



TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS
"On the Banks of the Suwannee River"

MINUTES

WHITE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Council Meeting

Town Hall Council Chambers

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

6:30 p.m.

1. **Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge Allegiance to Flag** – Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order. Audre' Ruise, Town Clerk presented the Invocation and the Council led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Roll Call** – Mayor Rivers called the Roll; Council members present: Vice-Mayor Nicole Williams, Mary Berry, LaRita McCallum, and Jacqueline Williams.
3. **Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda** - Mayor Rivers added Item 8. B. New Business/ Resolution 2022-01/ Change Organizational Meeting Date. Council member Jacqueline Williams motioned to accept the change and Vice-Mayor Nicole Williams seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
4. **Citizens from the floor:** (Request form needed - 5min. limit)
 1. Beth Daniels – Does White Springs have a Magistrate for Code Enforcement? Town Clerk Ruise answered: No, as we get calls on zoning and parcel numbers, we call Hamilton County or look on the Hamilton County Property Appraiser's website. Sometimes calls are made to the Planning and Zoning Chairman, Scott Gay for information. Attorney Foreman stated that although there is not a "magistrate" in the town because of limited resources. We are fortunate currently to have a board in place to address code enforcement issues.
 2. Dennis Price – Mr. Price stated that he had a lengthy conversation with FDEP on the "septic tank" issue at the hotel located on Spring St. He is

not in agreement with the owner not having a lift station on the property. He asked that the town call FDOH on the issue. Town Manger George stated that FDEP and FDOH have made their decision as the paperwork was signed years before she and the utility director got here.

3. Julie Williams – Ms. Williams stated that the paperwork Sharon Shea spoke about in last month’s meeting is completed on the town being named a Florida Gateway Trail Town. Allison Green from Tallahassee sent a list of action item to be completed. Signage for an informational Kiosk is needed and FDOT needs to be contacted. A committee will be formed and a 501c3 will be completed. The 501c3 would not have to be under the TOWS, but the committee would be working closely with the town and council.
4. Scott Gay – Mr. Gay stated that he met with Town Manger George, Town Clerk Ruise, Utility Director Vaughn, and Town Accountant Whitehead. He stated that the Auditor General’s website does not have the TOWS 2019 Audit as completed, but it has been completed. He also stated that all his questions about the Budget and Health Insurance had been answered.
5. Sharon Shae – Ms. Shae stated that there is a 1/10 of mile of unpaved sidewalk off Hwy 41. She is asking that the town pave the extension to add a safety feature for pedestrians. Utility Director Vaughn will call FDOT on the issue.
6. Barbara Fryefield – Ms. Fryefield is asking for a variance for a deck she wants constructed in front of her house. She gave copies of the site plan to the council. Scott Gay (Planning/Zoning Chair) advised her to go onto the Hamilton County Building Department to request a form. The town will contact her.
7. Ashley Bryant – Ms. Bryant made an announcement on “Meeting the Candidates” to be held at the WS Library at 4:00pm on Saturday, April 26, 2022. Rhett Bullard and Audre’ Ruise will be moderators. All candidates have been notified.

5. **Presentations:** None

6. **Consent Docket:**

Approval of Minutes: March 8, 2022 – Town Hall Meeting

A motion was made by Council member Jacqueline Williams and Council member LaRita McCallum seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

7. Old Business

- a) **Update on Wild Azalea Festival (Mar. 18-19, 2022)** – Mayor Rivers added that the 2-day festival was well received and a grand success. She thanked all the staff and volunteers for their assistance. The festival is thought to be the largest attendance in many years.
- b) **Town Surplus Sale Date** – Mayor Rivers stated that there would be no “real property” on the list at this time. There are many miscellaneous items to be listed. The Town Manager stated that she would wait to put the items on the website to ensure the citizens get first choice. The items will also be listed in various community media. The two dates for citizen to view are: July 9th and July 23rd. Council member Jacqueline Williams made the motion to accept the dates and Council member Mary Berry seconded. Motion passed 5-0

8. New Business

- a) **Six Cents Local Option Fuel Tax** – County Attorney Cliff Adams – Attorney Adams presented the Interlocal Agreement between the town and Hamilton County. Each of the council members have a copy in their packets. Town Attorney Foreman advised that he was in favor of the agreement. A motion was made by Council member Jacqueline Williams to adopt the TOWS & Hamilton County Interlocal Agreement and Vice-Mayor Nicole Williams seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Attorney Adams will send the agreement back when his board of commissioners sign.
- b) **Resolution 2022-01 – Organizational Meeting Change** – Mayor Rivers advised that the TOWS and the council were attending a Suwannee River league of Cities Board Meeting and needed to change the date to the May regular Town Hall meeting date: May 10th.

9. Departmental/Administrative Comments

- a) **Public** – Dennis Price wanted to thank Utility Director Ray Vaughn for repairing a leak at his home. He also asked if the town had a copy of the LDR's? Town Manger George stated yes. Mr. Price also asked if the town would send the Building Inspector of Hamilton a letter to come and inspect the house that burned along side his home. Town Manger George stated that she would contact Mr. Auer.

Scott Gay stated that the owner of the hotel should have gotten the town a site plan and therefore it is vital to begin the process of zoning taken care of. The owner of the hotel has a sign saying, "rooms for rent". A citizen called and the owner stated the rooms would be rented month to month. The owner would need to get an occupational license, TDC (sales tax – bed tax). Town Manager George will make contact with the owner of the hotel on Spring St. next week.

b) Departments:

Town Manager – Town manger George is waiting on the confirmation of the SRWMD Grant. If awarded the grant the town would pay out the "consent order" from FDEP in 2016. She sated that the town would like to engage The James Moore Company of Gainesville, Fl to handle the reporting of the ARPA Funds, she asked the council for permission to engage their services. The cost is \$4900. Council member Jacqueline Williams made the motion to engage the James Moore Company for \$4900 and Council member Mary Berry seconded. Motion passed 5-0. She also stated that the 2019-20 Audit is almost complete. Powell and Jones will also continue the work to complete the 2020-21 Audit. She also stated that there have been major problems with the internet and the phone system. She has asked the Town Attorney to look at the contract on both systems.

Utilities Director – None

Fire Department - Thomas Brazil stated that there were 20 call last month and asked for the prayers of the families involved in several accidents during the past week.

Council - Town Attorney Foreman stated that he has been contacted by "Project South" and Chad Mathis to meet with them along with Town Manager George. He needs board approval to attend on behalf of the town. Council member Jacqueline Williams made the motion to approve Town Attorney Foreman and Town Manager George to meet with Project South. Council member LaRita McCallum seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Rivers stated that Early Voting and Absentee Voting will be held from April 15th to April 22nd, 2022, excluding Saturday and Sunday from 8:00am to 3:00pm in Town Hall. General Election voting is April 26, 2022 from 7:00am to 7:00pm in the WS Library.

Scott Gay wanted to clarify that he is not Code Enforcement.

Adjourn: 7:49pm

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

