

TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
October 18, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Angie Gardner, Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels, Councilman Marlin Daniels, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, and Councilman Theo Washington. **STAFF:** Attorney Patrick Brackins, **Town Attorney**, Albert English, **Public Works Director**, Joseph Jenkins, **Deputy Chief**, and Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**. (Not Present Cathlene Williams, **Interim Chief Administrative Officer**)

CALL TO ORDER & VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

Mayor Gardner called meeting to order at 7:30pm with a verification of quorum through Mrs. Veronica King

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA (Item added to agenda and items #3 and #4 moved to Council Decision)

MOTION for approval of amended agenda adding CAO resume to the agenda and moving items #3 and #4 to council decision; moved by Councilman Washington; second Councilman M. Daniels; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.

PRESENTATION/RECOGNITION: Mrs. King recognized the Florida City Government Week October 17-23, 2022 through the reading of proclamation into the record.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - THREE (3) MINUTES STRICTLY ENFORCED.

Mayor Gardner called for Citizen Participation; (4) participating citizens

LAVONDA WILDER – Food truck – Ordinance 2017-60 would like for food trucks on the west side to be updated on the ordinance. Business License Application is outdated and should be updated, what can be done about redacting/bleeping out addresses and phone numbers on the website and Facebook video, address homelessness before the population increases; not safe

RYAN NOVAK – Thanked Councilman Washington and Ms. Thomas for joining him in pickleball, To Councilwoman Randolph- its concerning on your stance on not wanting oversite for landlords; on another hand requiring people to sign-in at town hall is a violation of their 4th amendment right. To have metal detective for safety is different and not an intrusion nor invasion of privacy. Food truck – support the ordinance for food truck; they would be able to share their revenue with the town. Rental Ordinance – will give a general idea of who is coming into the town.

ANGELA JOHNSON – Encourage council to conduct a compensation/classification study. Request to allow public comments at the CRA meetings, Post the Ian storm, there is a tree close to sidewalk that is a liability and need to be addressed; partner with Orange County to address this issue, there is a deep indentation in the ground when entering Catalina Park that need to be addressed. Agree with Councilwoman Randolph that people are not taking care of their property; town need to address since code enforcement is now under the town. The next neighborhood meeting for Catalina is Thursday, October 27, at St. Lawrence AME Church.

LOUISSTEEN CUMMINGS – Brought flyers informing about early voting starting October 24 and election day is November 8. Visited Washington DC at the black museum; excited and proud to see Eatonville recognized. Presented to council a framed picture of the exhibit recognizing the Town of Eatonville (Picture Taken).

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

MOTION to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2022-10 – Amending Chapter 42 of the Town of Eatonville Code to provide pass-through fees for costs associated with certain land development applications. **Public Comments: None; **Council Comments:** Councilman M. Daniels, would the 5K deposit that is required be escrowed in a separate account. Attorney Brackens provided response indicating that the ordinance does not require a separate account; it is important to keep good records whether by creating a separate account or through tracking on a spreadsheet **OPEN MOTION;** moved by Councilman M. Daniels; second Councilman Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.****

MOTION to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2022-4 – Amending title, service fees of the code of the Town of Eatonville. **Public Comments:** Angela Johnson- Has an analysis been conducted to know the financial impact to citizens and the town; there has been no calculations to determine the change of the millage rate (Gardner) How will the collected funds be used; will go towards projects and fire fees; Legal Counsel did not review the ordinance; confirmed based upon the language that the fees are considered a User Fee. Asked if residents will receive an increase in their bill but a reduction in property; Residents need to know the financial impact. Request for a clear example at the next reading. Is this a monthly fee from the town or an annual fee from the county; Attorney Brackins stated that fees are not usually collected from the county only taxes. Request for attorney’s review of the ordinance. **Council Comments:** Councilman Washington- do not support if the fees go to the county; Councilman M. Daniels- cannot support because no financials provided; a study is needed; Mayor Gardner- this ordinance came before council before the current legal counsel was contracted. Purpose of fee is to ensure individuals pay their fair share. **AMENDED MOTION** to continue the 1st reading of Ordinance 2022-4 until November 15, 2022 and for legal to review ordinance; moved by Councilman Washington; second Councilwoman Randolph; **AYE: Mayor Gardner, Councilman Washington Councilwoman Randolph NAYE: Vice Mayor R. Daniels, Councilman M. Daniels, MOTION PASSES**
Comments: Vice Mayor R. Daniels is not in favor of the tax nor to table or continue the 1st reading.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION for approval of consent agenda consisting of Items #1 and Item #2 (Items #3 and #4 were moved to council decision); moved by Councilman M. Daniels; second Councilman Washington **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

COUNCIL DECISIONS: (Items #3 and #4 was moved from Consent Agenda)

MOTION to approve the Part-time Explorer Position; moved by Councilman Washington; **DIES FOR LACK OF SECOND, MOTION FAILS.**

MOTION to approve of Resolution #2022-62 transferring the Public Works Field Supervisor Salary from Contingency to Public Works; moved by Councilman Washington; **DIES FOR LACK OF SECOND, MOTION FAILS.**

MOTION to approve Resolution #2022-53 Rescinding all resolutions for emergency hires except for what the charter calls for and for public safety; moved by Councilman M. Daniels; second by Vice Mayor R. Daniels; **Comments:** The Mayor has the authority to hire; there is no reason for an emergency hire. Need to fill the positions with money already allocated in the budget. Attorney Brackins stated that this resolution does not affect the procurement as stated in section twenty (20) of the code; would need an ordinance to change the procurement ordinance. Does not affect the Mayor’s authority to purchase through the procurement policy. **AYE: Councilman M. Daniels, Vice Mayor R. Daniels, Councilwoman Randolph; NAYE: Mayor Gardner, Councilman Washington: MOTION PASSES**

MOTION to approve Resolution #2022-60 establishing a procedure for agenda deadlines for town council meetings; moved by Councilman M. Daniels; second by Vice Mayor R. Daniels; **AYE: Councilman M. Daniels, Vice Mayor R. Daniels, Councilwoman Randolph, Mayor Gardner; NAYE: Councilman Washington: MOTION PASSES**

MOTION to approve Resolution #2022-63 to seek several proposals for HR services; moved by Vice Mayor R. Daniels; second by Councilwoman Randolph; **Comments:** Council can pass a resolution stating their desire to seek a HR professional. Administration has the discretion on how to carry out the process of hiring for HR services. Ordinance 2021-4 provides an organizational chart calling for a Deputy Clerk/HR; where do we stand (Councilman R. Daniels) Attorney Brackins stated that council can create a governmental agency and that agency is carried out based upon the law. Councilman M. Daniels will provide a copy of the ordinance to legal Counsel. **AYE: Councilman M. Daniels, Vice Mayor R. Daniels, Councilwoman Randolph, Councilman Washington; NAYE: Mayor Gardner: MOTION PASSES**

DISCUSSION ITEMS: Mayor Gardner introduced her choice in hiring Randy Singh as the Chief Administrative Officer for the town; stating he meets the qualifications and would be committed to turning the town around. His is asking for a base salary of \$125,000 with incentive pay at \$25,000 per quarter with a combined salary of \$225,000 per year. Mayor is proposing the grant administrative fees would assist in covering the incentive pay; Mr. Singh would also bring in and oversee grants. Attorney Brackins provided Attorney Shepard’s opinion; he feels Mr. Singh is qualified and he has no reservations;

recommend checking candidate's references. In response to Councilwoman Randolph's inquiry about HR services, Mayor Gardner stated that Mr. Singh would organize HR to benefit the town. Councilman M. Daniels ask what are the Key Performance Indicators (KPI)?

Public Comments:

KATRINA GIBSON – Have worked with candidate for 15 years; he is proficient in CRA, Budget & Management, Finance and have supported the town through former Mayors; can move the town forward.

NATHANIEL VEREEN – Mr. Singh would need an adequate staff. Get him as a consultant. Have to watch the bottom line. Eatonville does not have the capacity to support this salary.

CRYSTAL WHITTAKER – This is too much money in salary; table this. If you hire this person, you as council will not have your position.

EDDIE COLE – To address this item that was not on the agenda is questionable as it relates to the Sunshine law; does not assist a citizen who would have liked to be present. It would not be an issue to take two more weeks for council to meet with Mr. Singh and to check his references; proper research would speak to rather an individual is proven.

ANGELA JOHNSON – (Read text from Facebook viewer- Mr. Singh would be an excellent CAO, that the town needs and would turn the town around.) What is the approved salary in the budget; \$125,000. Some KPI like revenue growth, customer satisfaction would be good to consider; council could assist the mayor in identifying the KPI. Keep in mind that the \$25,000 is not guaranteed, the experience will allow the town to go to the next level. Consider continuing this item rather than denying it; conducting a panel interview is an option to speaking/interviewing with Mr. Singh. Need to move forward at some point.

REPORTS:

Interim Chief Administrative Officer: (Report Read by Mayor Gardner) Unity of Eatonville Credit Union grand opening is October 22, 2022, ribbon cutting at 10:20; Interviews for the Chief of Police has been going on for a couple of weeks; Council retreat is scheduled for November 5, will be rescheduled; The old police station will be clean out by the end of October, old equipment will be sent to Gideon Audit; Chief Jenkins is in the process of completing the USDA Grant for two vehicles (Ford Trucks); Audit report is expected to be complete by the end of October; The new utility program is out by 3-4 months.

Legal Counsel: Aloma Title – Received one of the two checks expected; second check is pending and should be resolved by next council meeting. Will send a follow up letter from the Mayor's office indicating that the obligation has been satisfied. Public Comments: Citizen participation satisfies the required public comments in a meeting; because of the added agenda item, it was good to entertain feedback/comments from the public. Sunshine Law-there is no requirement to notice the agenda; this prevents an individual from wanting to address things immediately. There is a requirement to notice the meeting.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Wanda Randolph – Asked Mr. Dennis (Quarry Utility Systems) to come up to discuss a pending matter; currently installing fiber optic and hit a water main that they are taking full responsibility for. The work has stopped due to permitting. Is asking permission to continue the work; have one mile of fiber optic to complete. Pending a return call to resolve the matter. Impact fess-request an update on impact fees; Mayor will provide information. Concerned that the TD Bank signers have not been completed; visited bank on 9/23, 10/4, and 10/18 and the names currently listed are former council member Tarus Mack, Councilman T. Washington, and Ms. Bradshaw, when will this be taken care of? Tommy Dixon was invited to podium to discuss a pending matter; work was supposed to be done on the house and nothing has been done in three years. (Randolph) The town owes the property and there is work needed on the ceiling/roof needed. There is also an unresolved tax lien that is on the property. (Washington) The money from Orange County was stopped; now that money has been received, we can begin to address. (Randolph) Request an update from legal on the Enclave and Hungerford developments; site plan for Enclave have been approved and they are moving forward, we are waiting on state to return the ordinances, the attorney for the Hungerford development inquired about submitting a developer's agreement and site plan by December if permissible; (Denton Johnson) Request an update on the roof; the adjuster has been out to assess the roof (Gardner); The Thanksgiving food drive is scheduled for November 21, need access to bathrooms or need to acquire porta-lets; use of the inside of the Denton Johnson Center will be determined by

end of week (Gardner); Breast Cancer Awareness event hosted by the Chambers of Commerce is scheduled for October 29; want to acknowledge survivors (Councilwoman Randolph and Louissteeen Cummings are survivors).

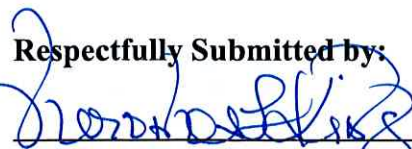
Councilman Theo Washington – Police Explore program is important; need to have something in place for the youth. Need use of a field for practice and recreational activities; recreations will attract people to the town. Played pickleball with Ryan; it was fun and something to consider for the Town of Eatonville.

Councilman Marlin Daniels – Recognize Breast Cancer month for both men and women as well as Domestic Violence Awareness. (FEMA) We are considered a disaster area and there is money and resources available through FEMA. (Budgets) Important to have strategies and concepts when approaching the budget. To Mayor, I am pending a response that was sent to Mrs. Gibson. September 30 the budget ended, what line item is Ms. Williams being paid out of? To Attorney, can the Mayor be instructed as well as the Finance Director to provide answer to the question; there is no right to answering the question, but you are supposed to follow the budget. Legal Level of Control explains who is allowed to go over the budget; an accountant professional can best speak to this. You have to provide records when requested, but not required to answer questions. Overage of Vacation Time – this has to be addressed; employees may lose their vacation time. When terminated, all vacation time should be paid out; 156 hours on the books for the former Town Clerk is a violation to the policy. A resolution will be forthcoming addressing requests to/for I.T. and Website; requested access to emails assigned to former council member through a public record request since the end of last year-was told that the records were deleted. Legal has stated that the records need to be returned. Compromising retention records will be addressed. Addresses from the town without a public record request is unacceptable; received a letter from an outside entity using the same bulk labels that the town uses. Trees and Canopies in the town need to be cleaned up; what is the status of the Chief of Police position; Career Source – contacted the town and pending a return call from the CAO's office; they are willing to pay for adult interns. Financial Statements-Resolution 2021-4 states that council is to receive a monthly financial statement; requesting monthly statements with ledger account; Want to bring free screening, food distribution, resources and funding from organization who want to partner with the town.

Vice Mayor Rodney Daniels – As the longest sitting council member, I recall requests made for the signature names. Checks should have two signatures; Status on the CRA and Budget Minutes; since return from vacation and training, the minutes are being worked on (V. King); Waste Management Systems-the trucks coming into the town are leaving spillage and trash debris (unacceptable); To Mr. English, this needs to be addressed, would like to be on the distribution when the follow up email is sent to address their policy on this; Kennedy/Washington has a man hole with exposed wires that needs to be repaired (2nd Request); Veterans Day program is November 11th at 11am; to Mr. English, need podium, microphone, table, and chairs. Breast Cancer Awareness: have lost family members and others who have battled with cancer. Please get checked.

Mayor Angie Gardner – No Report; drive careful and good night

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Mayor Gardner to adjourn, moved by Councilman Washington; second by Councilwoman Randolph **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. MEETING ADJOURNED** at: 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Veronica L King, Town Clerk

APPROVED

Angie Gardner, Mayor