



TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS
“On the Banks of the Suwannee River”

MINUTES

WHITE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Council Meeting

Town Hall Council Chambers

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

6:30 p.m.

1. **Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge Allegiance to Flag** - Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order at 6:41pm. Invocation was given by TC Ruise and the council led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Roll Call - Members present:** Mayor Rivers, Vice-Mayor Williams, Councilors: Burch, Berry, and Pope.
3. **Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda - None**
4. **Citizens from the floor:** (Request form needed - 5min. limit)

1. Edna Register - asked if there was a town ordinance on dog nuisance? She has called animal control and HCSO with no help. Mayor Rivers stated that she has seen something but not sure it was an ordinance. She told Mrs. Register that she could call town hall and speak with TM George and staff can look in the books to check for an ordinance if there was one. TM George asked about who would enforce such an ordinance if one was found? Atty. Foreman stated that the town may need to intervene if law enforcement nor animal control has been responsive. Vice-Mayor Williams asked Mrs. Register who came out when she made the call? Mrs. Registers said that HCSO came and spoke with the dog owners but they continue to let the dogs loose. It's sad, she stated that her children couldn't play in their own yard. Nicole Williams says that she thinks there is a fine associated with the owners if animal control continues to come out to the same household and to check the Inter-local Agreement. TM George stated that citizens are already paying for animal control through the taxing authority in Jasper. Councilor berry asked if she had pictures as that would help too.

2. Thomas Brazil: Stated that he wanted the Fire Chief fired. There had been three structured fires with no response from the fire department. It is pitiful that we are paying him with no response to public safety.

3. Nicole Williams: Asks if the town would consider donating to the Breakfast with Santa program on December 16, 2023? Mayor Rivers stated that because it had not been put in the budget, the town could not assist but individuals were welcome to donate, as she will donate. Vice-Mayor Williams stated that she would donate as well. Ms. Williams also asked the town if they would assist her in a program for former Mayor Helen Miller? She was not sure of exactly what she was going to do and asked for suggestions. There were several suggestions, such as: a memorial program, memorial bricks, a proclamation. Ms. Williams will get back with the council at a later date. Mayor Rivers and the council were willing to assist.

5. Presentation - None

6. Approval of Minutes:

August 8, 2023 – Town Hall Meeting

August 15, 2023 - Zoning Workshop

August 22, 2023 - Budget Workshop 1

August 29, 2023 - Budget Workshop 2 - CANCELLED (Hurricane Idalia)

September 5, 2023 - Budget Workshop 2 (Re-scheduled)

Mayor Rivers asked for a motion on all the minutes noted. Vice-Mayor Williams made the motion and Councilor K. Burch seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

7. Old Business - None

8. New Business - Meeting to Remember

- a) Final Budget Hearing - Tuesday, September 19, 2023 (Tentative Budget Hearing CANCELLED)

Mayor Rivers read the date for the Final Budget hearing. TC Ruise mentioned that the LC Reporter no longer publishes a Friday paper.

9. Departmental/Administrative Comments

a) **Public:** None

b) **Departments:**

Utilities: Director, Ray Vaughn stated that it was a rough week. He stated that on 08/27/23 a main water line was busted. He got calls on his personal cell and then notified TM George. He called Charles Boone, and his staff Curtis and Chucky. He commended his staff that the main was restored in 3 1/2 hours. Chucky took over 400 boil water notices that evening. He stated that in this day and time, it is too dangerous for his staff to go from house to house and that the town will need to find a system to send out emergency notices. He got with HC Emergency Mgmt. to discuss a way to send notices through their system. The town will get the information to the citizens through their water bill and the website.

Fire: Chief Stith stated that he and Jasper was setting new protocols on emergency calls. He worked Tuesday to Thursday, there were no calls. Fire Sprinkler system has been certified and they need a new computer. An email from our IT company stated that the fire department computer needed to purchase another computer.

c) Council: Mayor Rivers thanked the council for all their help feeding the community after Hurricane Idalia. She also thanked Gretchen and Mr. Pope for their help. Councilor Burch thanked everyone for their help with the cook-out she coordinated. HC students were very helpful with unloading supplies, etc. She thanked the town's utility staff, and Comm. Travis Erixton for his family and their assistance. Vice-Mayor Williams thanked Nicole Williams for her help in getting the Red Cross to assist the community. She also thanked the council. Councilor Berry thanked everyone for their help too. Ray thanked his staff again along with the fire department who help with debris pick-up.

Note: Audio recorder inaudible through TM George announcement. She basically thanked the council and community for the unity in assisting the community.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm

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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