



## TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS

*"On the Bank of the Suwannee River"*

### MINUTES

*White Springs Town Council Special Session*

*Monday, January 5, 2026 – Town Hall Council Room*

1. Mayor Tonja Brown called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.  
  
Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Tonja Brown
2. **Roll Call:** Council Members present: Mayor Tonja Brown, Vice Mayor Nicole Williams, Councilwoman Cheryl McCall and Councilman Robert Gamsby. Council Member absent: Councilwoman Shirley Aldridge.
3. **Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda**  
  
Add – 5B – Vice Mayor Williams added Pray Vigil for young man who lost his life on Friday, January 3, 2026.  
  
Add – 5C – Town Manager, Mr. Lee Garner  
  
Motion made by Vice Mayor to approve the agenda with the addition of adding 5B and 5C. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gamsby and motion passed 4-0.
4. **Citizens from the Floor.**  
  
George Tuder – made comments regarding the shooting of the young man on Friday, January 1, 2026, at a block party. Mr. Tuder was upset because he felt the town did not follow all the procedures regarding the event. Mr. Garner explained that he had spoken to Sheriff Creech and procedures were followed except maybe the ten-day notice. Mr. Garner also stated that the town is working with Sheriff Creech regarding any other events in the town.
5. **New Business: Discuss Town Charter Requirements for Meeting Attendance (Take action as required)**  
  
Attorney Leslie Jean-Bart discussed the attendance of Councilwoman Shirley Aldridge – Councilwoman Aldridge has only attended one meeting- (The appointment meeting). Resolution No. 2026 –20 Town of White Springs, Florida

Town Council - determines that a vacancy exists on The Town Council due to automatic forfeiture of office Pursuant to Section 2.03(a)(4) of the Town Charter.

Attorney Jean-Bart read an email sent to Councilwoman Shirley Alridge and, she also read the response from Councilwoman Alridge.

Attorney Jean-Bart stated that the last day to appoint someone to this position would be March 14, 2026.

After much discussion regarding Resolution 2026-20, council members wanted Section 4 revised – they wanted **No action shall be taken to recover payments already made be removed.** Motion made by Councilman Gamsby to approve Resolution 2026-20 but to remove - No action shall be taken to recover payments already made; Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cheryl McCall and passed 4-0.

- 5B. Vice Mayor wants to hold a Prayed Vigil.** – Vice Mayor Williams shared with everyone that the incident that happened to the young man occurred on her doorsteps of her home. She wants to hold a Prayer Vigil to show that we can stand together and that we will not accept these kinds of actions in White Springs. She would like to hold this vigil on Friday, January 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in front of her home. Mayor Tonja Brown said that she had heard from Pastor Bowden, and he was suggesting the same thing, and she will follow up with him.

Mayor Williams also wanted everyone to know that there were approximately 8 to 10 officers near the incident, and that all person involved in this incident, including the young man who lost his life was from Lake City, Florida.

Vice Mayor Williams spoke to the sheriff office, and they will be attending on Friday.

- 5C. Town Manager Lee Garner** – Mr. Garner wanted everyone to know that he had spoken to Sheriff Creech, and the town is working with him regarding the incident on Friday, January 3, 2026, and how to move forward from this unfortunate incident. Per Sheriff Creech, there will be no more block parties after dark. May Day will be discussed with Sheriff Creech.

Mr. Garner also shared an invoice with everyone regarding the cost of officers' coverage if the county were charging the town. Fourteen officers were present. Ten officers were paid overtime rates. Total cost of the invoice was \$5,072.00 dollars.

**6. Comments from Council Members**

Mayor Tonja Brown wanted to invite everyone out to the Blessing of the Badges in Jasper, Florida on January 8, 2026, at the First Baptist Church, 6:00 p.m.

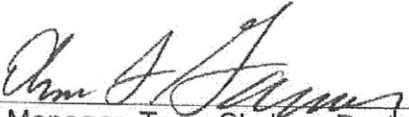
Mayor Brown – Special Committee Meeting, January 6, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Brown – County Commissioner Meeting, Jasper, Florida 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Williams – Meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 6:00 p.m. reference Telford Hotel.

**Adjourned - 6:28 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.

  
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Town Manager, Town Clerk, or Designee

Elmon Lee Garner, Town Manager

10363 Bridge Street – White Springs, FL 32096

