



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

MINUTES

WHITE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Council Meeting

Town Hall Council Chambers

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

6:30 p.m.

1. **Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge Allegiance to Flag** - Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Councilor Pope gave the Invocation and the council led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Roll Call - Members present:** Mayor Rivers called the roll; Members present: Mayor Rivers, Councilors Berry and Pope. Quorum set at 3 members present.

3. **Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda** - Mayor Rivers stated to change Item 5. Presentations to Item 4. Citizens from the floor. Caleb with Powell and Jones CPA will present the towns’ 2021 Audit at Item 4; Motion was made by Councilor Berry to accept the changes made to the agenda and Councilor Pope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

4. **Citizens from the floor:** (Request form needed - 5min. limit)
 1. Scott Gay - Mr. Gay came later in the agenda as the council thought he had used his “form” to ask the questions to the auditor during the presentation; as his form stated on the topic section. Mr. Gay stated that he wanted to use his 5 minutes during the “citizens from the floor” portion.

Mr. Gay stated that he was glad to see TM George in Tallahassee at the meeting. He asked the council if the town had an Audit Committee?

Mayor Rivers stated that she was aware and that at the time when Ms. George was hired, the town was behind with audits 18-19 & 20-21 and in dire need to get the audits done. TM George also stated that in speaking with Tallahassee on the towns' audits, she was advised to make it a priority at this point to get the audits completed as soon as she possibly could. Scott asked if the council had read the letter from the Auditor General's office? Mayor Rivers - yes; Councilor Berry - yes, most of it; Councilor Pope - yes. He mentioned that he would volunteer on an audit committee. He also mentioned that there were several water bills unpaid on the AG report. Mayor Rivers stated that there were also 8 accounts that had not been paying an fee and of the 8 accounts she was the only one paying consistently each month. TM George added that accounts that have not been paid have been closed out and 85 meters have been pulled. Scott asked if he had a meter number would it show an address. Cynethia answered that every address has a meter number. He also asked how many people had been cut off last month. TM George answered 35-40.

2. Joe Griffin - Joe wanted to hand out materials to the public. None were given to the council or town clerk.

5. **Presentation** - Caleb/Powell and Jones, CPA - Caleb was about to give the overview of the towns' 2021 audit. He also had copies for the council and the public. Before he began, Joe Griffin interrupted with a question about the agenda. Mayor Rivers warned him once again of his outbursts and would be asked to leave the meeting if he continued. Caleb continued his presentation. Scott Gay asked if he could ask the auditor questions. Mayor Rivers said yes. As Caleb continued his presentation Scott continued to ask question until the council noticed the auditor was feeling a bit uncomfortable. Mayor Rivers stated to Scott that there was enough questions asked, and that he sounded rash in his questioning. Caleb finally finished the presentation.
6. **Approval of Minutes:** - Mayor Rivers asked for a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Councilor Berry made the motion and Councilor Pope seconded. Motion passed 3-0. **November 14, 2023**

7. Old Business -

8. New Business -

a) **HamCo Interlocal Agreement/Code Enforcement - TC Ruise** stated that the county had emailed a copy of the agreement for signature. She also apologized to Scott Gay for the assumption that the agreement was previously signed. (see attached)

9. Departmental/Administrative Comments

a) **Public:** Nicole Williams gave the date for Breakfast with Santa as 12/23/23 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Nelly Bly's Kitchen.

b) **Departments:** There were no comments from Utilities or the Fire Department. TM George stated that she appreciated her entire staff for a job well done.

c) **Council:** Mayor Rivers stated that she has gotten many positive responses to an excellent parade and attendance. Thank you!

d) Cassie Belfast asked he she could have a moment to state why she was in attendance. She stated that she was a bit upset about the busing of the children in White Springs having to ride on the bus 1 hour from 6:20am to 730am daily. She would like to have the support of the council in she and investors potentially building a school in White Springs.

Adjourn: 7:26pm

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

Vanessa George, Town Manager/ Audre' J. Ruise, Town Clerk

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