



TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS

"On the Bank of the Suwannee River"

Town Council

Special Meeting Notice – 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2022-001

June 28, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. 2ND Reading Ordinance 2022-001 – Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. Mayor Rivers called the roll for the council. Council present: Mayor Rivers, Vice-Mayor Jacqueline Williams, Nicole Williams, Mary Berry, and LaRita McCallum. Shen then asked Atty. Foreman to read the Ordinance 2022-001, as he read it in it's entirety.

Linda Hall – I am for the cafes, the only time people may get unruly is when that loose and then they only hit the machines, jokingly.

Chris Kantarvy – I'm not a resident but I love this town. We have become untrusting and not willing to work together. The real issue is that the town needs funding and revenue. We must restore the trust and unity.

Sheriff Harold Reid – I am not for the sweepstakes because of the criminal element that they bring which is why Lake City and other towns have closed them down.

State Attorney, John Durrett/3rd Circuit – I don't say that I understand the revenue needed here. But, you must take in account of what else they are selling the town. Gambling is illegal in the State of Florida.

Laura Peterson – I'm for the sweepstakes.

Reginald Williams – I'm for the sweepstakes.

Lyndale Cooks – I'm for the sweepstakes.

Adrienne Sasche – Would the council consider a vote from the people? Atty. Foreman stated that there is a process and he could talk to her after the meeting if she wanted to.

Nicole Miller – I'm for the sweepstakes. I see the unity that it brings.

Paul Spillers – I managed the café outside the town limits and we had no criminal element. I like the unity that it brings and enjoyment.

Wayne Hanika – I'm from Live Oak and I hope the council knows that the commissioner there are not for internet cafes. It brings out the criminal activity the town does not need. I am urging the council to not vote for this.

Teri Siewert – I know statistics on these types of cafes are not good. The state attorney and the sheriff have just stated that they are against them. You are the gatekeepers, and we will help you. Please vote no tonight and just do the right thing.

Trinity Luke – I'm for the sweepstakes and it brings the community together.

Morgan Edwards – I worked at the Café outside the town limits and there was never an issue everyone enjoyed it.

Scott Siewert – I read Ord. 2021-01 that was passed 14 months ago and now the council wanted to repeal it. Why? Because of \$96K? The town can apply for grants.

Ashley Bryant – I'm for the sweepstakes and I understand the concern but our elderly needs to have an outlet to enjoy. Break-ins and crime is every where and stores don't close down because of it.

Barbara Fryefield – Money is the big issue here. The ordinance does not state this. Nutrient has given the town \$400K in the past. I am asking the council to consider the consequences of having a café.

Earnestine Daniels – not present.

Gladys Everhart – I don't compare Las Vegas to White Springs although I love Vegas. I like the feel of the small town sweepstakes.

Roger Greene – Mayor, town council, and attorney; I strongly oppose internet cafes. They all are gambling operations. Most counties have closed them. Jacksonville has closed over 160. And deemed them a public nuisance. I am asking the council to not tarnish the positiveness of our town. FDLE has sent a statewide message and will not tolerate gambling. Govern yourself accordingly.

Randolph King – I am for sweepstakes, I have been playing them for over 16 years all around Florida. Don't believe all the hype town council because there is crime everywhere. Someone mentioned Nutrient giving the town money; they gave that money to the county.

Gloria Rentz – I'm for internet cafes as I am retired and I enjoy the atmosphere.

Gail Rentz – I'm a Corrections Officer and I enjoy internet cafes and the people. I look forward to coming over here to get with friends.

Eddie Allen – I'm for sweepstakes. Crime is a issue everywhere. We have a liquor here and I don't drink so I don't go to the liquor store. If you don't like cafes don't go to the cafes. I like that the town is creating revenue creatively, I applaud the town.

Chatty Hayes – I' for the sweepstakes. I love my job and the people that come there.

Sylvester Warren – I have spoken with other councils about my personal issue with internet cafes and have found that I shouldn't make my opinion the law for others who enjoy them. The community that are against this type of funding needs to put their money where their mouth is. I don't see a full room at meeting at the sheriffs off ice with crooked deputies and I don't see a full room at State Attorney Durrett's office for the disparity in his office. I don't see anyone with a resolution, just talk.

Mayor Rivers asked if Atty. Koberlein had any comments. He did not. Mayor asked the council if they had any comments? There were none. Mr. Randolph stated that he had a petition with 39 names on it that he would bring back to town hall.

Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-001. Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion and Council member LaRita McCallum seconded the motion.

Mayors Rivers asked for a verbal individual vote:

Vice – Mayor J. Williams – Approved
Council member N. Williams – Approved
Council member LaRita McCallum – Approved
Council member Mary Berry – Approved
Mayor Rivers – Approved

Ordinance 2022-001 approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16p.m.

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 SUCH 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 ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE 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

10363 Bridge Street – White Springs, FL 32096