradshaw had split \$20,000 based upon the tax returns looked at. Document shows that Michael Johnson received the \$90,000+ after termination which was due to misappropriating funds and for violating policy making termination without cause. Based upon employment agreement, pay of funds owed would have been appropriate only if termination was without cause. Everyone has the documents.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA (Please note: Consent Agenda was moved before the Public Hearing)**
Mayor Gardner made notice of the minutes that they will be coming in the next Council meeting.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

Second Hearing of the CDBG Block Grant - Katrina Gibson (Finance) reported results back to Council about grant being used for park renovations; she stated that Fred Fox indicated yes towards pool renovations and parks; Information is provided to Council today. We need to decide if we want to apply for the grant and identify projects. If we move forward with Mr. English's suggestion to rebuild pool house and pool, funds can be used for this. Fox is waiting for a decision whether we would like to apply along with the two identified projects. If yes and after the decision, the CDBG Grant will come back to Council for a second hearing to be posted in July. Councilman M. Daniels asked if the public works projects will be covered under the 5.9 million dollars previously approved. Albert English (Public Works) provided response indicating that he received email from the state to meet every two weeks starting in July to discuss the projects covered under the 5.9 million dollars, which covers one park, the master plan for water and sewer. The 2nd part of the funding will cover the water plant. The main focus of funding is for repairs to the infrastructure. For the CDBG grant, the recommendation is to cover the stormwater and retention ponds. Councilman M. Daniels asked can the 5.9 million be used for the stormwater and retention ponds. English stated it can be used. However, there are multiple things needed for the water infrastructure. The 5.9 million will be exhausted in the infrastructure. There was an estimate about 6 years ago quoting far above 40 million for Deacon Jones, Lincoln, Bethune, and Washington. The CDBG is an opportunity towards the stormwater. The 5.9 million funding is for portable water (water plant with high service pumps) and the CDBG grant is for the stormwater and retention ponds (surface water). Councilman Washington stated that he could not support CDBG going towards stormwater when citizens are already paying a fee towards stormwater. What is being done with the money collected? The money was supposed to have covered the stormwater vehicle, and 2-3 staff members when the fees were adopted. Why do we have to use the CDBG grant for storm water? (Mayor Gardner) Are we collecting enough stormwater? Councilman Washington states that staff need to report these things. Mr. English stated the fees collected are not enough to support the capital projects; work is being done with the staff; street sweeping to avoid debris from getting into the drain/stormwater system. I will get with Finance to discuss and bring a plan for the next fiscal year. Councilman M. Daniels asked can the projects for the pool room, pool renovations, Denton Johnson, and the parks be combined? Mrs. Gibson will check into this. In considering cost estimates, the left-over money can be used. Pool room will have to be done before the pool can be renovated. Councilman M. Daniels requested for the numbers in order to decide. Katrina recommends if you want to apply for the grant, we can come back to discuss cost and the projects, so that the application can get started. Katrina will get information on the price points for each project associated with the grant. Cathy Williams (Interim Chief Administrative Officer) suggested approving to apply for the \$700,000 grant and come back to choose the two projects. Sherronda Thomas (Recreation Dept.) is meeting with a vendor to determine cost breakdown for the pool to remedy everything that is wrong. Once grant is approved, it will take about a year to receive funds allowing ample time to decide on the projects. Councilwoman Randolph suggested a new pool room

and new pool. Councilman M. Daniels is requesting documents and numbers after suggested approval to apply. Ms. Williams stated that we can apply for another furlough grant of \$50,000 to cover pool if necessary. **Mayor Gardner motion for approval to apply for the CDBG grant. The motion was moved by Councilman Theo Washington; seconded by Councilwoman Randolph; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

VIII. COUNCIL DECISION

1. Mayor Gardner motion for approval of Resolution 2022-35 to increase minimum salary of Police Officers to \$41,000 as starting pay.

Comments: Mayor Gardner commented that she is for the increase but is looking for a more comprehensive plan to be done during the budget hearing process.

The motion was moved by Vice-Mayor Rodney Daniels; seconded by Councilman Marlin Daniels; **AYE by Vice-Mayor Rodney Daniels, Councilman Theo Washington, Councilman Marlin Daniels, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, NAYE by Mayor Angie Gardner: MOTION PASSES.**

2. Mayor Gardner motion for approval of Resolution 2022-36 for budget adjustment to Police Officers Salary Line and Increase Current Police Salary.

The motion was moved by Vice-Mayor Rodney Daniels; seconded by Councilman Marlin Daniels; **AYE by Vice-Mayor Rodney Daniels, Councilman Theo Washington, Councilman Marlin Daniels, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, NAYE by Mayor Angie Gardner: MOTION PASSES.**

3. Mayor Gardner motion for approval of Resolution 2022-39 for Appointment of Ruthie Critton to the CRA Board.

Comments: Mayor Gardner commented that as of right now Ruthie Critton is currently a member of another board.

The motion was moved by Vice-Mayor Rodney Daniels; seconded by Councilman Marlin Daniels; **AYE by Vice-Mayor Rodney Daniels, Councilman Marlin Daniels, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, NAYE by Mayor Angie Gardner, Councilman Theo Washington: MOTION PASSES.**

4. Item WITHDRAWN as indicated on agenda

5. TABLED

6. TABLED

7. Mayor Gardner motion for approval of Resolution 2022-19 authorizing appointment of one member to the Community Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors.

Comments: Councilman Marlin Daniels commented that we are already at capacity. Mayor Gardner stated because it is still a motion, it can be voted down.

MOTION DIES FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

INTERIM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: NO REPORT

Cathlene Williams: Over the weeks I have been making assessments to follow up on things that Council have voiced; their concerns. Reached out to Laserfiche a company who services municipalities in the Central Florida areas providing scanning and indexing of documents. The plan is to go back 10 years to present. Possible COVID funds may be available to offset the cost; no price estimate as of yet, but representative will conduct a presentation at the July 5th meeting. Sound system – reached out to a company who mostly services municipalities. They will provide a small desk/tabletop device to pick up the sound also providing maintenance of the sound; waiting to hear back on their availability to present at the July 5th Council meeting. Checking into technology and software to move the town from being antiquated to becoming current with technology; current with information, website, postings, and citizen access. Proposing a retreat with the Council and CRA; tentative date and schedule of July 16th, 8-10am with Council and 10-12 with CRA located at the Denton Johnson Center; asking Council to check

their calendar for availability. A questionnaire will be given to identify areas interests and concerns. Met with Department heads and challenging Finance Director to see what can be done to put money into the budget in consideration of increasing gas prices; affecting Public Works (PW) and the Eatonville Police Department (EPD). Putting together maintenance schedules for both the PW and EPD departments. Also, looking to move three of the vehicles from Town Hall back to the police station. Chief Jenkins will provide a maintenance schedule for the police fleet; specific to date/mileage and where they are with all vehicles. In consideration to positions needing to be filled, the Planner will also need a vehicle. The rental ordinance will be brought back for discussion on July 5th with concerns of owners/renters not maintaining their property. The budget calendar is complete and will go out to Council tomorrow. It is time to start the Budget workshop being that we are at the end of June. Rode around the Town with Mr. English and we are addressing the street and stop signs that are missing or pushed down, and not in areas where needed. Last Thursday, there was a pre-application meeting with Waypoint desiring to develop apartments in the Town. The (17) acres on the west side owned by the school board is a Zone C3 and will not allow for it. The property rights elements still need to be approved by the Planning and Zoning Board. DEO has put a code on comp. planning amendments. Representative would like to meet one on one to with Council to discuss their position on the (300) units; smallest starting at 600 sq. ft. (1Bedroom) and the largest at 1300 sq. ft. (2Bedroom). I have expressed that Council do not want to see anymore apartments in the Town. Street sweeper was in Town yesterday and Mr. English is planning to have them come once a month or on a 3-month rotation schedule.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:

Still negotiating with Zachary property; speaking with Nathaniel Carson, the contact trying to settle claim at \$20-25,000 to avoid litigation. They owe \$50,000 but former Mayor asked at that time to try and settle the claim. Councilman Washington inquired; with attorney fees and the cost to the Town due to back-and-forth negotiations; Can we up the price? Attorney Mosley indicated that it would be inappropriate to withdraw the offer; we may have to litigate.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Marlin Daniels: Thanks everyone for coming out tonight. Kudos to Councilwoman Randolph a successful Juneteenth event on Sunday. There are some pressing issues in the room; we must stay abreast and transparent. Things are not running smoothly as they should. Attorney Mosley has done his job and I am not pleased. As Councilmember unable to reach counsel when needed; it is unacceptable. Councilman Marlin Daniels motioned to terminate Attorney Mosley. Mayor Gardner stated that the Mayor is to put the motion on the floor, and she would not floor the motion. Councilman M. Daniels read Resolution (2019-15) allowing for the Vice-Mayor to move a motion forward if the Mayor refuses; stating this is a Democracy. (Gardner) If you wanted this as an item, it should have been stated during the agenda approval (#3 Item). (M. Daniels) Can the Vice-Mayor move the motion? Attorney Mosley further expressed that the Mayor does not have to move the motion; I will resign. This is the most difficult job to be had. Wish you luck. If you do not change, no one will want to work here; getting people to follow the law, follow the bylaws, read the sentiments of others, and make it easy to understand the process. (R. Daniels) I have a question, in just receiving and looking over this document, is this information true? Attorney Mosley stated that it was someone else's conversation alleging that the Mayor was investigating him (Attorney Mosley) along with M. Daniels, and R. Daniels; stating they were paid to push through the Enclave project. Attorney Mosley stated that he was not paid and whoever is saying these things, can be sued by Enclave. (R. Daniels) The Mayor calls for transparency and to work together but calling for investigation of the Daniel brothers. Attorney Mosley stated before exiting, consider the source that was lumping all three of us in a situation. Attorney Mosley leaves by saying good night.

Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels: Batteries, amazing how we cannot get batteries for a microphone. Mrs. Katrina, who authorized the pop-up vendor on the west side across from Ms. Kim's restaurant? Businesses do their due diligence to say they want a building. The Town does not allow for pop ups. How did they get a permit? Also, I

would like an ordinance for moving out; with requirements to put trash out by Monday night. Ms. Montgomery, the black clock on the wall was used in times past to help people know how much they had to speak. If there is any velocity to the documents I received, I am disappointed but not shocked at the steps taken to make this happen. I trust Mr. Benderson as the Planner and don't believe he would go through steps to put someone face on conversations that look like texts; and to say that someone got paid almost \$100 grand. This is very insulting.

Councilman Washington- If the property of the school board is not purchased yet, we should take steps to acquire this property. Get with Teresa Jacobs to get the property back. Elementary schools mostly have a park next to them. We need to go back to the table while there is a chance; ask the school board for a park adjacent the Elementary school. With the streetscape, trees down, sewer water, pipes breaking; these types of things will constantly come up. Let us be prepared to address these things as they come.

Councilwoman Wanda Randolph- Thanks everyone for coming. We do need a Planner. Inspired to see the community come together, Bishop King has volunteered to host the next Juneteenth event. Thanks to Rev. Barnes, the congregation, and Mrs. Clarice for accommodating the event. The neighborhood quads would like to do something that was done in the past. Information is coming and meetings are scheduled for July 13th and 20th at the Denton Johnson Center from 6:30 – 8:30PM. I met some graduates at the Chambers, and I would like to see the Town go back to doing something for the graduates. I attended two days of classes in Jacksonville for elected officials all over the state. It was very informative; learning about taxes, tax generation, budgets, accounting, liability, and ordinances. I asked about the budget review and was glad to have received today the budget expenditure sheet. I will be planning a workshop to educate citizens on how to save their property. Randolph Bracy stated that there is \$650 million available from the state to fix up homes and to assist with payments towards your apartment. I would like to see progressive planning for the MLK and not wait to the last minute; we are six months away. Good job last year. I had suggested to Ms. Williams to put together a Town calendar that will provide grant dates and deadlines; this will allow us to stay focused and ahead; not missing deadlines. I have been hearing about permits where some have been getting their permits and others are not getting them timely; it should be fair across the board. Orange County approved \$917,000 for the CRA. Has those funds been received? Katrina stated that funds has not been received. Katrina will provide a breakdown of how it works as well as the agreement along with ordinance tomorrow. The CRA has a \$350,000 budget.

Mayor Gardner: Condolences to Sis. Williams and the McKnight Families. Juneteenth events; I appreciate Bruce Mount and the Central Florida riders for choosing Eatonville as the jump off point. The Boys and Girls Club did partner with the Town. I thank Councilwoman Randolph for steer-heading the event at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Definitely something that should be built upon; Knowledge is power. Will get with Ms. Williams about updating the rental ordinance; consider adopting Section 162 of the Florida Statues; the Code Enforcement for the County allowing for a magistrate to hear the cases. From there we can follow through with the fines with an outlet to collect the fees. To Councilwoman Randolph regarding Bracy; had a meeting with Ms. Oriol (The Life Center) about partnering with the town offering those sessions; so we understand and are on the same page.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Mayor Gardner to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Councilman Washington; **MEETING ADJOURNED** at: 9:36 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:


Veronica L King, Interim Town Clerk

APPROVED


Mayor