

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, April 11, 2023

6:30 p.m.

1. **Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge Allegiance to Flag -** Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The invocation was led by TC Ruise as the council led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2.** **Roll Call -** Mayor Rivers gave the Roll Call. Members present: Mayor, Vice-Mayor, Councilors N. Williams and M. Berry. Members absent: Councilor L. McCallum.

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

1. **Citizens from the floor:** (Request form needed - 5min. limit)
2. Karin Griffin - Handed out a packet to the council and staff. (attached)
3. **Presentations: None**

**6. Approval of Minutes: -** Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

March 14, 2023 – Town Hall Meeting

1. **Old Business -**
2. **Opt Out Insurance -** (this item was tabled for the May meeting)
3. **Council Seat Forfeiture Discussion -** Atty. Foreman stated that a certified letter was mailed to Councilor N. Williams on March 29, 2023. As of this evening Councilor N. Williams had not received the certified letter and expects to get it this week. Atty. Foreman stated that it serves at the town’s interest to allow her the process of continuing here defense. There is no reference in the charter on the time frame of the process. Mayor Rivers asked if the council could give Councilor N. Williams a copy of the certified letter at this meeting. Atty. Foreman stated that he would give her a copy tonight.
4. **New Business - None**

**9.** **Departmental/Administrative Comments**

1. **Public -** None
2. **Departments:**
3. **Town Manager** - None
4. **Fire Department** - Chief Stith and TM George attended a meeting in Jasper with County Manager Louie Goodin. The basics of the meeting was discussion that included a base rate of $24K to the town, at $6K per quarter. This way the county is paying their part in assisting with fire service for the town. He also mentioned that the FD currently has 4 firefighters. TM George stated that she is asking the council to approve the $24K amount plus the FEMA rates and services. Mayor Rivers asked for the motion. Vice-Mayor J. Williams and Councilor M. Berry seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
5. **Utilities** - Director Ray Vaughn stated that he and staff have repaired 8 water leaks and Windstream is suspending installing fiber optic cables throughout the town until further notice. A citizen asked if the town had a contract with Windstream. Mr. Vaughn stated, “no”.

Citizen Ashley Bryant asked about the May Day festival and what were the vendor fees? Mayor Rivers stated that the fees were $100 and the entertainment was already filled with various musical artists. The flyer for the event will be out soon. May Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 10:00am to 8:00pm.

Mayor Rivers also gave an update on the Taste of White Springs held at the Tourism Center on Friday, March 17, 2023. The array of food was awesome and the entire event was very successful. Altho, we canceled the Wild Azalea Festival; we decided to continue with the Little Miss and Mr. Contest, the silent auction for the quilt, and the wild azalea plants.

1. **Council -** Councilor N. Williams asked for a copy of the meeting packets from March to tonights’ April 11th. TC Ruise gave her another copy as she has been given a copy at each meeting. She has not returned her binder for weeks. She was given a copy from a binder (LMcCallum). Atty. Foreman gave her a copy of the certified letter and she refused to take it, as it was left on the table. Atty. Foreman gave me the letter and signed it as “hand delivered” on April 11, 2023.

**Adjourn - Mayor Rivers adjourned the meeting at 6:55pm. A few minutes later Joe Griffin pushed his wheelchair behind me stating “slurred but audible “ obscenities and disrespectful words. I asked him to leave and I also asked his wife to please take him out. She asked him to leave and began to argue with her. She left the building and he continued and refused to leave. I called the HCSO and they arrived after he had left. I told the officer about the incident and stated that I would call Sgt. Rogers.**

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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