



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

MINUTES

WHITE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Council Meeting

Town Hall Council Chambers

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

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 Ruise rendered the Invocation, and the council and citizens quoted the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2. Roll Call – Council Members present** – Mayor Rivers, Vice-Mayor Nicole Williams, Jacqueline Williams, and Mary Berry. LaRita McCallum was absent. Also present - Town Manager George, Attorney Foreman, Town Clerk Ruise, Utilities Director Ray Vaughn, Administrative Assistant Cynethia Williams.
- 3. Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda** – Add under 7. Old Business; 7. C. Adoption of Tentative Budget and 7.D. Adoption of Tentative Millage.
- 4. Citizens from the floor:** (Request form needed - 5min. limit) – **Scott Gay** presented a citizen complaint about a zoning issue on Suwannee Street. The permit had been signed by Town Hall (Town Clerk). The clerk mentioned that at the time there was no clear directives on issuing the permits. Mr. Gay stated that the landowner did not have a legitimate address and the structure on the property is illegal and the fencing is a safety hazard. Attorney Foreman will investigate the complaint and plan a meeting with Mr. Gay, Town Manager George, and himself at a later date. Town Manager George had questions for Mr. Gay; if the person wanting a temporary electrical pole, what would they need? Mr. Gay said that there was a list through the Planning and Zoning Board specific to each case. Attorney Foreman will also work on getting the towns' Planning and Zoning Board re-activated as soon as possible, to answer such questions that may come up at

town hall. Mr. Gay is also interested in assisting the town on the Planning and Zoning Board as he was a former member.

5. **Presentations** - None

6. **Consent Docket:** None

Approval of Minutes:

August 10, 2021 – Town Hall Meeting

Council Member Williams made the motion to accept the minutes. Vice-Mayor N. Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

7. Old Business

- a) **Council: Discussion to schedule Workshop on Adult Casino/Games** – Mr. Shiver was not present to discuss his views on the topic and Mayor Rivers wanted to know if the council was still in agreement to have a workshop with Mr. Shiver? Attorney Foreman stated you can discuss as an agenda item at any meeting. The council agreed to post it on the agenda of the next special meeting on September 28th (Final Budget/Millage) at 5:30pm.
- b) **Discussion: Creating a Town Hall Resolution on citizen conduct and behavior - Attorney Foreman** – Attorney Foreman handed out his letters for the council’s review. (See attached) He stated that the rules outlined in the letters were highly effective and all were written with everyone in mind. He recommended adopting the rules outlined and to be aware that the rules will be adhered to by the council as well as the citizens. The council were in agreement and Attorney Foreman would have the resolution at the next regular council meeting on October 12th.
- c) **Adoption of Tentative Budget – Town Manager George** – Mayor Rivers opened the floor for a public hearing to adopt the tentative budget. Mayor Rivers asked if there were any public comments?

Citizen, Scott Gay asked about the section on “planning for Kimley Horne” and he suggested the council to increase it. He also asked did Kimley Horne complete the map project? Town Manager George stated she

would check on it and get back with him. There were no more public comments.

Mayor Rivers closed the public hearing.

Mayor Rivers asked if the council had any questions or comments?

Council Member Jacqueline Williams asked about the “training and travel” section for \$5,000. Town Manager George stated it was for staff/town clerk training/travel, FMIT, FL League of Cities meetings/travel, and other training/travel as needed. Council Member Williams also asked about section 512 “professional services \$62,000”. Town Manager George stated it is slated for the pending audit(s) for the town.

Council Member Jacqueline Williams made the motion to accept and adopt the tentative budget. Council Member Mary Berry seconded the motion. Motioned passed 4-0.

- d) **Adoption of Tentative Millage** – Mayor Rivers opened the floor for a public hearing to adopt the tentative millage. Town Manager George stated that last year’s millage rate was 4.2030 mills and if the rate is increased tonight the town would need to advertise the rate increase. Mayor Rivers asked if there were any public comments? There were none.

Mayor Rivers closed the public hearing.

Council member Jacqueline Williams mentioned that she would not be in favor of exceeding the 6.0 mills and motioned to accept the new millage rate at 5.5 mills. Vice-Mayor Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**The town will advertise the e-Trim package ad in the Lake City Reporter as the Riverbend newspaper is issued only on Wednesdays.*

8. **New Business**

a) **Ordinance 2021-04 – AMENDED - *Second Reading*/Renaming Suwannee Street /Kenneth Hutcherson Memorial Drive – Town Attorney**

Mayor Rivers opened the floor for a public hearing adopting the amended ordinance renaming Suwannee Street to Kenneth Hutcherson Memorial Drive. Attorney Foreman read the ordinance in its entirety. Mayor Rivers asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Vice-Mayor Williams made the motion to accept and adopt Ordinance 2021-04 as read by Town Attorney Foreman. Council Member Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Rivers closed the public hearing.

b) **Rental/Lease - Town of White Springs Properties – Council**

The council discussed many different aspects of a possible lease agreement. Administrative Asst. Williams had an old copy of the town's rental use agreement. The council wanted to make sure all items to the agreement was covered for the town and the citizens. Attorney Foreman stated he would draft something for the council, much like what is drafted in Columbia County and bring it to the Oct. 12th regular meeting.

9. **Departmental/Administrative Comments**

a) **Public – None**

b) **Departments** – Town Manger George stated that Powell & Jones sent in an engagement letter RFQ/CPA for \$11,200-11,500 for 2020-21 Audit.

Vice-Mayor N. Williams made the motion to accept. Council Member Williams seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Utility Director Vaughn stated he and his staff posted the new signs for the old Kendrick Street to Colonial.

c) **Council - None**

Adjourn at 8:05pm

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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