

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, May 9, 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. TC Ruise gave the invocation and the council led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2.** **Roll Call -** Mayor Rivers called the roll. Members present:Mayor A. Rivers, Vice-Mayor J. Williams, and Councilor M. Berry. A quorum was established.

**3. Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda** - None. Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to approve the agenda as printed. Vice-Mayor J. Williams made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

1. **Citizens from the floor:** (Request form needed - 5min. limit)
2. Joy Montgomery with the Historical Preservation Society requested a letter of endorsement from the town council as they are applying for a grant with the Florida Department of State. The grant is basically to designate home or businesses of historical significance. The grant will fund markers in each location designation. (see attached) Mayor Rivers asked for a motion for the town to write a letter of endorsement for the Hisorical Preservation Society. Vice-Mayor made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded. Motion was passed 3-0.
3. Dennis Price made a plea to the council to have the home owner of the home that was burned down to cleanup the property or the town to deem it condemned. He is worried that the roof will collapse as the owner has made no attempt to clean it up. Atty. Foreman suggested to the council to allow him to draft a nuisance claim letter to the Hamilton County courthouse since there is no code enforcement in place and to write the homeowner a demand letter. Mayor Rivers asked for a motion for Atty. Foreman to write the letters he mentioned. Vice-Mayor made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded. Motion was passed 3-0.

Mr. Price also mentioned that he would like to buy the old jail. Mayor Rivers stated that the town is not currently in the business of “real estate”.

1. Nicole Williams stated that the town would need to re-do the election process for not following the “town charter”. The qualifying ended a week earlier. Atty. Foreman stated that he would look into it and get back with the council.
2. **Presentations: Mittauer & Associates/Resolution - Town Manager -** TM George stated that Mittauer and Associates needed to have a resolution signed at tonight’s meeting. An account was created with ARPA funds in an separate account in which the council had previously approved. She then asked Atty. Foreman to read the title. Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 23-06. Vice-Mayor made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded. Motion was passed 3-0.

**6. Approval of Minutes:**

April 11, 2023 – Town Hall Meeting - Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to accept the minutes from May 9, 2023. Vice-Mayor made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded. Motion was passed 3-0.

1. **Old Business -**
2. **Opt Out Insurance -** TM George stated that our accountant Michael White found the minutes for a September 2015 council meeting where it was approved to give employees an “opt out” to insurance after 6-month probation after the date of hire. Mr. Whitehead will process 3 employees “opt out” checks in next months payroll. TM George will advise the council.

1. **May Day Festival -** Mayor Rivers went over the official May Day flyer, stating that the events will take place at Carver Field and parking will be across the street in the ball field. TM George stated that roads would be closed and 4 permits per household to get through the closures. (see attached flyer)
2. **New Business -**
3. **Notice of Council Seat Vacancies -** Mayor Rivers read the names of the potential new council members and their letters stating who they were and why they want to become apart of the council.

**Kizzy Burch (seat 1 - 2023-2025) and Linnie Pope (seat 2 - 2022-2024) letters were read and approved by Mayor Rivers, Vice-Mayor Williams, and Councilor M. Berry.** (Vice-Mayor made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded. Motion was passed 3-0 to approve both candidates.)

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

1. **Public**
2. **Departments:**
3. Town Manager - 2020 Audit, JNSTax will submit all paperwork/documents needed by Powell and Jones.
4. Fire Department - Fire Chief Stith read the contract after Atty. Foreman’s review. Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to accept the the fire contract. Vice-Mayor made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded. Motion was passed 3-0.
5. Utilities - Utility Director, Ray Vaughn brought an estimated invoice for the council’s approval for a contractor to finish a plumbing project at the Social Center sweepstakes for completing the work for bathrooms. The estimate is $7200K. He also needed approval for a $6200K invoice estimate from RingPower for generators. Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to approve the 2 invoices for utility invoices. Vice-Mayor made the motion and Councilor M. Berry seconded. Motion was passed 3-0.

1. **Council -** Mayor Rivers asked if there were any comments from the council. There were none.

Joe Griffin gave the council a “citizen speak form”. (see attached)

Nicole Williams came back to the podium to state that the council and the attorney had ignored her previous comments and are “still operating against the charter”.

**Adjourn: 7:19pm**

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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