



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

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**MINUTES**

**WHITE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL**

**Regular Council Meeting**

Town Hall Council Chambers

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

6:30 p.m.

1. **Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge Allegiance to Flag** - Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Councilor Pope lead the invocation and the council lead the pledge.
  
2. **Roll Call - Members present: ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE PRESENT (5)**
  
3. **Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda** - TM George asked to add to 7. Old Business, Animal Control and to 8.b., Attorney Resignation. VM Williams made the motion and Councilor Burch seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
  
4. **Citizens from the floor:** (Request form needed - 5min. limit)
  1. Joe Griffin - Mr. Griffin brought in a newspaper and threw it on the town council dais. His yelling was inaudible and disruptive as he continued to the back of the room.
  
  2. Sharon Shae - Mrs. Shae announce that the Suwannee Flat Tire festival will resume in White Springs on October 19-22, 2023 at the state park. ***Mrs. Shae was interrupted by Mr. Griffins' loud yelling. Mayor Rivers asked Mr. Griffin to be quiet as Mrs. Shae had the floor. Mr. Griffin continued to yell and throw up his obscene middle finger to the Mayor and Council. Mayor Rivers asked Dep. Marsh to remove Mr. Griffin from the meeting; as he was totally disruptive.***

Mayor Rivers apologized and asked Mrs. Shae to continue. Mrs. Shae asked what was the status of the signage that was hit by a vehicle on Hwy 41. TM George told her that she and the Utility Director had just spoken about it. The town is waiting on the report and insurance information. The town will order another sign and erect it at the same site. Mrs. Shae also asked, what happened to the bicycle racks at the park. UD Ray said that staff had moved them because the public were moving them all over the roads. Mrs. Shae asked if they could have one for the festival and UD Ray stated , yes.

3. Thomas Brazil - Mr. Brazil once again, asked for the resignation of the Fire Chief. He stated that he was not doing his job.

**5. Presentation - Richard Powell (Powell Consulting)** - Mr. Powell stated that he had met with TM George and staff. He mailed in a RFP for Accounting Services. (see attached) He also stated that his company will provide and prepare all town financials timely and efficiently. He will process Payroll, Payables, Q Books, etc. And have monthly financials read at each town council meeting. TM George stated that the town will have more oversight with Mr. Powell's company and easy access to financials timely; creating more transparency. A citizen asked if the town will continue to work with Michael. Mayor Rivers stated that the process is not complete at this time. The deadline is next week. TM George mentioned that Mr. Powell was with the town for 20+ years. Mayor Rivers stated maybe 21 years.

**6. Approval of Minutes:**

September 12, 2023 & September 25,2023 - Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to accept the minutes from both dates. VM Williams made the motion to accept and Councilor Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

**7. Old Business - Animal Control** - TM George stated that she spoke with the new AC staff in Jasper, FL. The staff member was unaware of any complaint by Ms. Edna Register from the last meeting. Staff stated that she came on the day after Hurricane Idalia; so anything before that day she would have to search. Ms. Register did not contact the town on the status and TM George just wanted to make sure that she made contact.

## 8. **New Business -**

a) **Board(s) Status** - Planning & Zoning Board/Comp Land Use Plan Committee/Board of Adjustment - Mayor Rivers read the list of names for the various boards for the town. (see attached) VM Williams made the motion to accept the names that were on each application and Councilor Burch seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

b) **Attorney Resignation** - Atty. Foreman stated that he was staying closer to home after a personally trying summer for him and his family. He stated that he thoroughly has enjoyed his time with the town and all of the council and staff. "I consider everyone here my friends". I will be here until you find a replacement. I will complete all documentation that I have received; such as R. Greene vs TOWS and I've also attached an RFQ for the position for the town to post. TC Ruise stated that the RFQ had been posted on the website. Mr. Foreman stated that he appreciated everyone.

## 9. **Departmental/Administrative Comments**

a) **Public:** Nicole Williams asked if the council received the email on the Carver Lease? TM George stated yes, and the lease is in the council binders and will discuss during her comments.

### b) **Departments:**

1. Utilities - None

2. Fire - None

3. Town Manager - Sated that she had received Ms. Williams email on the Carver Lease and placed in their binders. This was the first time that the council had seen it.

4. Attorney - None

c) **Council:** Mayor Rivers stated that the town had scheduled the Christmas Parade for Friday, December 8, 2023 at 6:00pm and that she needed a vote to document approval for FDOT. VM Jacqueline Williams motioned to approve the parade and Councilor Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0

Mayor Rivers also stated that the Accounting and Auditor RFQs were closed on October 16/17, 2023 and she would like to schedule a special meeting for October 17 to secure each RFQ. She asked for a motion to secure a special meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 6pm for the selection of the Accounting and Auditor RFQs. VM Williams made the motion and Councilor Berry seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Adjourn: 7pm**

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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