

TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS

“On the Banks of the Suwannee River”

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MINUTES

WHITE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Council Meeting

Town Hall Council Chambers

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

6:30 p.m.

**1.** **Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge Allegiance to Flag -** Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. TC Ruise gave the invocation and the council lead the Pledge.

**2.** **Roll Call - Present:** Mayor Rivers, Vice-Mayor J. Williams, Councilor N. Williams, Councilor M. Berry. Absent: Councilor L. McCallum. TC Ruise mentioned that Councilor L. McCallum was present on the phone, but absent form the meeting.

**3. Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda -** None. Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to receive the agenda as written. Councilor M. Berry made the motion and Councilor N. Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

1. **Citizens from the floor:** (Request form needed - 5min. limit)
2. Sharon Shae - Mrs. Shae stated that Councilor Nicole Williams did an excellent job with the Breakfast with Santa event. She recognized the town for the new website and asked when would the agenda and minutes be posted? TC Ruise answered that soon as the system “tweaks” are worked out. She also stated that the recycle bins were full and asked if the town would consider doing an educational program on recycling to the community?
3. Adrienne Sasche - Mrs. Sasche presented the town a handmade quilt to be auctioned at the Wild Azalea Festival in March.
4. **Presentations: None**

**6. Approval of Minutes:**

January 10, 2023 – Town Hall Meeting - Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to receive the minutes as printed. Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

1. **Old Business - None**
2. **New Business**
3. **Azalea Festival/May Day 2023 -** Mayor Rivers stated that the community meeting went well as the topic was about the entertainment for both events. The Mayor also mentioned that staff will make contact with DOT and HCSO on the road closure for the Wild Azalea Festival. The next meeting will be on both Wild Azalea Festival and May Day on January 19th , here in council chambers.
4. **Planning & Zoning Board Applications -** Mayor Rivers read the names on each application and asked for a motion to approved all applicants. Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.
5. **Special Events Committee Applications -** Mayor Rivers read the names on each application and asked for a motion to approved all applicants. Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

**9.** **Departmental/Administrative Comments**

1. **Public -** Lake City Activist,Sylvester Warren stated that he wanted to make a statement to Councilor Nicole Williams. He stated that “she was a disloyal friend and piece of S%#!.
2. **Departments -**
3. Town Manager - Stated that the council had a copy of the 2023 calendar of holidays that the town will observe. She also stated that Atty. Foreman would present a resolution later in the comments. Vice Mayor J. Williams made the motion to accept the calendar of 2023 holidays and Councilor M. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. TM George also stated that currently there is still no contract signed with Hamilton County for “fire services” and Mr. Goodin asked that the town present a proposal.
4. Fire Department - Chief Stith comments:

- Our FD is self contained and receives no funding from Hamilton county.

- We currently have 3 volunteers (FF2 Adam Lockwood, Trent K., Barron Warner) working as many hours as possible. All are paramedics.

- Working on $300K water grant

- Columbia County does not offer FF1 classes.

- Hamilton County offers but it must be at least 15 applicants.

- Duval County FF1 class is $1127

- Marion County stated that it was incorrect that they offered a FF1 class for $425. Class is $4100.20

- Jennings and Jasper are going on calls within the city limits.

1. Utilities - None

A citizen asked if he could speak as he was late coming in. Mayor Rivers allowed him to speak. He stated he was Derek Snead and commented that he would hope the council would address HCSO excessive force policy? He also stated that if those who saw the video of Mr. Warren and HCSO, they would see that at no time was Mr. Warren trying to clinch the officer’s weapon. He mentioned that the council should not make negative comments on social media. Councilor N. Williams laughed and he asked her was she Nicole Williams? (inaudible parts) She stated yes, that she was and that his comments were out of order. He then asked the council were they doing severe background checks on the council members. (inaudible parts) Mayor Rivers asked that Councilor Nicole Williams allow the gentleman to speak. Councilor Nicole Williams stated that his comments has nothing to do with the town. (inaudible parts) Mayor Rivers stopped the comments by Mr. Snead and Councilor Nicole Williams. Councilor Nicole Williams stated she would comment later.

Atty. Foreman - He read Resolution 23-05 in it’s entirety. Mayor Rivers called for a motion. Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. (Res. 23-05 attached) Councilor N. Williams stated that she thought that a previous resolution was done during the tenure of Rhett Bullard. Town staff has not seen a copy of an ordinance focused on this subject. Mayor Rivers stated that she remembered something related to decorum in meetings, but not harassment. Atty Foreman stated that if there was a pre-existing resolution he would need to be aware of it. He also stated that because of his and the holiday schedule of town staff the 3 ordinances (Wesson St., water/sewer, smoke free) that were to be read tonight will be advertised as first reading and read in the February meeting.

1. **Council -** Councilor N. Williams asked Atty. Foreman if this was a good place to ask about a social media policy on town staff and the council? She also stated that she thought Stacy Tebo had a policy in place in 2016 because of a statement Mayor Rivers made on “government assistance”. Mayor Rivers answered that there was no policy; she did not get written up, nor was there anymore discussion on the incident. Atty. Foreman stated that he could draft a policy and get back to the council. He also stated that without a policy it can’t be enforced. Council can give direction and take comments into advisement, its all up to the council. Mayor Rivers asked if that was all? She then adjourned the meeting.

**Adjourn 7:32pm**

Con’t next page

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 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 ACCOMODATIONS TO PARTICPATE IN THE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE NOT LATER THAN THREE DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

Town Manager, Town Clerk, or Designee

**Vanessa George, Town Manager/ Audre’ J. Ruise, Town Clerk**

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