

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, February 8, 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 opened with the Invocation and the Town Council lead the Pledge.

**2.** **Roll Call**- Mayor Rivers called the roll. Council Members present: Jacqueline Williams, LaRita McCallum, Mary Berry, and Mayor Rivers. Absent: Vice-Mayor Nicole Williams.

**3. Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda** – Added Item 8. D. Proclamation for National Black History Month; 8. E. Water Rate Study. Council member Jacqueline Williams made the motion to accept the additions to the agenda and Council member Mary Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

**4. Citizens from the floor:** (Request form needed - 5min. limit)

1. Scott Gay – gave an update on the first scheduled Planning and Zoning Board meeting on He stated that he has contacted Kimley Horne and is waiting for them to call him back.

2. Dennis Price – Did not need to address the council.

3. Cynthia Johnson – Ms. Johnson stated that she was there to address the council on behalf of her fiancé’, Derrick Hendon. She stated that Mr. Hendon owned the property at 16734 Branch Street to where the neighbor sated a complete on the tenant Mitchell Hess, repairing vehicles at the property.

The owner Mr. Hendon sent the tenant a 3-day notice to vacate the property by February 2, 2022. She also sent the Council an email of the notice. (see attached) Mayor Rivers stated to remove Item 7. C. as Ms. Johnson just presented, the Council agreed.

4. Jeff Kim – Stated he wanted to open an Arcade Station at 16734 Branch St. The arcade was more “family oriented” and not gambling. Mayor Rivers concern was that the location was across the street form the church and that Hamilton County was closing all casinos in the county. Council member J. Williams asked if we ever have the workshop. Mayor Rivers stated no and that the business never returned to our meeting. Attorney Foreman stated that the town has an established ordinance banning gambling and simulated gambling sites. Should the council have any discussion, the ordinance would have to be repealed.

**5. Presentations:** None

**6. Consent Docket:** Council member Jacqueline Williams made the motion to accept the minutes from January 11, 2022, agenda and Council member Mary Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

**Approval of Minutes:**

January 11, 2022 – Town Hall Meeting

**7. Old Business**

1. **Animal Control Interlocal Agreement –** Attorney Foreman read the agreement.Council member Mary Berry made the motion to accept the additions to the agenda and Council member LaRita McCallum seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.
2. **Update on Wild Azalea Festival (Festival Date Mar. 18-19, 2022)** – Mayor Rivers stated that the festival was on the way and would take place at the Nature Tourism Center. Craft and Food Vendor applications can be picked up at Town Hall. She also thanked the community for their support. (see attached flyer)
3. **Update on Citizen Complaint/ “Neighbor repairing vehicles in his yard”.** (excluded as it was presented earlier)

**8. New Business**

1. **Set Date for Town Manager Performance Evaluation** – Mayor Rivers stated that the council will need to complete the evaluation, as the forms will be presented at the next council meeting.

1. **Discuss Town Surplus and Surplus Date –** Attorney Foreman stated that the town staff will identify all surplus and present it to the council for approval. He also said that ALL surplus did not have to be sold on the same date/day, it could be scheduled at various times. Auctioneers can assist with the sales.
2. **Town Audit – Michael Whitehead –** Absent
3. **Proclamation – National Black History Month** – Mayor Rivers read the proclamation. Council member LaRita McCallum made the motion to accept the proclamation as read and Council member Mary Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.
4. **Water Rate Study – Town Manager** – TM George discussed the findings of the study in a brief synopsis. She stated that the previous Town Council decreased the water rates from $24 to $17. This has put the town in a deficit. Most studies give towns a 5-year plan, but we would have a

10-year plan to increase the water rates to 22% (dividing it in 2yr cycle @ 11% each year) and the wastewater rates to 20% (dividing it in 2yr cycle @ 10% each year) to get beyond the deficit. Scott Gay mentioned that he noticed that the previous administration transferred surplus from the water/sewer fund several times. He suggests that any surplus funds to go to water/sewer. TM George stated that she will contact the state on previous audits to get the correct figures. Andrew Green will present the full findings on the study at a later scheduled date. Council member Larita McCallum asked that we advertise in some way to assure that the community be in attendance. Mayor Rivers stated that the announcement would be placed with the water bills on next month.

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

1. **Public**

Dennis Price stated that it was rumored that the city or the county signed a variance for the hotel located on Spring Street? Utilities Dir., Ray Vaughn stated that the county signed it. He said the owner, Mr. Nakash could not get “town sewer” because his property was elevated, he had to purchase a septic tank.

1. **Departments:**

**Town Manager** – Mayor Rivers asked TM George to give an update on MuniCode. TM George stated that we had to complete the upgrades to our system in order for MuniCode to complete the website.

**Utilities Director** – Ray Vaughn stated that he had a quote for $7,646 to repair and a quote for $8,189 for a new water pump. He suggested to get the new pump. Council member Jacqueline Williams made the motion to accept the quote for the new pump and Council member Mary Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Vaughn also had 2 quotes for a new Flow Meter form $3-5000. He asked the council if they would approve. Council member Jacqueline Williams made the motion to accept the cost of the new Flow meter, but not to exceed $6000 and Council member LaRita McCallum seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

**Fire Department** - None present.

**Council** - None.

TM George had an additional comment, stating that she had to reprimand a volunteer firefighter. The firefighter was using his town vehicle for personal transportation of their child, and they also allowed an unauthorized non-employee to use the town credit card and vehicle. After investigation of the mileage on the vehicle, it was found that the firefighter had driven excessively more miles than town employee who drives his vehicle daily to and from work. Hence, because of no communication within the fire department, she is not sure if the town has a fire department currently since she wrote the reprimand and has had no contact from the department. She has contacted the county and Henry Land to assure that the town is covered in case of fire starting tomorrow.

Council member Jacqueline Williams asked if TM George could call Mr. Land to provide emergency assistance now, in case of a fire tonight. TM George agreed and stated she would call the county immediately after the meeting tonight.

**Adjourned at 7:49 p.m.**

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

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