

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, January 14, 2025 - 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.
2. **Roll Call -** By VM Rivers. Members present: Vice-Mayor Rivers, Councilors R. Williams, Burch, and Watson. Members absent: Mayor J. Williams and Atty Jean- Bart. County Comm. Erixton was in attendance.
3. **Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda -** None. Councilor Burch motioned to accept agenda as printed and Councilor R. Williams seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** November 12, 2024 and December 10, 2024 - VM Rivers stated that that last month’s minutes were not available due to the printer. Councilor Burch made the motion to approve November and December minutes and Councilor Watson seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
5. **Financial Report:** Richard Powell of Powell Consulting - see attached.

**2023 Audit Report:** Powell and Jones - Caleb Perla handed out copies. See attached on the website.

1. **Administrative / Departmental Reports:**
2. **Town Manager, Vanessa George:** Town continues to work with EDA on bring town into compliance with LDRs and other planning endeavors. TC Ruise and she met with Lowell and Clay with EDA Consulting. Town is working on RFQs for new office building as Grant writer will need 3 quotes. Received a call from Water Management about a Symposium at FGC on January 28th. Still working with the state on the water grant to assist with meters, etc.
3. **Public Works, Ray Vaughn:** Stated that a citizen came to the council meeting requesting a speed limit sign. It will be noted, but at this time the town cannot purchase one. Last month he spoke about the aerator motor needing repair on the dump truck and was approved for $15K. Boone left their crane and the price went down to $5800. Rebuilt motor done by J&W Industrial for $1685. Graham electric assisted him in wiring it (total: $7485) and brought the cost down overall. The warranty on the motor is 1 year and unlimited mileage. He recommends that the dump truck stay at the current shop.He has a DEP inspection this month. The town continues to stay in compliance. The cost of Glycerin I up to $400 a gallon. Councilor Burch made the motion and Councilor R. Williams seconded. (No need as the council granted up to $15K) Motion passed 4-0.

**c) Fire, Chief Steve Stith:** Firefighter Trent K. stated that all is well at the FD. They continue to answer calls and keep the equipment and station in order. VM Rivers commended Trent on his exemplary work ethic in staying with a patient until service arrived. He went beyond the call of duty and is an asset to the town.

1. **Presentations:**
2. **Tay Dickinson/Town Black Trail History -** see attached handouts. Tay stated that there is no ill intent when stating “black and white” in her presentation. She also stated that she left the initial group of historical preservation and there were others. At the end of the presentation TC Ruise asked her if she felt that the current recipients of the grant were being inclusive to “people who looked like me”? Tay answered, No.

1. **Florida Trail Fest 2025- February 7-9 (Handouts) -** TC Ruise has been in contact with the Florida Trail event coordinator, and stated that there were free vendor booths available. They also received permission from Mr. Woodard to pitch their tents on the property across from Suwannee Hardware. See attached flyers.

1. **Citizens from the floor:** (Request form needed - 5min. limit)
2. Clidette Douglas - Left the meeting.
3. Walter McKensie - complaint on the council in managing the council meetings.
4. Corey King - request a letter of greetings from the town on gospel group guests attending a Celebration Service in White Springs on January 25th.
5. Sharon Shae - see attached handout.
6. Robie Dickinson - commended the council on all the work done for the town and implored the town to work together and not work against them.
7. **Old Business:**
8. **UPDATE - HCSO/Law Enforcement Contract/Response Letter**: Atty. Jean-Bart - Absent/tabled until next meeting.
9. **Resolution 25-03 - “FRDAP Grant”** - TC Ruise - Read the title and Councilor Burch made the motion to approve posting and Councilor R. Williams seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
10. **Ordinance 25-01 - “Historical Preservation Committee”** - Atty. Jean-Bart. In the absence of Attorney, TC Ruise asked the council to approve the posting. Councilor Burch made the motion and Councilor Watson seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
11. **New Business: None**

1. **Council Comments:** Councilor Burch stated there would be Literacy meeting at McDonald’s every 3rd Wednesday. Councilor R. Williams stated that we wishes that the town could work together and stop the negativity. Stop bring down and Build Up! VM Rivers stated that the community needed to know the chain of command. Vanessa is the Town Manager and everything should go through her first; Audre’ is next in her absence, and then Ray. Ray asked Comm. Erixton when is the next round of debris pickup. Mr. Erixton noted that it will continue until March. Ray also stated that the county needed to be aware that as they are widening CR25A, there is a main waterline in the center at Memorial/136A. Vanessa stated that if anyone is aware of any businesses that may want to come to town to please advise. We need more than a water bill, she would hope that they would apply for a special permit to pay the town monthly. As some of the town’s citizens stopped the sweepstakes and the town lost $200K a year in revenue. The town had to shift, but we are still standing strong!

Announcement: I did a Ride on January 25th.

**Adjourn: 6:49pm**

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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