

**TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
TO CONSIDER
COMPETITIVE FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP APPLICATION MINUTES
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2015 AT 12:30 P.M.**

Invocation and Pledge to Flag

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor Rhett Bullard, Vice Mayor Walter McKenzie, Councilpersons Helen Miller, Tonja Brown, Willie Jefferson, Interim Town Manager Shirley Heath, Finance Director/Town Clerk Pam Tomlinson and concerned citizens.

Comments:

Joe Griffin hand delivered a demand letter to the Council requesting a copy of Helen Millers' emails. Rhett notified him that his request would be forwarded to the Attorney and Florida League of Cities.

Consider Competitive Florida Partnership Application 2015-2016:

The application is due Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. to submit to DEO for \$250,000 for the I-75/CR 136 Mixed Use Site Development Plan. The project scope is a study, project development, management, operations and sponsorship. It will support rural infrastructure and add approximately 2,000 plus jobs and 250 – 500 million capital investment for construction of hotels, restaurants, travel related services; attractions, lighting manufacturer and other business sectors. Willie Jefferson is concerned that with White Springs doing all the work, they will not gain much from it. He thinks it should be the tri counties applying for the grant. Helen explained that waiting on others may delay the process of anything ever being developed at the I-75/CR 136 Interchange. DEO recognized that I-75/CR 136 Interchange is in need of having some developments to create jobs and help the local economy. Rhett Bullard does not feel it would be smart to put in for a feasibility study of the area when Suwannee County owns the land and will be in control of any development and can also at any time ask for the study from the Town because it is public record. He does not know how that will help the Town because Suwannee County has already expressed that they do not want that area to have sewer and water provided by White Springs. Walter McKenzie stated that if the Town were to pull out, then we will have an even lesser voice and get much less benefit from it. It does not cost the Town anything and he think we should apply because there is no down side to it. Rhett Bullard wanted to know if there was another grant to apply for that would be beneficial to the Town and the community. He mentioned other issues that had been discussed before like low income housing or a community storm shelter, and perhaps a grant would help in the event the I75/CR 136 Interchange is developed.

Motion made by Tonja Brown to table the discussion on the Competitive Florida Partnership Application for 2015-2016. Motion died for lack of second.

Motion made by Helen Miller and seconded by Walter McKenzie to submit to DEO the Competitive Florida Partnership Application for 2015-2016 for \$250,000 for the White Springs Economic Development I-75/CR 136 Mixed Use Site Development Plan because the deadline is today at 5:00 p.m. Rhett Bullard suggested amending the motion to add another project to the Competitive Florida Partnership Application for 2015-2016. After more discussion, the motion was amended to add low to

moderate income housing to the Competitive Florida Partnership Application for 10 homes at \$75,000 each. Willie Jefferson stated that he would like to see a multi-purpose building or a storm shelter rather than low income housing. He does not think there are many residents who can afford a \$75,000 home in White Springs. 5/0

Adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pam Tomlinson", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Pam Tomlinson, Finance Director/Town Clerk