



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

MINUTES

WHITE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Council Meeting

Town Hall Council Chambers

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

6:30 p.m.

1. **Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge Allegiance to Flag** - Vice-Mayor J. Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. TC Ruise led the invocation and the town council led the pledge.

2. **Roll Call** - Vice-Mayor J. Williams called the roll: Members present: Mayor Rivers, Councilors L. McCallum, M. Berry, and N. Williams. ALL present.

3. **Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda** - None

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

1. Beth Daniels - She asked for the status of the licensing/permits for the sweepstakes. TM George replied that both sweepstake businesses have completed their applications and have been approved and licensed. There was one business that was sent a letter of violation and was not approved until the application process was completed.

2. Derek Snead - He asked how the security for the town meetings were selected. He stated that one of the officers he saw in the last meeting was fired for domestic violence from Lake City PD. He then, handed out copies of a complaint he filed against a council member. (see attached) He stated the second thing he wanted to mention concerning an incident from the last meeting "someone stated that there was an open investigation on a incident and Joel shouldn't be discussing it" and her statement was not true.

There is a FL Statute that applies to making public comments. Councilor N. Williams asked Mr. Snead who he was referring to? What statement was made and who stated it? Mr. Snead answered that "she made the comment" and the reason he's bringing it up is that you had already discussed it with other people". He also stated that White Springs had a hearing concerning Cordetta Ford on this same issue. He stated that the council should look at the charter on moral turpituded. Councilor N. Williams: "I did make a statement. You made a false statement on your address. On Facebook you have a different address and you have mislead this council. You need to remove Mr. Snead. You keep passing my house taking videos and pictures with my granddaughter in the yard. I have been harassed and I'm asking you to have him removed, I have an injunction on him". (At this time, there was a "in audible" long heated exchange by Mr. Snead and Councilor N. Williams back and forth) ***Vice-Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:44pm to reconvene after a break. The meeting reconvened at 6:47pm.*** She stated that Mr. Snead did have the floor and could continue with his comments. Atty. Foreman stated that the Vice-Mayor is responsible for chairing the meeting at her discretion, and that she could also call for a vote to have Mr. Snead removed if she so decide to. Vice-Mayor J. Williams, then called for a vote; asking to remove Mr. Snead. Vote by council "I or Nay": M. Berry: Nay, L. McCallum: I, N. Williams: I, Mayor Rivers: Nay, and Vice-Mayor J. Williams: Nay. Vote passed 3-2 voting to allow Mr. Snead to remain in the meeting.

3. Ashley Bryant - She asked when did the council change and vote that it would hold only one free event a month at the ballpark? I was told that I could not have my event. TM George stated that she did not say that she could not have it, just that you could not have it in the area already designated, as someone had called and confirmed another event there. Ms. Bryant stated that she felt the right thing to do was to call her since she is the one that does the event every year. TM George stated that she has to be impartial and fair if she got a call from another citizen to have a community event and she has to allow them the same opportunity as everyone else. Ms. Bryant stated that no one advised her about a fee and it was not explained to her. TM George stated that the town has reserved a Free event once a month for those wanting to do a community event. Vice-Mayor J. Williams asked what was the date of the event that was reserved? TM George stated that the event was April 8, 2023.

4. Towanna Jelks: She stated that she was not about drama when putting on the event because she is about giving the youth an event to enjoy. She also stated that if there was a problem, she would not have the event and she is willing to work with Ms. Bryant. "We must stop all the bickering and backstabbing" and think about the kids. Vice-Mayor J. Williams asked what was the date of her event? Ms. Jelks stated that April 8, 2023, and I will work with anyone for our youth. **Note: Councilor N. Williams walked outside on the phone.**

5. **Presentations: None**

6. **Approval of Minutes:**

January 10, 2023 – Town Hall Meeting - Vice-Mayor J. Williams called for a motion to accept the minutes. Councilor L. McCallum made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

7. **Old Business -**

a) **Ordinance 2023-01 - First Reading/Wesson Street - Atty. Foreman -** Vice-Mayor J. Williams opened the floor for public hearing. Attorney Foreman read the title of the ordinance. Vice-Mayor J. Williams asked for any public comments, there were none. Vice-Mayor J. Williams asked for a motion to accept and adopt the first reading of Ord. 23-01. Councilor L. McCallum made the motion. Mayor Rivers seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Vice-Mayor J. Williams closed the public hearing.

b) **Ordinance 2023-02 - First Reading/Tobacco Free - Atty. Foreman -** Vice-Mayor J. Williams opened the floor for public hearing. Attorney Foreman read the title of the ordinance. Vice-Mayor J. Williams asked for any public comments; Beth Daniels asked how the ordinance would be enforced? Vice-Mayor J. Williams answered: "by signage posted in the designated areas of the town". Vice-Mayor J. Williams asked for any other comments; there were none. Vice-Mayor J. Williams asked for a motion to accept and adopt the first reading of Ord. 23-02. Councilor L. McCallum made the motion. Councilor M. Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Vice-Mayor J. Williams closed the public hearing.

c) **Ordinance 2023-03 - First Reading/Water/Sewer - Atty. Foreman -** Vice-Mayor J. Williams opened the floor for public hearing. Attorney Foreman read the title of the ordinance. Vice-Mayor J. Williams asked for any public comments; Beth Daniels asked when the new rates would go into effect? Atty. Foreman

stated that during the first billing cycle after the adoption of the second reading. Vice-Mayor J. Williams asked for any other comments; there were none. Vice-Mayor J. Williams asked for a motion to accept and adopt the first reading of Ord. 23-03. Councilor L. McCallum made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded. Motion passed 4-0. Vice-Mayor J. Williams closed the public hearing. Vice-Mayor J. Williams stated that all ordinances have passed the first reading 23-01, 02, & 03.

8. New Business

a) **Azalea Festival Update - Mayor Rivers** - Vice-Mayor J. Williams stated that Mayor Rivers was not able to speak (laryngitis) as TM George gave the update. She stated that the Taste of White Springs is Friday, March 17th at 6pm to 8pm and the Wild Azalea Festival is Saturday, March 18th 10am to 4pm. Much of the same events as last year. Flyers will go out next week. TC Ruise asked if there would be a 5K Run? TM George stated "not this year". Games will be added.

b) **Easter Fest - Mayor Rivers** - TM George didn't know the specifics. Vice-Mayor asked the host, Towanna Jelks to take the podium and give the information. Ms. Jelks stated that the festival is FREE to the community on Saturday, April 8th from 10a to 5p. She stated that some of the events were : cake auction, fishing booth, games, money booth, etc. And more. Volunteers are welcomed and free tickets will be given out during the event.

c) **Complaint - Derek Snead** - Vice-Mayor J. Williams asked that Mr. Snead "you are on thin ice, tread lightly" and come to the podium. He asked that the council look at the packet he gave the town. He stated that he owns several properties with different addresses. He stated that he came to town hall to file a complaint on a council member and he did not know that town hall was closed on Fridays. He stated he wasn't aware that a picture of a daughter or granddaughter was in the packet until now. I was chased by a silver car and white car. The chase is in the packet on a map. (see attached) ***(Note: there was a personal family matter as Councilor L. McCallum had to leave, along with staff C. Williams)*** Mr. Snead apologized for his earlier comments. (see Mr. Snead's packet) After much discussion, Mr. Snead stated that he strongly suggest the removal of this councilor, look at the statutes and the charter. Councilor N. Williams stated that "Mr. Snead passed her home 6 times taking pictures, harassing and cyber-bullying me. She stated that she is warning him to stay away from her house and stop taking pictures with her granddaughter in them. You put me on FB, my house, and my family under your Barry Gable name, I don't know if you're a pedophile or not. You are a big liar. While following you I was on the phone with 911. You

answered on Sylvester Warren's FB posts and the council let him call me a piece of S#@&!" No one expressed that he was wrong. You have even posted on FB my house. On the 11th, 27th, and the 12th you were at my house taking pictures. I have given my family your picture. You are a stalker and you are cyber-bullying me after a post on FB. I am threatened by you and will file a complaint. You are illegally using other sites as official documents. I do not have a criminal record, I was arrested 3 times but never convicted. Also, I'm not the only one here with a record. Since the council doesn't see fit to keep you out of these meetings, my mother, granddaughter, and disabled grandson feels threatened too." I will get my own attorney. I have no confidence in this council and will send my complaint directly to Tallahassee. *(Note: Vice-Mayor J. Williams had to step out, she was on her phone, then TM George stepped out with her. Atty. Foreman advised that there was no presiding officer and we would have to wait for the Vice-Mayor's return.)* Vice-Mayor J. Williams returned and called for the departmental and administrative comments.

9. Departmental/Administrative Comments

a) **Public** - None

b) **Departments**

1. Town Manager - stated that there is a leak at the WWTP and continuing to look for grants to assist with additional funding for the town.

2. Fire Department - None (had to go a call)

3. Utilities - None

c) **Council** - Atty. Foreman stated that there has been a lot of discussion tonight on ethics complaints. There are no issues with anyone filing them, just make sure we are using the proper procedures. They need to go to Tallahassee. The council does not have the proper resources to investigate. In the future we are going to ask that those complaints be filed in and sent to Tallahassee.

Councilor N. Williams stated that she wanted to ask Mr. Foreman in this meeting about the town charter, town policy and procedures, and administrative code. These things in here will be considered as violated if not followed and apply to the employees and the council right? Charter is the peoples law. The other manuals you mentioned are the rules that the council made and can investigate. Violating

the charter will have to be investigated by Commission on Ethics in Tallahassee. All are enforceable rules but just know where to refer the complaint. I have no vote of confidence in this council. Where would I file the complaint? Atty. Foreman stated that she could send directly to the commission. I was looking into the violations made by this administration and office and just needed to know what was mm next step. Atty. Foreman stated that he would send a link to the commission if anyone needed it.

Vice-Mayor J. Williams asked if there were any more comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Adjourn: 7:47pm

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

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

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