

TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES
APRIL 5, 2016
7:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Vice Mayor Angela Thomas, Councilmen Eddie Cole, Rodney Daniels, and Theo Washington.

STAFF: Attorney Joseph Morrell, Roger Dixon, Chief Administrative Officer, Abu Canady, Public Works Director, Joseph Jenkins, Deputy, Katrina Gibson, Finance Director, Rod Bargaineer, Recreation Director, and Cathlene Williams; Town Clerk.

- I. CALL TO ORDER & VERIFICATION OF QUORUM-** Vice Mayor Thomas called the Council Meeting to order at 7:30 PM., a quorum is established.

- II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-** Pastor Critton led the Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, following the pledge of Allegiance; Vice Mayor Thomas opened the meeting to **Citizen Participation**. Councilman Cole expressed his concerns over the Agenda item that was not included on the Agenda as requested by Councilman Daniels for the appointment of a Vice Mayor. Vice Mayor Thomas replied that she took her directions from Attorney Morrell. Attorney Morrell replied that the Agenda has already been altered by putting the issue of Vice Mayor first, this is a unique situation, it can be expedited by letting it go forward without debating it.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- **Cathan Mills-** a citizen of Eatonville for over (34) years, our Town is in an uproar and we are about to lose our Town to a lot of non-sense. Ms. Thomas has been a great Vice Mayor, no need to change it now, the Council itself should stop and think about our Town, a lot of talking going on but nothing is being said. Appreciate Ms. Thomas, our Mayor, praying that he will come back, I have seen a lot of changes in just the short time that he has been Mayor. With all the changes going on, I am proud to be a citizen of Eatonville; a lot of things in the police department that happened, that was swept under the rug. It's time for our community to get together, before someone else owns us. I appreciate you Ms. Thomas and the work that you have done, and hope this Council sees your work.

In regards to the Charter, Vice Mayor Thomas asked Attorney Morrell for his opinion on the Vice Mayor position; which states the Vice Mayor shall be appointed annually, it is my position that the Charter authorizes to appoint or re-appoint, there is another side from the opinion of Administration, they believe the word of the election; section 12 of the Charter should govern, I disagree, this was there when elections were every two (2)

years; then it changed to every three (3) years in 1998, there is not an election every year, this is what I based my decision on; but I respect the position of administration and Vice Mayor. In regards to Florida State Statutes 112.51, this statute authorizes the Governor to suspend elected officials; when Mr. Grant was suspended by the Governor, this was a temporary vacancy; based upon the wording in this section; and in the Town Charter, the Town Council would have to choose a replacement for this vacancy rather quickly by Special Election in (90) days, no earlier than (30) days as indicated by Attorney Morrell. Vice Mayor Thomas asked Attorney Morrell of his legal opinion of Section (13) of the Town Charter in regards to filling a vacancy? If the next election is greater than six months, the Town Council can appoint the replacement and must have an election no earlier than (30), and no later than (90) from the date of the suspension. Vice Mayor Thomas stated that her opinion is that before the vote is cast by Council, there are a lot of extenuating circumstances that we would have to do in reference to the election; I would recommend a workshop with Council to see how we would handle this, and come back with a vote. Vice Mayor Thomas asked Attorney Morrell if a judge could make a decision with regards to Section (12) of the Town Charter; Attorney Morrell indicated this is the decision of the Council. Councilman Cole stated the dates are there, we need to move on. Vice Mayor Thomas stated that someone can make the motion, she is already Vice Mayor. No further discussion regarding this; Councilman Daniels made a motion to appoint Councilman Cole as Vice Mayor, acting Mayor; Vice Mayor Thomas pointed out that the motion can only be for one (1); Mayor or Vice Mayor. For clarification, Attorney Morrell indicated that the motion has to be for Vice Mayor, and whoever is elected later on will serve the suspension term of the previous Mayor; if the suspension is lifted, then the Mayor comes back, if he is convicted he will be removed from office by the Governor. Councilman Daniels made another motion, that Councilman Cole be Vice Mayor for the Town of Eatonville; the motion was seconded by Councilman Cole; **NAYE:** Vice Mayor Thomas and Councilman Washington; **AYE:** Councilman Cole, and Councilman Daniels; **MOTION FAILS.** Attorney Morrell stated that the vote is a tie, the status quo remains; Vice Mayor Thomas is still the Vice Mayor. Councilman Cole replied there is still no Vice Mayor; Attorney Morrell indicated that Council has spoken if this is a concern to you, then they would be better addressed in a court of law.

III. AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation by Nancy Christman with St. Johns River Water Management District. (WORKSHOP ONLY).

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Approval of the first reading of Ordinance #2016-2, Implementation of the Water Conservation Rule for Landscape Irrigation of the St. Johns River Water Management District. (Administration). TABLED.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS ONLY

VI. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of March 15, 2016 Town Council Minutes.
- B. Approval of Proclamation proclaiming the month of April, 2016 as Water Conservation Month. (Administration).
- C. Approval of Voice of Healing Outreach Revival Facility Use Agreement. (Recreation).
- D. Approval of YMCA Contract, beginning June 11, 2016 through August 9, 2016. (Recreation).
- E. Approval of Orlando Caribbean Carnival Event on May 29, 2016. (Recreation). **TABLED.**
- F. Approval of the amendment of Resolution #2016-7, Charter Revision Committee. (Administration).

Motion by Vice Mayor Thomas, the motion was seconded by Councilman Cole to approve the Consent Agenda, with item, (E) being tabled; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.

VIII. COUNCIL DECISION

IX. STAFF REPORT- NONE

X. ADMINISTRATIVE/COUNCIL/ATTORNEY REPORT

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION-

Councilman Cole- this Town has been here since 1887, it's not going anywhere, it will be here even longer, and things are being exposed and revealed. I will continue to serve this community; I will keep my eyes on the School Board Property, it means so much to the Mosely family, documents were given to me regarding this property. On April 23, 2016, a family summit from 8:30 to 1:30 PM, at the Hungerford Prep Gym; we need to get a grip on our children.

Councilman Washington- NO REPORT

Councilman Daniels- the entrance to Catalina Park need to be a little more vigilant, the crossing is very dangerous; want the Town to be aware of that. Councilman Daniels to Ms. Mills, I respect your opinion on the Town; as a community we are united, we will not let anyone come in and take our Town we love our history as being the Oldest Black Incorporated Municipality in the United States, we can start by being transparent. If I request for a certain item to be on the Agenda, then that is what I expect.

Vice Mayor Thomas- we don't always agree up here, but I do respect these three (3) gentlemen up here; we all work together to build the relationships of Eatonville; and new relationships, we will work together to build new partnerships, and work with new development, most importantly is that the people of the Town of Eatonville is not confused. I personally think that the only person confused is the media, and as long as we feed them the confusion they will always be confused; the Town of Eatonville is open for new and prosperous business.

XI. ADJOURNMENT- Council Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by



Cathlene Williams, Town Clerk