

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, June 8, 2021

6:30 p.m.

**1.** **Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge Allegiance to Flag –** Mayor, Anita Rivers called the meeting to order. Town Clerk, Audre’ Ruise led the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2.** **Roll Call – All present:**

Mayor - Anita Rivers

Vice-Mayor - Nicole Williams

Council Members – LaRita McCallum, and Mary Berry

Town Manager - Vanessa George

Utilities Director – Ray Vaughn

Town Clerk – Audre’ J. Ruise

Administrative Assistant – Cynethia Williams

Fire Chief - Kevin Pittman

Attorney – Joel Foreman

Absent: Council – Jacqueline Williams

**3. Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda –** Mayor Rivers amended the agenda to add Item 7A to New Business with Mr. Leroy Bynder discussing the July 4th Celebration.

**4. Citizens from the floor:** (*Request form needed - 5min. limit per speaker*) – (Request forms attached)

1. Karin Griffin – (Stated) The Attorney and Town Manager are not making the right decisions for the Town. They are working to benefit each other. Vanessa was allowed to make her own contract; she cannot make her own contract. The town needs to take notes on how Mr. Koberlein wrote the details on severance pay. Why did the Town Attorney create her own contract and then the council accepted and approved it? There was a citizen who was concerned about her children not having anything to do and the council ignored her. There was also a citizen that wanted to have a water party for the children and the council didn’t want to give them the water. Vanessa is manipulating this council and the town. The ordinance on the golf carts are not written to benefit the town or it’s citizens.
2. Joe Griffin – (Stated)Open Government is not apart of this town or the council. It’s a “pay me” and “I’ll do what I want and do what I say” mentality. It’s a dictatorship with the Town Attorney, Town Manager, and the Town Clerk. The Town Manager is charging high fees for FS119’s. (quoted a court case) The Town Manager and the Town Clerk don’t know what to do and the council is ignorant. The council is so ignorant they can’t hear the voice of government and the people. Where is my voice and the voice of the people? Nothing happens but what the Town Attorney and the Town Manager want.

1. Beverly Brazil – (Stated) She passed out pictures she took at the park. I took my grandson to the park. The playground is incomprehensible! There is a big wasp nest there and my grandson was stung by wasps. Thank goodness he is not allergic to the wasps it could have been a very serious and bad situation. The park is filthy, trash is everywhere. Our children have no where to go. This is just wrong for the park to be in this condition and something needs to be done about it!

Town Manager - Vanessa George stated that she is aware of how the park looks. Staff is there weekly mowing lawns, cleaning bathrooms, and what ever else needs to be done. Although she agrees with Mrs. Brazil, we only have three staff who consistently keep the parks and everything else in the town in very good and presentable condition.

Utilities Director – Ray Vaughn stated also that he is aware and that his staff of two diligently works hard each week making the park look presentable and the bathrooms clean. He mentioned that Monday, he had to join the staff because of the condition of the bathroom. They worked 7 hours cleaning up. He had to pull both staff members from their specific job that day to come to the park and assist in the clean-up. Town Manager George also mentioned that three staff members who keep the entire town cleaned and mowed daily are also the ones who have to assist at the wastewater plant, sewer plant, and wherever else they are needed. When they are pulled to go to another job, the job that were working on doesn’t get done until the next day at times, leaving what they were working on to be done on another day. It’s very hard to maintain the city maintenance if a staff worker is pulled away to work on another area, this will leave us slacking in other areas of the city. She, Ray, and Mayor Rivers were aware of the park that morning as well. The park was cleaned only 3 days prior to this. She also mentioned that she was told that someone was living in the park and the bathroom therefore, creating the trash and filth in the park daily. She asked for the help of the citizens to help in keeping an eye out for people who are living and even vandalizing the park. We need everyone to help, the entire community. Call the police if you see something not right at the park or call us. If you have any suggestions all our office. The town will install a cage at the door and better lighting, and possibly an infra-red camera.

\*Pictures were taken and given to the council.

1. Thomas Brazil – (Stated) – He was a supervisor of a crew at his previous job. He would stagger and rotate his crew to cover the week and the weekends. Town Manager George and Utilities Director Ray stated that Thomas had the manpower to cover those shifts, but our two man crew are different. They work in various different areas of the city’s maintenance. Therefore, when they leave their assigned post, the post is left vacant until another day.

Beverly Brazil mentioned that the town needed to repair the fence in the park too.

Councilmember Nicole Williams mentioned that the previous council had secured grants for Ogburn Field and Turner Park at $50K each. As of today, there was never anything done with the money or the grants.

Town Manager George mentioned that there was another grant in 2018 that was to be completed by 2020 but with CV19 protocols in place it was extended to 2021. Nothing was every done and the grant has expired.

**5.** **Approval of Minutes:**

May 11, 2021 – Councilmember LaRita McCallum motioned to accept the minutes as written, Councilmember Nicole Williams seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

**6. Old Business**

1. **Mittauer & Associates (Kellen Lindsey)** **– Project Change Orders –** Mr. Lindsey was absent and Utilities Director Ray Vaughn presented change Order #10 to the council. Mr. Vaughn explained that there was something within the pipes, they checked through fiber optics and found that concrete was embedded.

Councilmember LaRita McCallum motioned to accept Change Order #10 as presented, Council member Mary Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. (see attached)

1. **Hamilton County 911/Henry Land via Conference Call –** Kenny Hutcherson Memorial Drive. The council phoned Mr. Land to get an update on the signage for the street. Mr. Land said it would take a lot of paperwork for the businesses and residents to change the name of the current street to Kenny Hutcherson memorial Drive. It is his recommendation on

**7. New Business**

1. Leroy Bynder – July 4th Celebration

Mr. Bynder presented his intentions for a Town July 4th Celebration in Ogburn Field. The committee will cover any fees, setup, and food. He also stated he had a guest with him to discuss it in detail. He then introduced Mr. Terrence Wolfson.

Mr. Wolfson – (Stated) He was a Pediatrician and he also supports community functions financially and wanted to help support the Town of White Springs with the July 4th Celebration. He has a $2M Liability Insurance Policy to cover the function and any other fees associated with the park. He and his committee will also be here on this Saturday, June 12th for an event that Ashley Bryant is having at Ogburn Field. Mayor Rivers stated that the council was not aware of this event. Councilmember Nicole Williams apologized that she told Ashley Bryant that she could use the Park for 4hrs. She misunderstood, and thought that the council had been notified. Town Manager George stated that she was not aware of the event. Mayor Rivers stated that she saw a FB post saying the event would be from ‘4p until’ and that alcohol will be on the premises. Ashley Bryant stated that she did not post that on her page and that she was not responsible for anything posted on another person’s FB page. Ms. Bryant then asked if the electricity was on at the field? Town Manager George said “No” and that to her knowledge the electricity has been off since March. Ms. Bryant said that the electricity was on for her Easter Egg Hunt in April. Town Manager George stated that any special events for the town be done through the Special Events Committee here through the council. It is open to any town resident. Councilmember McCallum stated that she would like to plan a meeting with this committee on this Thursday, June 10th at 6pm. The meeting will be open to all. The Town Clerk will have to put out a special meeting flyer. Mr. Wolfson, said he’d make sure of the Park’s security and anything else needed financially to make sure the event will still take place in a safe environment for the children.

May

**8.** **Departmental/Administrative Comments**

1. **Public** – None
2. **Departments** - Fire Department Chief Pittman discussed that the county was issuing new 911 residence features. The department completed a tour of residential properties and found that 32 property addresses were not visible from the road for emergency vehicle access. He requested that the city survey stop signs as there were many that were not visible. (attached report)
3. **Council** – Vice-Mayor Nicole Williams asked what she needed to do to get speed bumps placed on Mills and Adams streets. Utilities Director Vaughn will get her the information at a later date.

**Adjourned at 8:25pm**

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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