



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, December 13, 2022

6:30 p.m.

**1. Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge Allegiance to Flag** - Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. TC Ruise gave the invocation and the council led the pledge of allegiance.

**2. Roll Call** - Mayor Rivers called the roll, as all council members were in attendance. Present: Mayor Rivers, Vice-Mayor J. Williams. Councilors: M. Berry, N. Williams, and L. McCallum.

*\*Note: during this time a public outburst was made by Joe Griffin. Mayor Rivers asked him to be recognized or that he would be removed. Mr. Griffin continued to be out of order and Mayor Rivers asked the HCSO Deputy to remove Mr. Griffin from the meeting. Mr. Griffin was removed. Mayor Rivers also commented to the council and the public that all comments must be recognized before they are able to speak.*

**3. Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda** - Mayor Rivers asked if there were any additions, deletions, and or amendments to the agenda? Councilor N. Williams asked to add to Item 8.c., new business: the MLK Day program. Mayor Rivers stated to add item 8.c. to the agenda. Councilor L. McCallum made the motion and Vice-Mayor J. Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

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

1. Adrienne Sachse - She stated that she wanted an update on her request for a land use change where she wanted a road closure on Wesson Street. Atty Foreman stated that according to the town charter the council will need to produce an ordinance and be advertised for two consecutive meetings. He stated that he would have it for the next council meeting if the council would permit him to do so. Mayor Rivers asked for a motion and second to allow Atty Foreman to draft the ordinance requested by Tobacco Free Hamilton and provide it in the January Town Council meeting.

2. Barbara Fryefield - She stated that she wanted an update on the new applications for the town's Planning & Zoning Board. Mayor Rivers advised her that the new applications would be presented and voted on in January's Town Hall meeting.

**Presentations:** Mittauer and Associates - John Petrovich gave a brief overview of the town's role in the SRF Water System Project. He presented packets prior to the meeting for the council. He stated that the priority at tonight's meeting was to adopt Resolution 23-04, the rest of the information can be mailed via email. (attached) Mayor Rivers asked Atty Foreman to read the title of the resolution, then asked for a motion to adopt the resolution. Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion and Councilor L. McCallum seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

**6. Approval of Minutes:**

December 13, 2022 – Town Hall Meeting - Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

**7. Old Business - None**

**8. New Business -**

a) **Tobacco Free Hamilton** - Youth from TF Hamilton presented a request to adopt an ordinance banning smoking in the Town of White Springs public parks. "This will make a positive impact on generations to come", stated the youth. In Hamilton County over 50% are exposed to second hand smoke. (see attached) TF Hamilton will incur all monies for ads, etc. for the areas as well. Attendees:

Shauna Adams, Taylen Johnson, Leland Williams, Ann Brown, Khrys Kantarze, and Jaeda MacMillan. Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to adopt an ordinance for TF Hamilton. Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion and Councilor L. McCallum seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

*\*Atty Foreman stated that there has been three requests for an ordinance: water/sewer rates, road closure, and tobacco free Hamilton. These ordinances can be advertised all in one advertisement.*

b) **"Kenny Hutcherson Day"** - Mayor Rivers stated that the family has requested a road closure for the event and approval to block a portion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The application has been completed.

c) **MLK, Jr. Day Program** - Councilor N. Williams stated the program will be held on January 16, 2023 at the Heritage Tourism Center at 11:00 a.m. JuJuan Graham is the speaker and six participants will receive the "Beautiful Dreamer" Award. The program will be brief and a luncheon will follow immediately after the program. Mayor Rivers stated that the town has budgeted \$500 for the event and to come to town hall for all purchases.

## 9. Departmental/Administrative Comments

a) **Public - None**

b) **Departments**

**Town Manager** - TM George stated that an addendum was made to her contract and ready for council approval. (attached) Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to accept the Town Manager's contract addendum. Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion and Councilor L. McCallum seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

The contract for the Fire Chief has been signed and ready for council approval. (attached) Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to accept the Town Manager's contract addendum. Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilor LaRita McCallum has drafted a letter for the council to approve her absences due to her working the evening shift as a nurse. TC Ruise read her letter to the council. (attached) She will attend and may possibly need to leave the meetings early. Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to accept her letter and excuse her previous two absences. Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion and Councilor N. Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. (Councilor LaRita McCallum abstained from voting)

On November 16, 2022 (11 Director, Henry Land scheduled a Firefighter Training at Hamilton County 911 office. The training was canceled as there were no attendees. Councilor N. Williams stated that the Florida Fire College in Ocala had a different pricing for the training and asked why. Fire Chief Stith stated that labs, insurance, and gear is about \$5K per person and he will have the information at the next council meeting. He also stated that he would check with Columbia County FD. Councilor N. Williams stated she was approached by people wanting to volunteer. Mayor Rivers asked her to please direct those who want to volunteer to town hall, so it can be forwarded to the fire chief.

The town is down to one mower, as the other mower parts are not available. The cost quote is \$10K for a new one. Utilities Director Ray Vaughn stated that the town had to have more than one mower operational to keep the town mowed daily. We need council approval to purchase. Mayor Rivers asked for a motion. Councilor L. McCallum made the motion and Vice-Mayor J. Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

**Fire Department** - Chief Stith stated that the county has not sent the contract for the town's FD. The contract sent previously was in error with the wrong name printed in it. Councilor LaRita McCallum asked was this the information that Randy Ogburn had presented previously in a meeting? Chief Stith stated, "yes".

*Other comments:*

Fire Chief Stith stated that all fire gear has been cleaned and repaired and the AED is delivered and will be placed in the FD and town hall. Also, from his interviews the town should have 3 fire fighters on board this week.

Ray Vaughn wanted to mention that there were many compliments on the town's Christmas Parade and that the community was very appreciative to the town. TM George stated that parents said that the town gave out so much candy that the children were tired of running out in the road! She also stated that the Chili served after the parade was a hit too. She thanked: Vice-Mayor Williams, Administrative Assistant, Cynethia Williams, Pat Brady, and Winnie Tunsil for providing the chili. It was delicious!

Councilor N. Williams reminded the public the MLK Day Program will take place on Monday, January 16, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the Heritage Tourism Center located on Spring St.

**Utilities - None**

**Council - None**

**Adjourned: 7:22 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.

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Town Manager,

Town Clerk, or Designee

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

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