



## TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS

*“On the Bank of the Suwannee River”*

### **MINUTES**

#### ***White Springs Town Council Special Session***

***Tuesday, December 9, 2025 – Town Hall Council Room***

1. Mayor Tonja Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Reverend Wade Singletary

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

3. **Additions, Deletions, and/or Amendments to the Agenda**

Vice Mayor Nicole Williams added number D – Telford Hotel. Motion made by Vice Mayor Williams to add Telford Hotel, seconded by Councilman Cheryl and passed 3 -0.

4. **Approval of Minutes: Approve Minutes of November 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

Motion made by Vice Mayor Williams to approve Minutes of November 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, seconded by Councilwoman McCall and passed 3-0.

5. **Budget/Financial: Present prior month's financial report and present revised budget for current fiscal year due to changes with Fire/EMS/Auditor expenditures (Will need motion and vote)**

Mr. Richard Powell shared a copy of the budget for the month of October-November 2025. There have been several changes to the budget since it was adopted. Salary adjustments - \$10,494, Audit expenditure - \$30,000 and Fire Department - \$14,914.00. Also, the first installment payment was made for the Fire Department.

The budget has a negative decrease in the budget of \$27,787.00. We should not be worried about this, because the Town has not received its Ad Hoc funds for the year. Mr. Garner indicated that the town received yesterday \$43,006.21 from Hamilton County Tax Collector Department.



Motion made by Councilwoman McCall to accept the Budget/Financial report with the changes, seconded by Vice Mayor Williams and passed 3-0.

**6. Citizens from the floor: (5 min. limit)**

Pastor Wade Singletary of First Baptist Church White Springs Florida. Reverend Singletary thanked The Town for considering offering the church the little piece of property adjacent to the church property. He is waiting on a certified letter from the other property owner adjacent to the property, Mr. Freddy Boles' decision. Reverend Singletary checked on the cost of a survey – survey cost could be between \$600.00 - \$1,600.00 and timeframe for a survey is 4 to 6 weeks out.

The church is in partnership with the Pregnancy Care Center in Lake City Florida. Church highly supports this organization. Church is looking into the option of bringing a mobile unit to White Springs, Florida.

First Baptist recently purchased a \$30,000 playground that would be open to the church members and hopefully to the community.

Every Sunday, First Baptist Church take up a Benevolent offering and donate 5% back to the town for clothes, food, and housing for needy citizens. 2% is also donated for supporting pregnancy.

Pastor Wade Singletary wants to work with other pastors within the Town of White Springs.

**7. Old Business: Second reading of Ordinance 2025-04 Gambling Recission.**

Attorney Leslie Jean-Bart – change the Ordinance #2025-04 to 2026-01. After Attorney Leslie Jean-Bart read Ordinance 2026-01, motion was made by Vice Mayor Williams to approve Ordinance 2026-01 and was seconded by Councilwoman McCall and passed 3-0.

**8. New Business:**

**a. Approve Employment Agreement with Town Manager**

Item (a) was table for later, because Attorney Leslie Jean-Bart, had not had time to review the Agreement.

**b. Approve Amendment to Loan Agreement DW240100**

Since the year 2022, there have been several changes for the Loan Agreement DW240100. The Town needs to amend the agreement to approve all the changes from 2022 to now. Councilwoman McCall made the motion to approve Amendment to Loan Agreement DW240100 and the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Williams and passed 3-0.

**c. Approve Resolution No. 2026-19 ACH & Positive Pay at First Federal**

Mr. Garner and Ms. Brown went to First Federal on Monday, December 9, 2025, regarding Positive Pay at First Federal, this would allow Ms. Brown, Clerk, to be able to do electronic banking. She will not be able to sign checks. These procedures would help the Town control their finances and stay on top of transactions. Vice Mayor Williams made the motion to approve Resolution No. 20226-19 ACH & Positive Pay at First Federal, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman McCall and passed 3-0.

**d. Telford Hotel**

Vice Mayor Williams presented to the council members a packet – Strategic Purchase & Preservation Plan – for the Telford Hotel. Vice Mayor Williams is asking permission to proceed with the purchase of the Telford Hotel, at no cost to the Town. However, before she moves forward, she would need the approval of the council members to send letters out on the Town’s letterhead to people, organizations and grant programs who are willing to help with the purchase of the Telford Hotel. The hotel will be purchased by others, but the property would belong to the Town. Before the letters are sent out, they will be reviewed by The Town’s Council Members, Town Manager, and the Town’s attorney.

The Town’s attorney, Leslie Jean-Bart, suggested that Vice Mayor form a committee and have a workshop before proceeding with the letters. Motion was made by Councilwoman McCall to allow Vice Mayor Williams to move forward with forming a committee and having a workshop, the motion was seconded by Mayor Brown and passed 3-0.

Councilwoman McCall thanked Vice Mayor Williams for such a great job on the Strategic Purchase & Preservation Plan packets.

**9. Comments from Departments/Committees:**

**Town Manager – Mr. Lee Garner**

Mr. Lee Garner and Mayor Brown went to a conference in Orlando last week sponsored by the Florida League of Cities. They had a great time and met a lot of people. Mr. Garner highlighted some of the events that were discussed at the conference. Proposed changes for water bills, allowing the citizens in town and out of town city limits to have the same cost for water bills and anyone working with the election records will have employment records restricted.

The Town received a check in the amount of \$1,500.00 from 7<sup>th</sup> Son – the owner of the old school on Spring Street. 7<sup>th</sup> Son wants to rezone a portion next to the school, from residential to commercial to be allowed to open a car dealership.

Mr. Garner told everyone that Mayor Brown and Office Manager Cynethia visited the new homes that the CDBG Grant built. These homes are well constructed and beautiful and should be ready for the citizens by the first of the year. There is about a ten-year waiting list for homes requests.

Fire Department is offering pancakes and sausage on Saturday, December 13, 2025. The Fire Department is requesting a donation of \$5.00.

The Sheriff Department of Jasper, Florida returned 3 cars to the Town of White Springs. A gentleman for Jasper will be here next week to remove the radio equipment, and we will keep the latest model car and surplus the other 2 along with the Crown Victoria car to the highest bidder.

### **Public Works Director - Ray Vaughn**

Ray wanted to thank the city of Jasper, David Gause, Plant Operator and D.J. Hobby, Utility Director, and Barney Pumps for saving the day. At about 12:10 a.m., on Sunday, Ray received an alarm – both pumps down. Jasper stepped in and brought Ray a pump.

Cynethia Williams said yes, we definite needed to thank Jasper and we did, but we also needed to thank Ray, he went without sleeping for almost 2 days working on the pumps for the Town.

### **Town Attorney – Attorney Leslie Jean-Bart**

Attorney Jean-Bart has a concern about the fifth council member, Shirley Aldridge. Council member is ill and has not been present at any meetings for over 6 months. She suggests that we send Councilwoman Aldridge a letter and request a response by the end of the year.

Cynethia Williams will call Laura Hutto, Supervisor of Election, to see what the next plans of action are - can the town take action to fill this position?

### **Vice Mayor – Nicole Williams**

Vice Mayor Williams informed everyone that Councilwoman McCall, herself and Cynethia went to the League of City Dinner at Camp Anderson, Old Town. She won a beautiful big Grill with all the trimming.

Vice Mayor Williams reminded everyone about the breakfast with Santa on December 20, 2025, at Stephen Foster – Nelly Bly's Kitchen. She also is asking for volunteers.



Anyone who wants to donate toys for the event please contact The Town of White Springs and/or the town's Library.

Mayor Williams asked that everyone support the Animal Shelter in Jennings, Florida. She picked up a cat, named Ghost, and was very pleased with her purchase.

Animal Shelter – 940 Oak Street Jennings Florida

**Councilwoman – Cheryl McCall – None (she asked all her questions earlier)**

**Mayor – Tonja Brown**

Mayor Brown and Lee Garner, Town Manager, attended the County Commissioner Meeting in Jasper Florida last week. Very informative meeting. They want Jasper, White Springs and Jennings to work together with Code Enforcement.

Mayor Brown also said she and the Town Manager, Mr. Garner, had a nice time at the meeting in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Garner introduced her to a lot of people, and she shared pictures of the meeting with everyone.

Vice Mayor Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilwoman McCall seconded and passed 3-0.

**Adjourned: - 8:00 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

