



## TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS

*“On the Bank of the Suwannee River”*

---

### MINUTES

WHITE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

#### Regular Council Meeting - Town Hall Council Chambers

Tuesday, August 9, 2022 – 6:30p.m.

1. **Roll Call** – Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Town Council present: Mayor Rivers, Vice-Mayor Williams, Nicole Williams, Mary Berry, and LaRita McCallum. The invocation was given by Town Clerk Audre’ Ruise; and the council lead the pledge.
2. **Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda** - Mayor Rivers stated to add in New Business 7.a Street Closure and add Commissioner Randy Ogburn right after the Approval of Minutes (Budget/Fire Dept.). Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion to accept the additions to the agenda; Councilor Mary Berry seconded. Motion passed 5-0 vote.
3. **Citizens from the floor:** (request form needed- 5 min. limit)
  1. Barbara Fryefield – She wanted a copy of the Sweepstakes application and the businesses that were awarded. Locations for the Sweepstakes businesses are on Spring St.; the old Stormant building and the old hardware store. Mayor Rivers asked Mrs. Fryefield to send a FS 119 request to the Town Clerk.
4. **Presentations:** None
5. **Approval of Minutes:** July 12, 2022 – Town Hall Meeting – Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion to accept the additions to the agenda; Councilor LaRita McCallum seconded. Motion passed 5-0 vote.

**Town Manager George:** gave the dates for the Budget meetings:

Budget Workshop, August 23, 2022 at 6:00pm

First Budget Hearing, September 7, 2022 at 6:00pm

Final Budget Hearing, September 13, 2022 at 6:00pm

Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion to accept the dates for the budget; Councilor LaRita McCallum seconded. Motion passed 5-0 vote.

TM George also stated that there was a meeting with Hamilton County. Those present: Louie Goodin (County Mgr.), Henry Land (911 Director), and Comm. Randy Ogburn. The budget process for the Fire Department was discussed. Mr. Goodin stated that the town would get \$100K plus \$25K for maintenance from the county and explained that the Town of White Springs needed to have 2 certified fire fighters available 24hrs. a day, 7 days a week. Mr. Goodin also explained that the money was not guaranteed if there was only one firefighter on the call the town would not be paid. There must be 2 firefighters on every call. TM George stated that the criteria was nearly impossible to do with \$100K. Mayor Rivers asked Comm. Ogburn how could the town possibly do that type of coverage? Comm. Ogburn answered that the town would get the \$100K as there are no volunteers available to assist the municipalities as they have in recent years. With this, costs will rise annually. TM George stated that the criteria for a paramedic would not allow the town's paramedic to work on any of the calls. Vice-Mayor J. Williams stated that a paramedic on any call has an "open obligation" to assist and act accordingly. Mayor Rivers stated that the town could not have 2 firefighters 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Vice-Mayor J. Williams asked Comm. Ogburn what would he advise the town to do? Comm. Ogburn stated that he would advise the town to accept the funds and the criteria. TM George stated that the town bring a \$600K building inclusive with equipment, vehicles, insurance, etc. on the table. She also stated that the sweepstakes has afforded the town a fair portion to fund the WSVFD and can operate it fully. We cannot do it with just \$100K from the county. Mayor Rivers asked if the county could budget with more money? Comm. Ogburn stated the county does not have that option. TM George asked if the county would consider municipalities to take shifts with another municipality? Comm. Ogburn stated that the way things are right now, that would not work either. TM George stated again that in any scenarios the town could not cover 24/7 hours for the FD and \$100K is not enough. Fire Chief Stith stated that he calculated an annual income for 1 firefighter at 12 hrs. to include insurance and every necessity for an employee, and it came to \$192K. He also stated that FI Statutes state that a firefighter can have 2 jobs but can't volunteer at another fire department. Comm. Ogburn invited the town to the next County Commission meeting scheduled for next Tuesday at 4pm. He also welcomed Councilor Mary berry to the TDC Board; as meetings are held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 12:30pm.

TM George thanked Comm. Ogburn for attending the meeting and asked the council what direction to take at the county meeting. Mayor Rivers stated that they would leave it up to herself and the fire chief to bring back to the council for a vote.

Citizen asked when the town would have a fire department, as home insurance would be higher. TM George stated that the town has a fire department and at no time there was not a fire department. Fire Chief Stith added that the current ISO Rate is 5/5X.

Citizen asked is there an ambulance here in White Springs? Fire Chief Stith answered no, due to no manpower.

## 6. Old Business – None

## 7. New Business

- a) **Street Closure Permit – (see attached)** Mayor River Rivers read it in its entirety. She also wanted to make sure that the town would not be liable for anything and to put it in the permit. Councilor N. Williams wanted to emphasize the event being at 50 people or more and if alcohol was involved it needed to be on the permit as well. TM George stated that she would send it over to Atty. Foreman to review and that there were many calls weekly about blocking the roads. Atty. Foreman will present it to the council at the next meeting.

## 8. Departmental/Administrative Comments

- a) **Public** – Mrs. C. McCall asked where would the permit be posted? Mayor Rivers stated that it would be posted at Town Hall, website, etc.

George Tuidier went to the Asutra church to find out about them. He stated that he was greeted by Jason Flower and the meeting was good and very informational. He said that he felt that the group was not going to be a nuisance or violent in any way.

### b) Departments:

Town Manager – TM George stated that because of the sweepstakes funds the town can reduce the water rates from 35% to 20% along with a portion of ARPA funds. The town has 5 grants.

- Affluent Flow Pond - \$500K – Information in Oct or Nov
- Sunrise/Mill St. Improvement - \$587K - Information in Aug or Sept

- Water Systems Improvements - \$80K – No information
- CDBG - \$600K – Information in Oct or Nov
- FRDAP - \$50K – No information
- The 2020 Audit is complete.
- Two applications were approved and awarded for the Sweepstakes. The applications were ranked in the order that were received. The town has \$208K in the budget along with Munchies game machines; 2 @ \$5K (\$10). The funds will assist in Fire Department, community events, code enforcement, summer programs, reserves, rehab for the community center and more. ARPA funds will be used as well. Sweepstake owner will pay the town \$24K quarterly (opened or not opened). The towns budget has increased to over one half.

Need authorization from the council to seek bids for the Community Center Rehab. Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion to allow TM George to seek bids for the community center; Councilor LaRita McCallum seconded. Motion passed 5-0 vote.

Utilities Director - None

Fire Department – White p/u truck 701 is being repaired.

c) Council – None

**Adjourn: 7:58pm**

**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.**

---

Town Manager, Town Clerk, or Designee

**Vanessa George, Town Manager – Audre' J. Ruise, Town Clerk**

**10363 Bridge Street – White Springs, Fl 32096**