

Meeting Minutes
White Springs Town Council Meeting
Town Hall Conference Chambers
Tuesday January 14, 2020
6:30pm

1. **Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance to Flag (*call to order 6:30pm*)**
2. **Roll Call**

Present Mayor Miller, Vice Mayor McKenzie, Council Members Tom Moore, Tonja Brown, Anita Rivers, Police Chief Tracy Rodriguez, Fire Chief Kevin Pittman, Sara Carter for Town Attorney Megan Logan, Beverly Brazil Volunteer Acting Clerk, Tommie Jones Interim Town Manager. Note: Attorney Logan arrived at 6:52pm
3. **Additions, Deletions or Amendments to the Agenda.**

(Mayor Miller requested to add item to section 8 of agenda presentation by purchaser of old South Hamilton Elementary School Property)
4. **Citizens from the Floor:** (Five-minute time limit per speaker) After recognition from the Chair, please state name and address.

(2 Speakers Joe Griffin & Ronda Johnson)
5. **Consent Docket:** All items are considered by one motion unless removed from the Consent Docket by a member of the Council.
 - a) Approval of Agenda
 - b) Accounts Payable
 - c) Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting held 12/20/2019
 - d) Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting held 1/10/2020

(Council action – Motion by Vice Mayor McKenzie, Second by Tom Moore for approval of consent docket. Motion passed 5/0).
6. **Reports**
 - a) **Manager –** Manager reported on funding request from NUTRIEN for funds for Community Center. Reported that DEO Grant for Community Center does not expire until June 2021. Discussed possible alternative location of NW corner of Carver School property, will not require as much fill. Mr. Bishop with North Florida Professional Services (NFPS) came to podium and offered his opinion and that dirt from proposed retention pond could be used as additional fill and advised project could move forward with relocation without adversely affecting project. NFPS will be presenting additional information to Council at a later time no action by Council.

Manager requested approval from Council to work with Wal Staff out of Lake City to find a temporary Office Manager for approximately 3 weeks at a cost of \$24 per hour for 40-hours a week with the temp employee receiving \$17 per hour to assist the Manager with Town office operations.

(Council Action – Motion by Vice Mayor McKenzie Second by Councilwoman Rivers to approve temp employee and requested rate. Motion passed 4/1 with Councilwoman Brown Abstaining).

Council requested Manager meet with J. Law regarding Code Enforcement & Magistrate. Manager reported he has submitted his first Waste Water report to DEP on nitrogen levels which are going down and in compliance with DEP requirements.

Manager requested Council direction to move forward with advertising the FRDAP project.
 - b) **Fire Department –** written report. Fire Chief Pittman provided roster of Vol FD Members to Council. Reported that he feels it in best interest of Town to not accept the USDA

Grant/Loan at this time as Town cannot afford the loan portion. Discussed equipment deficiencies and sought Council approval to obtain quotes to refurbish the Winsor Engine to make it functional until such time as the Town can seek alternative funding to purchase an Engine. Will present quotes to Council at later date on repair/refurbish of Winsor truck. County EMS is offering to split utilities on Fire Station. Requested Town send Letter of Appreciation to Hamilton EMS on their staffing and service to Town.

- c) Code Enforcement – written report
- d) Recreation Committee – discussed 2 recent movie nights in Dec. that were a successful. Have partnered with the HOPE Program on movie nights to provide a birthday party and celebrate all Town children attending who have a birthday during the month. Next movie night will present the new Lion King movie and will be January 25, 2020 starting at 7:00pm preceded by the birthday party's starting at 6:30pm. Next meeting of Recreation Committee will be Thursday January 16, 2020 7pm at Town Hall Conference Chambers.
- e) Special Events Committee – Councilwoman Brown nothing to report, no info yet on MLK Day program scheduled for 1/20 still in planning, scheduled guest speaker is Chief Argatha Gilmore of Lake City.
- f) Police Department – Written report. Discussed accident damage to patrol car re hit a deer.
- g) Attorney – Gave opinion on Town Charter Amendments recently voted on of which some passed and some did not. This caused some to nullify others, therefore Attorney made some written recommendations presented to Council on specific changes that need to be made by ordinance. Attorney recommended some revisions to the current Rental Agreement for the Town Community Center and Town needs to charge sales tax. Mayor Miller requested that Manager add these to Old Business for the Regular Council Meeting for February.

7. Old Business

- a) Old Town Hall & Jail Building – Discussion to place building up for sale for \$50,000.
(Council Action – Motion by Vice Mayor McKenzie, Second by Councilman Moore to list the building for sale. Motion passed 4/1 with Councilwoman Brown voting against).

8. New Business

- a) Mittauer and Associates Engineer's Recommendation of Award and Certified Bid Tabulation for the Town's FDOT SCOP Kendrick Street Paving and Drainage Improvements project. Greg Lang spoke on project, submitted written report to Council. Bid recommendation was to Curt's Construction.
(Council Action – Motion by Councilman Moore, Second by Vice Mayor McKenzie to award bid to Curt's Construction as recommended. Motion passed 5/0)

Agenda Addition – Presentation by Jim O'Dan representative of Asset Property Group on purchase of South Hamilton Elementary (SHE) property. Requesting to subdivide property into 3 uses a Sports Complex, RV Campground and Assisted Living Facility and presented a proposed site plan to Council. Project was referred to Town Planning and Zoning Board no Council action taken at this time.

- b) TrueChoice Technology Blue Line Quote
New Business Tele-Communications and Internet provider.
Manager gave report that this vendor will reduce the Town's IT cost from the Current \$700 to \$750 per month with Windstream to \$500 with much greater band width and improved service. Will run parallel with Windstream prior to and during April 2020 when Town's contract with Windstream expire.
(Council Action – Motion by Councilwoman Rivers Second by Vice Mayor McKenzie to approve contracting with TrueChoice Technology. Motion passed 5/0).

- c) Ogburn Park Request for Quotes Advertisement FRDAP # A9805. Manager reported only 1 bid was received and Manager advised Council that he was going to re-advertise Request for Bids (RFB) to get greater exposure and possibly additional responses.
- d) Discussed / Possible Action on Acquisition of Addition to Capital Improvement Plan; Extend Historic Lighting and Signage on US 41.
(Council Action – Motion by Councilman Moore, Second by Vice Mayor McKenzie to add historic lighting and street lighting in other parts of Town to Capital Improvement Plan and hold workshop to be scheduled. Motion passed 5/0).
- e) Lighting and Signage on US 41. – Discussed under section 6 item d.
- f) Discussion by Council of naming a street in honor of Mr. Kenneth Hutchinson the longest serving Town employee, possibly Suwannee Street. Council wants to schedule workshop to discuss and allow residents input at future date.
- g) Discuss / Possible Action on Acquisition of Additional Ornamental Lights for US 41.- Discussed under section 8 item d.

9. Council Members Reports and Communications

Councilman Moore reported on the ongoing project to eliminate Town’s surplus equipment and junk. Project is ongoing but significant progress has been made.

Councilwoman Rivers discussed the historic street light that had been hit by vehicle and is pending as insurance claim. Manager is resubmitting claim as initial clam was far too low based on the cost of the light.

Councilwoman Rivers reported that the Beautiful Dreamers Award’s Dinner will be held at 6:00pm on Saturday February 22, 2020 at the Tourism Center, everyone is invited.

Vice Mayor McKenzie reported there has been no meeting of the Hamilton County Tourist Development Council last month or this month. Feels this is important and will try to call a meeting next month.

Mayor Miller advised that she has been invited to participate with Hamilton County in Rural County Days in Tallahassee and will be attending a reception on the night of 1/15 as well as assisting in staffing the Hamilton County table at the event on 1/16. Mayor Miller also advised the Camp Property is being looked at for affordable mixed use homes for veterans.

Mayor Miller reported that there is a shortage of Ornamental Christmas and lights cannot be connected to the new historic street lights. Need to find additional compatible Christmas lights.

10. Adjourn 8:35pm

IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE TOWN COUNCIL, WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING, THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE THAT PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) PERSONS NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE NOT LATER THAN THREE DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.