



TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS

"On the Banks of the Suwannee River"

Meeting Minutes 4/8/2020

Special Meeting White Springs Town Council

Teleconference Remote Access

Dial-in Numbers Toll Free 1 (866) 899 4679 or +1 (669) 224-3318

Join Online by [Phone](#)

Wednesday, April 8, 2020 6:30 PM

1. Call to order, Invocation, and Pledge Allegiance to Flag

2. Roll Call

Council members Tom Moore, Tonja Brown, Anita Rivers, Vice Mayor Walter Mckenzie, and Mayor Helen Miller

3. Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda

Mayor Miller added executive order 20-52 under item 4 and under item 10 utility payment options on the agenda she added the word late before late payment options altering the statement to "late payment fee waivers."

Add an item 14 to extend the Interim Town Manager's contract until the position is filled permanently. Added an item 15 regarding Chief Rodriquez wants to consider a local curfew in the community. Opened the floor for other additions, deletions, or amendments to agenda...None

4. Governor Executive Orders Numbers 20-69 and 20-91

Town Attorney Meagan Logan asked mayor if she wanted to take public comments on the front end? Mayor answered public comments will be handled at the end of the meeting. Tom Moore made motion to approve amended agenda. Mayor made role call for motion to accept the amended agenda including an item 16 for public comment. Motion passed 5/0 from council members.

Executive 20-69 suspends the Florida Statues requiring a quorum be present in person during a council meeting...giving the council the legal authority to conduct a meeting in the format of a teleconference. Executive 20-91 addresses essential services and activities during the Pandemic. Attorney Logan addressed

Resolution 20-02 to Declare a local state of emergency as allowed by the Governors executive order making the town qualified to receive funding for such emergencies. Motion to adopt Resolution 20-02 passed 5/0.

5. Water Main Break

Ray Vaughn explained that the root system of a palm tree that dislocated the an asbestos water distribution main line requiring a boil water advisory. DEP require water samples to be taken upstream from the break and downstream from the break.

6. Stay at Home

Mayor Helen stated that anyone who can stay at should stay at home. Council Member Tonja Brown stated concerns about a time limit being placed on the stay at home and the effect on people having to go to work.

7. Hamilton County Resolutions for Extension of Emergency Declaration

Attorney Logan explained the Hamilton County Resolution.

8. Town Election

Since Miller, Rivers, and Williams qualified for the three available positions, the town has no need to hold the election scheduled for April 28.

As prescribed by the Town Charter, after Miller, Rivers and Williams are administered their oaths of office on April 30, the newly constituted Town Council will hold its organizational meeting and elect by majority vote a Mayor and Vice Mayor.

9. Community Clean-up - Postponed

Waste Pro will honor this activity at a later date when the Pandemic situation is less threatening to the public.

10. Utility Payment Options / Payment Waivers

Anita Rivers recommended waiving late payment fees for April 2020. A motion to adopt the motion passed 5/0 for waving late fees.

11. Community Events

Miller stated all events are cancelled until we are in a different place with the Corona Virus.

12. Willie Guy Turner Park

Park is closed due to it not being sanitized. Walter Mckenzie voiced concerns about access to the Suwannee River.

13. Other Concerns

14. Extend Interim Town Manger Contract

*Motion to extend Mr. Jones' contract until the position is filled until May 12, 2020
Motion passed 5/0.*

15. Curfew

Chief Tracy Rodriquenz asked for a curfew from 11pm to 5 am in the morning. Rivers asked how would the curfew be enforced if officers go home early? Penalty is a health safety and second degree misdemeanor.

Meagan explained exceptions permitted in lieu of the curfew.

- 1. Persons commuting to and from places of employment*
- 2. Provision of fire, police, emergency and hospital services*
- 3. Transport of medical patients*
- 4. Walking your dog or domestic animal within 200 feet of your residence*

Miller posed a motion to table the curfew to the next regular council meeting passed 5/0.

16. Public Comment

Joe Griffin voiced concerns about not receiving 119 requests.

Scott Gay explained a grant was completed by he and Kevin Pittman for bunker gear for the volunteer fire department from the Eckstine Group.

Adjourn 7:43 pm

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 SUCH 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 ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE NOT LATER THAN THREE DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.