Logo

Description automatically generated

**TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS**

*“On the Bank of the Suwannee River”*

***MINUTES***

***Tuesday, August 12, 2025 – White Springs Library***

***Council Meeting***

1. Mayor Tonja Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Roll Call: Council Members present: Mayor Tonja Brown, Vice Mayor Nicole Williams, Councilwoman Cheryl McCall and Councilman Robert Gamsby. Council Member absent: Councilwoman Shirley Aldrige.

1. Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda – Mayor **– None**
2. Approval of Minutes: July 8, 14, and 28 July 2025 (Amend to delete approval of June 10, 2025, which were erroneously approved but had not been printed)

The motion was made by Vice Mayor Williams to approve the minutes of July 8, 14, and 28 July 2025 (Amend to delete approval of June 10, 2025, which were erroneously approved but had not been printed) and seconded by Councilman Gamsby. Motion was passed by a vote of 4-0.

1. Budget/Financial: Approve Accounts Payable Note: Mr. Richard Powell of Powell Consulting was absent and will give financial reports on August 19, as part of budget workshop.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Williams to approve the Budget/Financial: Approve Accounts Payable Note: and seconded by Councilwoman McCall, Motion passed 4-0.

1. Citizens from the floor: (Request form needed – 5 min. limit)

**Mr. Bo Beauchemin**, Director, Community & Partnership Development Community Care Coalition (OCCC), thanked the Town for signing the proclamation declaring October 23-31, 2025, as Red Ribbon Week.

Mr. Beauchemin wants to display student artwork along the wall of the Suwannee River Boat Ramp during Red Ribbon Week. This display, featuring pledges and creative expression by White Springs youth, will come at no cost to the town. He is asking the town to donate $1,000 in FY 2026 funding to continue their youth development and drug-prevention initiatives in White Springs.

The Town Manager, Mr. Garner, also reminded us that the week planned for the Reb Ribbon Week is also our Local Government week.

Councilwoman McCall made the motion to accept the request to display student artwork along the wall of the Suwannee River Boat Ramp during Red Ribbon Week. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gamsby and passed 4-0.

**Thomas Brazil**, concerns, there were a rollover accident on 25A, and a fall that happen in the apartment and there was no response from the fire department. Mr. Garner and other members of the council were aware that the fire department chief had a family emergency.

Fire Chief, Commissioner and Hamilton County are working together to provide EMS services to the Town of White Springs.

**John Werner –** He wanted to ask Ray, Utility Director a question regarding the drinking water. The question was, does the town check for phosphate level in the water. The number count for phosphate is over 3,000 according to a test done by a citizen. (Ray response is that he would check the level).

**Hank Pulumbo ,** discussed the condition of John Graham Park on highway 41. It is a disgrace and needs to be remodeled. Mayor Brown assured him that this is one of the projects that the council members are working on.

**Mr. & Mrs. Hutchinson –** regarding waiving the rezoning fees. (See #7)

1. Department Reports:

**Town Manager, Mr. Lee Garner**. Reported that the town hall should be moving back into the building soon. He will have the company come and pick up the trailer hopefully within the next 2 weeks, around the end of August 2025.

Servpro discovered very little mold, they are cleaning and painting the inside of the building and cleaning the air.

Waste Pro will discontinue the recycling program on September 1, 2025, the recycling department in Lake City has gone out of business.

The Animal Control Department is being taken over by the Sheriff Department of Hamilton County. (a fee will be charged)

Mr. Garner discussed the repeal of Ordinance 2022.01.

Sold the old fire truck for $1,200.00

The Fire Department and Hamilton County are working on a solution for our fire department.

Comprehensive Plan due date has been extended to April 2026.

Mr. Garner is also looking into reimbursement of a $26,000.00 2018 grant.

1%bSale tax – November estimated for White Springs - $70,000.00

On Thursday, Mr. Garner told everyone that he, The Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilwoman McCall would be traveling to Orlando to attend a Fla League City Annual Conference.

**Utility Director, Ray Vaughn** – Utility service elevation sewer tank is on back order for the sewer plant.

Ray had a concern regarding the weather forecast - hurricane turning North. He will be monitoring the weather. Also, he and the maintenance staff have been cutting back tree limbs, cleaning ditches, and preparing water leaks. He is also working with Commissioner Travis regarding the ditches, roads, trees.

Ray discussed the cost for a busted water line, it could cost between $5,000 and up to 10,000 to fix a busted water line.

**Town Attorney, Leslie Jean-Bart** (No Report)

1. New Business: RESOLUTION NO. 2025-16 – Consider request to waive fees for recent re-zoning actions due to failure of the Town to have schedule posted and to notify applicants of such fees. This would be a one-time waiver for the re-zonings referenced in resolution.

Resolution No. 2025-16 was discussed, and a motion was made by Vice Mayor Williams to waive the fees for Parcel 8077-000, Parcel 8076-000, and Parcel No, 8259-000 rezoning, and seconded by Councilwoman McCall. Motion passed 4-0.

1. **Council Comments:**

**Vice Mayor Williams** discussed starting an Emergency Committee in the events of an emergency:

She also discussed the Event/Recreation Committee Members. Person showing interest in joining the Event Committee are Vice Mayor Nicole Williams, Ashley Bryant, Coretta Udell, Beverly Brazil, Whitfield Production, Grethen Fouchecourt, Don Wilson (Suwannee Hardware), True Production, and Fat’s Belly.

**Councilwoman Cheryl McCall –** Said she received phone call regarding Mobile Homes. It was discussed and that if a parcel is zoned for Mobile home, then yes there will be more Mobile homes.

**Councilman Robert Gamsby** - Stated that we are working on cleaning up the mess we inherit. Also, waiving the fees for rezoning, is only this one time. He briefly discussed Gambling Establishments.

He gave highlights regarding what and where the Audit Committee is at this point.

He wants to post Agendas and minutes from the Audit Committee on the Town website.

He discussed the Comprehensive Plan and informed everyone that the due date has been extended to April 2026.

He discussed the Ordinance regarding Golf Cart – the council members will investigate further into the ordinance regarding Golf Carts.

Motion was made by Robert Gamsby to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. and seconded by Vice Mayor Nicole Williams and the Motion passed 4-0.

Adjourned 7:58 P.M.

# 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.

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| Town Manager, Town Clerk, or Designee |

Elmon Lee Garner, Town Manager

10363 Bridge Street – White Springs, Fl 32096