

TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS

“On the Banks of the Suwannee River”

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MINUTES

WHITE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

 Regular Council Meeting

WS Public Library

Tuesday, July 9, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

1. **Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance -** Mayor Williams called the meeting to orderat 6:30pm.
2. **Roll Call -** Members present: Mayor Williams, Vice-mayor Rivers, Councilors Burch and Watson. Councilor R. Williams came in around 6:40pm and was recognized by the Mayor as present.
3. **Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda -** None
4. **Approval of Minutes:** June 11, 2024 Workshop and June 11, 2024 TC Meeting - Mayor Williams asked for a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Vice-Mayor Rivers move and Councilor Burch seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
5. **Financial Report:** Richard Powell of Powell Consulting - (see attached)
6. **Administrative / Departmental Reports:**
7. Town Manager: Vanessa George **-** TM George’s report was via projector; there were technical dificulties and Vice-Myor Rivers asked TC Ruise to move on to her report. TC Ruise stated that there was an anonymous letter mailed to her home address and also the town hall had the same letter mailed. There was also a FAX with threatening writing on it about “killing and burying” women. These documents would be submitted to town files. (see attached)

TM Geroge began her report with the Air Quality Control Report. She asked TC Ruise to elaborate. TC Ruise stated that the office staff were having some of the same respiratory symptoms and called a company out of Jacksonville, FL to come and render an inspection. The report was sent back with unfavorable issues. The staff were told not to stay inside the office for more that 2 hours a day. Town Hall is temporarily closed due to mold exposure. Fl League of Cities were contacted and the town will leasea temporary portable building to resume work in.

FMIT Asset List - The projector was still malfunctioning. The list is 52 pages and Mayor Williams asked TM George to look over and bring it back or we can meet to go over it again.

TM George stated that the town’s billing system has been downloaded to a new laptop computer and we should have the portable building within 10 days.

TM George stated that the 2023 Drinking Water Report is on the website.

a) Public Works: Ray Vaughn - None

b)Fire: Chief Steve Stith - None

1. **Presentation:** None
2. **Citizens from the floor:** (Request form needed - 5min. limit)
3. John Werner - Mr. Werner stated the Drinking Water Report was not in full detail. There are no chlorine tests stated and nothing about the asbestos in the town’s pipes. TM George stated that Ray does all of his reporting to FDEP and chlorine tests are done weekly thru FDEP. The town will apply andcontinue to apply for grants. One of our grants was halted by citizens calling the state. We are in good standing as a town with FDEP. Mr. Werner stated that his main concern is the asbestos piping.
4. Tay Dickinson - Summer Camp Facilitator. She brought in one of the campers to tell about her experience in the camp. Her name is Taylin Johnson. She stated that she learned a lot and it was so much fun!
5. **Old Business:**

1. **CDBG Approval List - Jordan & Associates**

Spencer Nabors, HC SHIP Admnistrator represented J&A.

Mr. Nabors advised the council that all the applicants had to be approved and that they had to abstain form any immediate reletives should they be on the list. There were 11 applicants and 6 applicants that completed and qualified for the grant.

**Mary Shakespeare - abstained (Burch/Watson) Approved 3-0**

**Bobby Jean Richardson - abstained (None) Approved 5-0**

**Ola Patterson - abstained (Burch) Aproved 4-0**

**Linda Hall - abstained (Mayor/R. Williams) Approved 3-0**

**Linda Thomas - Mayor motioned to remove her name from the list; as she did not reside in the home. Vice-Mayor seconded. Motion passed 5-0**

**Vivian Young - Abstained (Vice-Mayor) Approved 4-0**

Mr. Nabors stated that there were 5 contractor applications that qualified. TC Ruise asked how many were female contractors? He stated all of the information on the contractors. Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve all the contractors. VM Rivers made the motion and Councilor Burch seconded. Motion passed 5-0. He also stated that there was a waiver for the grant that needed to be approved by the council concerning having “auto insurance”. He stated that this grant does not apply. Mayor Williams asked for a motion to waive the auto insurance. Vice-mayor Rivers made the motion and Councilor Burch seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Nabors stated that the Environmental Review will take place in this second stage. Construction probably would not begin until the first of the year. He said he would keep the town abreast of the process.

1. **NFPS - Brandon Stubbs -** Mr. Stubbs stated that EDA has reviewed and made comments to the Diamond Platt Subdivisio. NFPS has revised the plan to address the comments. He stated that each home would have their own well and septic tank. The homes are single family designated and homeowners will purchase each lot (1.1 ac.). Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approved the plans for the subdivision Diamond Platt. VM Rivers made the motion ans Councilor R. Williams seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
2. **New Business:**

1. Audit Committee/Set 1st Meeting Date - Councilor Randolf Williams - The date for the first meeting will be on July 18, 2024 at 6:30pm at the WS Public Library.
2. RFP Attorney - Potential attorney gave an overview of her resume. (see attached) Mayor Williams stated that her resume spoke for itself, very impressed. Councilor R. Willliams was in agreement. TM George stated that she was glad to see her expertise in Elections and Ethics. Mayor asked for a motion to accept the RFP from Atty Leslie Jean-Bart as the towns’ attorney. Councilor R. Williams made the motion and Councilor Burch seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
3. Planner RFP - Potential planner gave an overview of his company EDA out of Gainesville, Fl. They work on all phases of planning. The company represents private and public sector. They provide expertise on a “as need” basis. They also represent other small municipalities such as; Ft. White, Waldo, and Hawthorne. They stand ready to assist the town in any way possible. Mayor Williams asked for a motion to accept the RFP from EDA as the towns’ planning consultants. Councilor Burch made the motion and Councilor R. Williams seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
4. **Council Comments:**

Councilor Burch - Ice Cream Social and Back to School Bash (18 years) on August 10, 2024 10am until. Johnny Claridy will have a community event “Black Bay Community Meet & Greet” on August 24, 2024. She congratulated Tay and her staff on a successful summer camp. She also thanked Mayor Williams, VM Rivers, and TM Vanessa for their participation in the summer camp.

Mayor Williams - I asked the youth to give me any ideas on what they would like the town to do. Water Park (TM George seeking grant on a Splash Park), Repair Roads, Community Day, Arcade, Community Clean-up, and Movie Day. She also asked that the audience respect those who are speaking and to be recognized before they speak.

Adjourn: 8:10pm

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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