

TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS

“On the Banks of the Suwannee River”

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MINUTES

WHITE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Council Meeting

Portable Building Site

Tuesday, October 8, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

1. **Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance –** Vice-Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Councilor R. Williams gave the invocation, and the council led the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Roll Call -** VM Rivers called the roll. Members present: VM, Councilors Williams, Watson, and Burch. Also, Atty. Jean-Bart. Members absent: Mayor Williams.
3. **Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda –** None. VM Rivers asked for a motion to accept the agenda as written. Councilor Burch made the motion and Councilor Williams seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** for September 2024 meeting(s) - (5th, 10th, 18th, & 24th) - VM Rivers asked for a motion to approve the previous month’s minutes. Councilor Burch made the motion and Councilor Watson seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
5. **Financial Report:** Richard Powell of Powell Consulting – Mr. Powell gave an overview of the town’s financials. (see attached)
6. **Administrative / Departmental Reports:**

**a) Town Manager Vanessa George:**

1. Possible new town hall building financing – Shannon Williams – TM George stated that she has contacted Shannon Williams who has her own business as a grants writer to assist the town in seeking funding for a possible new town hall building. Ms. Williams gave an overview of her credentials and her appreciation in assisting the town through the grant process. The grant that she is working on has a short turn-around and would need the resolution signed by October 10th. She will also be drafting a letter to USDA by October 15th. She will be seeking community opinions on the grant at the library on October 11th from 9am to 11am. VM Rivers made a motion to accept Ms. Williams as the grant writer and to approve her to continue the process with applying for the grant. Councilor Burch made the motion and Councilor Watson seconded. Motion was passed 4-0.
2. Procurement of contractors before storm or emergency – TM George stated that she was told at a HamCo Emergency Management meeting that municipalities can procure contractors before the weather-related incident.
3. EDA proposals – TM George stated that she is in contact with EDA on the town’s compliance with the current LDRs. She worked on a digital copy of the LDR and sent it to EDA. They will work on it bringing into compliance.

(see attached)

1. 1 cent sales tax proposed by the county – TM George stated that she and TC Ruise attended a HamCo Commissioner’s meeting and was told that they were considering a “1 cent sales tax” for a fire department to be placed on the ballot. TM George asked if the monies would be divided to assist municipalities? Atty. Decker stated that only if the municipality has a fire department.
2. Rental of old jail – TM George stated that she has received calls on renting and purchasing the old jail and may consider it as town revenue. She told council that she would keep them updated.

**b) Public Works, Ray Vaughn:**

1. Update on storm damage, clean-up, and debris – Ray stated that DOT would pick up debris from downed trees and that he and staff were working on clean-up and general debris.
2. Update on Town water and sewer system – Ray stated that all was going well at both plants. He is working on an issue at the water plant to correct it and has gotten a quote and approval by the council to repair the issue.

**c) Fire, Chief Steve Stith:** – Absent. TM George stated that Steve is working on some personal property issues sustained from the Hurricane.

1. **Presentation: None**
2. **Citizens from the floor:** (Request form needed - 5min. limit) - None
3. **Old Business:**
4. Diamond Platt Update - Brandon Stubbs, NFPS - Absent
5. Law enforcement contract – TM George will get Atty. Jean-Bart to go over any breaches in the contract.
6. **New Business:**

**a)** Procurement of contractors before a storm – TM George spoke on this issue previously. See “departmental reports”.

**b)** Formation of a White Springs Historical Committee - Atty. Jean-Bart stated that the process on this issue is elaborate. (see attached)

VM Rivers stated that the town needed an update on historical landmarks, signage, and designation, etc. TC Ruise will call Tallahassee for a possible list.

1. **Council Comments:**

Councilor Burch gave an update on schools being closed due to the storm and student will return on Friday. She asked if the town would subscribe to a FB page. WS Library has an after-school tutor. She also thanked volunteers.

**Adjourn:**

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 Date

**Vanessa George, Town Manager/ Audre’ J. Ruise, Town Clerk**

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