



**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, July 11, 2023

6:30 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge Allegiance to Flag - Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Town Clerk Ruise led the invocation as the council followed with leading the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 2. Roll Call - Members present: Mayor Rivers, Vice-Mayor J. Williams, Councilors M. Berry, K. Burch, and Linnie Pope. 5 present - Quorum was set.**
- 3. Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda - None**
- 4. Citizens from the floor: (Request form needed - 5min. limit)**

**Dennis Price:** Mr. Price handed out pictures of the burned home sitting directly next to him. He feels that the home should be declared hazardous and unsafe. The first picture is looking down from our window and the second picture is right after the fire and you can see some of the rafters are burned through and falling. But, since then it's caved in further and they're just dangling. This needs to be taken care of before a big storm comes and everything blows into our house. This thing needs to be settled.

**Atty. Foreman:** So there is a public element that we can go after which is the court. Articulating to a judge why this is a public nuisance. The structure is unstable and unsafe. There are risks associated within the state of the structure and we have recruited it and now it's our burden. We need to make sure

everything is cleaned up and then further investigate and try to get Mr. Stormant to meet me at the property so I can create another insurance record. We must prove to the judge that this structure must come down.

Dennis Price: I'll reach out to Mr. Stormant to see if he is open to having that meeting with you. Ok, thank you.

**George Tuider:** Not sure if the town has heard about a group of kids roaming the streets and knocking over trash cans. If not, I'm sure you'll be getting some calls. He explained that the kids were doing this late on Monday evenings, as he got a call from Scott Gay. TM George stated that she would get with law enforcement. Mayor Rivers stated the same.

**5. Presentation - None**

**6. Approval of Minutes:**

June 13, 2023 – Town Hall Meeting -

**7. Old Business - None**

**8. New Business -**

a) **Status of the Ball Park - Councilor Kizzy Burch** - Councilor K. Burch asked why the park and ball-field were locked? As she is a children's advocate; she has received several calls from citizens on the issue. Mayor Rivers said that when the gates were opened, people would go in and destroy the fields on dirt bike, etc. TM George and Util. Dir. R. Vaughn quoted the same sentiment as people were not only destroying the field but they were destroying the bathrooms as well; the faucet was broken and being repaired and a large tent was totally destroyed. Councilor K. Burch stated that she was sure that the town did not have funding to hire manpower daily, but most parks have hours of operation. She suggested that the park be opened daily in conjunction with the town's hours of operation; Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Mayor Rivers asked for a motion from Councilor K. Burch, she made the motion and seconded by Vice-Mayor J. Williams. Motion passed 5-0. Vice-Mayor asked Utility Director, R. Vaughn when would he begin to unlock the gate at the field? He answered, tomorrow. Citizen Ben Register stated that he would like to volunteer to help any of the youth with baseball activities.

## 9. Departmental/Administrative Comments

a) **Public** - None

b) **Departments:**

1. Town Manager - Town Audit is being completed. The State Auditors were still in the office and the audit is going good. The town's infrastructure is crumbling and we need state funding and grants. She also stated that Brandon Stubbs would like to meet with each council member individually to speak with them about zoning changes and to call her to set up the appointments with him. Atty. Foreman stated that the workshop on August 15, 2023 at 6:00pm would be a good time to speak with him to ask questions and you can meet with him individually and still be in order with the Sunshine Law so you can be informed.

2. Fire Department - Fire Chief, Steve Stith stated that he had received the contract from Atty. Decker. This the same contract that Jennings (\$20K) has signed. He had a meeting with Louie Goodin and stated that the town's contract was \$26K. He also spoke with Commissioner Erixton and he said that the board was stuck on the \$20K for municipalities. Chief Stith stated that he was grateful that the sweepstakes is funding the fire department and the county has not assisted financially. He asked the council what did they want him to say in the meeting with the council? Mayor Rivers stated that she trusts him as the fire chief to make the correct and best decision concerning the town. He also stated that one of the trucks power steering was being repaired. The MERV has been repaired. Most of the service calls for the town has been EMS. He has 5 FF on board and they like working here for the town.

3. Utilities - None

c) **Council** - "make sure that the ballpark is opened tomorrow, M-F from 8-4". Thank you".

Atty. Foreman stated that he appreciated the town's calls and concerns on the loss of his brother and thanks everyone.

**Adjourn: 7:13pm**

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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