



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

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**MINUTES**

**RESCHEDULED/ WHITE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL**

**Regular Council Meeting**

Town Hall Council Chambers

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

1. **Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge Allegiance to Flag** - Mayor Rivers opened the meeting 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 Rivers, VMayor Williams, and Councilor Burch. Absent: Councilor Pope.
3. **Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda** - Mayor Rivers asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none. VMayor Williams made the motion to accept the agenda as printed. Councilor Burch seconded. Motion was about to carry as TC Ruise stated that she had a change. Mayor Rivers then asked the council to move to rescind the previous motion and second. VMayor Williams so moved and Councilor Burch seconded. TC Ruise stated to delete Item 7.a. Presentation and move the item to Item 9.a. Old Business; Carver Lease and take off Item 10.a. New Business/Carver Lease. VMayor Williams to accept changes and Councilor Burch seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** December 12, 2023 - Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to accept the minutes as printed. VMayor Williams so moved and Councilor Burch seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
5. **Financial Report:** Richard Powell of Powell Consulting - See attached

**6. Administrative / Departmental Report:**

- a) **Manager/Vanessa George** : Public Record Policy - see attached  
Anti-Fraud Policy - see attached  
Merit Pay

TM George stated that he town had written the Public Record Policy and Anti Fraud Policy. She then stated that she needed approval for Evaluation/Merit Pay Bonuses for staff. Mayor Rivers asked for a motion. VMayor Williams moved and Councilor Burch seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

- b) **Public Works/Ray Vaughn** - TM George stated that the infrastructure at the sewer plant were decaying. Ray comes out daily to maintain them. We need at least \$1M Grant to replace them. Thanks to Andrew Greene the town has been awarded a \$100K Grant. Mittauer will assist us on this grant as well.

- c) **Fire/Chief Steve Stith** - TM George stated that we all know that the Fire Department is staffed part-time. These firefighters are EMT's as well. We were told that some people in the town are trying to get the sweepstakes businesses banned. If so, the town will have to close the FD. As the sweepstakes 100% fund the town's FD.

TM George also stated that there was a letter drafted to Scott Gay on returning his \$5K check. TC Ruise also stated that the check had not been used. TM George needed approval from the council to return the check. Mayor Rivers asked for a motion and VMayor Williams moved. Councilor Burch seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**7. Presentation:** Nicole Williams - Carver Building - REMOVED

**8. Citizens from the floor:** (Request form needed - 5min. limit)

1) Woody Woodard - Mr. Woodard needed the council and Town Manager's help in his zoning of his mini storage business. His initial site plans had another building that couldn't be funded at the time and he wanted to rebuild it on the site. He wants to make sure that the zoning hasn't changed. TM George asked him to give her the paperwork.

Mr. Woodard said he couldn't find it. She then told him to call her in a week to discuss and she would search for any paperwork at the office. He also has 4.88 acres that he thought needed to be re-zoned. He'd prefer the first request to be answered first.

2) Scott Gay - Mr. Gay asked how he could get a copy of the financial Mr. Powell just presented. TM George answered "through FS119". He then asked about the Audit Committee. Mayor Rivers stated that he was on the committee and his name was the only name on it. There needed to be at least 5 members. He also asked about the Code Enf IA. TC Ruise told him that she and Atty Decker had discussed it and that Greg Godwin could "certify the copy" that was emailed. TC Ruise also mailed a hard copy via USPS. Mr. Gay stated that the sewer at the Hotel on Spring St. Was illegal, per Ordinance 15-01. TM George told Mr. Gay that DEP had previously approved the sewer prior to her administration. She also asked him why didn't he get with the previous administration about the sewer and that DEP trumped the town in the approval process. Mr. Gay said that was all that he had. TC Ruise told him she would send him a copy of the financials.

## **9. Old Business:**

a) **Carver Lease - Nicole Williams** - Ms. Williams stated that some time ago Atty Foreman gave her a lease agreement to copy and draft for their organization. She wanted to get the town's approval for the lease terms. TM George stated that she had to have insurance. Ms. Williams stated that the organization has general liability and she had to get the lease approval before she could get the insurance. TM George said that the town would also have to be put on the insurance. Mayor Rivers then stated that there was a procurement policy in force and that had to be done first. TM George told Ms. Williams to come by the office to get an application.

## **10. New Business:**

a) Carver Lease - Nicole Williams - Removed

- b) 2024 Town Holiday Schedule - Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to approve the 2024 Holiday Schedule. VMayor Williams made the motion d Councilor Burch seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
- c) Resignation Letter of Councilor Mary Berry - TC Ruise - TC Ruise stated that Councilor Mary Berry sent in her letter of resignation and that the Official date of her term ending was December 31, 2023. She does not have to complete Form 6. Remaining council members have until July 2024 to submit the Form 6. Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Utility Director have only to complete the Form 1.

**11. Council Comments** - Councilor Burch stated that she welcomes the cooperation of HamCo schools to provide dual special events for White Springs students to participate in. Dates for 2024 include: Feb. 16/6p-8p; Feb. 17/6p-1030p; Mar. 16/12n Sheena Rickerson at Black Bay; Mike Cohen will schedule an event later. She also stated that she will keep the town updated as events occur.

**Adjourn: 7:16pm**

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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