



TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS
“On the Banks of the Suwannee River”

MINUTES

WHITE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Council Meeting

Town Hall Council Chambers

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

6:30 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge Allegiance to Flag** - Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Town Clerk offered the Invocation and the council lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2. Roll Call** - Mayor Rivers called the roll. Present: Council members; Mary Berry, Jackie Williams, and Vice-Mayor Nicole Williams. Absent: Council member LaRita McCallum. Note: Attorney Foreman was absent.
- 3. Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda** – Mayor Rivers added Item 8. E. under New Business – Florida King Birthday 100th Proclamation.
- 4. Citizens from the floor:** (Request form needed - 5min. limit)
 1. Barbara Fryefield – Ms. Fryefield purchased the home of former owner Roger Greene. She stated that Mr. Greene had formerly come to the council to request an “alley” from the town so he could build a carport. Ms. Fryefield is requesting that same “alley” to build an art studio. The town has the previous paperwork given by Mr. Greene and it was put on hold pending the sale of his home. Ms. Fryefield has her own paperwork and will share with Utilities Director, Ray Vaughn.
 2. Dennis Price – Mr. Price is requesting the opportunity to purchase the “old Jail” property from the town. He had previously requested to purchase this property a couple of years ago when there was an appraisal

- written on it for \$2,100. He is in attendance to share that he is still interested in purchasing the property. Town Manger George stated that she would get with the Town Attorney and get back with all interested purchasers.
3. Scott Gay – Mr. Gay thanked the council for their appointment in re-activating the Planning and Zoning Board. He stated that his goal tonight was to officially give the town a copy of the letter stating his purchase of the old fire department building.
 4. Adrienne Sachse – Ms. Sachse stated that she is interested in purchasing the property adjacent to her property on Jewitt Street named “Closed Wesson Street”. Town Manger George stated that she would have to speak with the town Attorney on adding the property to our surplus list and having Utilities Director Ray Vaughn to look at the property and give you a call to schedule a site visit.
 5. Sharon Shae – Ms. Shae stated that she wanted approval by the ton council to allow her to complete the application for designating the town as a Florida Trail Community Town. The application process is free and would give the town national and international exposure; creating a favorable opportunity to receive grants and other funding as available. The process will include a site visit from the state with a review and potential designation from the board in Tallahassee. The town has 4 members on the TDC Board which also make it a good chance to be designated. Mayor Rivers will be the contact for the town. Vice-Mayor Nicole Williams made the motion to complete the application and it was seconded by Council member Jacqueline Williams. Motion passed 4-0.
 6. Wendy Johnson – Ms. Johnson stated she was making a citizen complaint about her neighbor having a junk yard and repairing vehicles in his yard without a permit. She also stated that oil and other debris was hazardous to the neighborhood. She is asking the town to assist her in having the property cleaned up and to stop him from repairing vehicles and leaving contaminated junk in his yard.
 7. Julie Williams – Ms. Williams asked about the status of the ongoing audit for 2019-20. Town Manager George stated that Richard Powell (auditor) and Michael Whitehead (accountant) are working on its completion by the end of the month, and that Covid has slowed down the progress; she has contacted Tallahassee on applying for a possible extension.

5. Presentations: None

6. Consent Docket: Paid Holidays – added Juneteenth (June 19) annually as observed holiday. Mayor Rivers asked a motion to approve the Juneteenth holiday as well as the previous holidays listed. Vice Mayor N. Williams moved to accept and approve and Council member Mary Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 vote.

Approval of Minutes:

December 14, 2021 – Town Hall Meeting

December 30, 2021 – Special Meeting/Proclamation

Nicole Williams made the motion to accept the minutes as printed and it was seconded by Council member Mary Berry. Motion passed 4-0.

7. Old Business - None

8. New Business

- a) **Second Reading – Ordinance 2021-05/Salary** – Atty. Foreman read Ord. 2021-01/Salary. Council member Mary Berry moved to adopt the ordinance and Vice-Mayor Nicole Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.
- b) **Black History Month Celebration** – Mayor Rivers asked if there were any volunteers from the council to work on a program for the town. There were no volunteers. She also stated that there is a need to appoint a Board of Adjustment for the town as well.
- c) **Wild Azalea Festival** – Mayor Rivers stated that she has been working on the festival and if there were any volunteers on the council or in the audience to assist her to please contact her. She shared a copy of the festival and the general application for vendors. Town staff has mailed donation letters last week.
- d) **Official Use of Town Equipment/Vehicles** – Mayor Rivers asked Town Manager George to advise the council on unauthorized personnel operating town equipment and vehicles. Vice-Mayor Williams asked why a citizen (Beverly Brazil) was driving a fire vehicle when she is only a volunteer? Town Manager George stated that it was in the personnel

manual as well as FMIT guidelines on non-employees driving or operating specific town property. FMIT states that ONLY town employees are covered under the town's policy, and therefore cannot operate any town vehicle.

- e) **Proclamation for Florida King's 100th Birthday** – Mayor Rivers read the proclamation and stated that the birthday celebration would be January 15th at St. Luke Baptist Church at 3:00pm. Council member Jacqueline Williams made the motion to adopt the proclamation and Vice-Mayor Nicole Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

9. Departmental/Administrative Comments

- a) **Public** – Ms. Fryefield stated that her son had just called to say someone was trying to break into the home. She called the HCSO.

- b) **Departments:**

Town Manager – Stated that she previously mentioned that the 19-20 audit was currently being processed and that staff is working on having the paperwork for the 20-21 audit once the current audit is completed. She also stated that Andrew Greene (SRMWD) and Michael Whitehead (accountant) are working to complete the town's Water Study. She has applied for a grant to go towards the "consent order" from the state. She stated that the ARPA funds are being targeted to construct a community center. She applied for funds from the legislature up to \$600K for the fire department, a community center, a wastewater treatment plant, and an emergency shelter.

Utilities Director – Mr. Vaughn stated that he will contact a citizens group to erect signs and barricades for an event on January 22, 2022.

Fire Department – None

Council – Council member Jacqueline Williams thanked all the volunteers who assisted in the Unique Riders Bikes & Skates Give-away for youth 2-17 years old. 78 bicycles were given to the community and 25 skateboards were given to Bright Morning Star Grand Chapter in Jacksonville and Gainesville Florida. Scott Gay mentioned that the event was well organized and that Shalea Jernigan was impressive in how she coordinated the bikes and skateboards to the families.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

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

10663 Bridge Street, White Springs, FL 32096
Ph. 386.397.2310 | Fax 386.397.1542 | www.whitesprings.org | manager@whitespringsfl.us