



## TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS

*“On the Bank of the Suwannee River”*

### *MINUTES*

*White Springs Town Council Regular Session*

*Monday, January 13, 2026 – Town Hall Council Room*

1. Mayor Tonja Brown called the meeting to order at 6:40 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 – under item 6 - G – 119 Requests

Add – under item 6 – D2 – Street Closure

Motion made by Councilman Gamsby to approve the agenda with the addition of adding 6 -G and 6-D2. Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Williams and motion passed 4-0.

4. Councilman Gamsby made the motion to approve Minutes of December 9, 2025, and January 5, 2026, motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Williams and passed 4-0.

5. **Receive Financial Report – Mr. Richard Powell**

See attached report – Budget vs. Actuals: Budget\_FY26\_P&L-Fy26 P&L  
October – December 2025

**6. Agenda Items for Discussion and Action**

**a. Consider Forfeiture of Council Seat – Resolution No. 2026-20 (if approved provide procedure for consideration of appointment for remainder of term.**

Attorney Leslie Jean-Bart read Resolution No. 2026-20. After discussion, council members agreed to accept Resolution No. 2026-20, with the following conditions, add that the town will attempt to collect \$1,385,25 from Councilwoman Shirley Aldridge, for the months of October, November, and December 2025. Council members asked Attorney Leslie-Bart to go ahead and send a certified letter requesting Councilwoman Shirley Aldridge to repay the monies for October, November, and December 2025. If Councilwoman Alridge do not respond, then the council would like to proceed with collections.

The Town of White Springs will advertise to fill Councilwoman Alridge position. We will advertise through the website, town hall, post office, library, and Riverbend News.

Motion was made by Councilman Gamsby to accept Resolution No. 2026-21 with the change to add an attempt to collect \$1,385.25 from Councilwoman Aldridge, motion was seconded by Councilwoman McCall and passed 3-1, Mayor Brown opposed.

b. Motion was made by Councilman Gamsby to accept Addendum No. 1 to Continuing Services Agreement Between Town of White Springs and CPH Consulting, LLC (Federal contract changes), motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Williams and passed 4-0. (Attached – Addendum No. 1 TO CONTINUING SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS AND CPH CONSULTING, LLC).

**c. Consider Employment Agreement with Town Manager for Full-time position.** Contract was discussed, Section 6. Alternative to Retirement was reviewed and Mr. Garner is requesting 15% of the Florida Retirement System's Contribution, he is only requesting \$9,000.00 per year, divided by 52 weeks, to be paid as weekly installments.

Motion was made by Councilwoman McCall to approve Town Manager Employment Agreement Between the Town Council of The Town of White Springs, Florida and Elmon Lee Garner, with the changes regarding the Florida Retirement System, motion was seconded by Councilman Gamsby and passed 4-0.

**d. Approve Request from Hamilton County Sheriff to discontinue all block parties and street closures for events after dark until further notice within Town limits, unless Sheriff and Town approve special permits.** Motion was made by Councilman Gamsby to approve Request from Hamilton County Sheriff to discontinue all block parties and street closures for events after dark until further

notice within Town limits, unless Sheriff and Town approve special permit, motion was seconded by Councilwoman McCall and passed 4-0.

**d-2. Street Closure** – Attorney Leslie Jean-Bart is working on a new street closure application, and she will email everyone a copy. The town will work closely with Sheriff Creech and the Sheriff department regarding street closures. A meeting will take place with council members and Sheriff Creech sometime in February.

e. Motion was made by Councilwoman McCall to Declare three (3) old police vehicles (2 Dodge Chargers and Crown Victoria) surplus to the needs of the Town and approve for the Town Manager to sell at auction by sealed bid, motion was seconded by Councilman Gamsby and passed 4-0.

**f. Auditor Independence Issue for Florida Board of Accountancy (Gamsby)**

Motion was made by Councilman Gamsby to allow Attorney Leslie Jean-Bart to file a complaint against Richard Powell, Powell and Jones and Reliant CPA, motion was seconded by Councilwoman McCall and passed 3-1, Mayor Brown opposed.

**g. 119 Request** – Attorney Leslie Jean-Bart discussed procedures for requesting a 119. If 119 were not done correctly, the Town could be sued. She also touched base on the fact that if someone is requesting a 119 to share with others, this could be considered as an unequal treatment. Councilwoman McCall wanted to know why she must pay for 119 requests. Everyone will be treated the same when requesting a 119 and everyone must follow procedures.

Attorney Leslie Jean-Bart will provide everyone with a policy and a clear understanding regarding 119 Requests.

**7. Comments from Citizens from Floor (5-minute limit)**

**John Werner** – Concerns regarding the Town Website, nothing on the calendar. Mayor Brown has indicated that things were placed on the calendar, and someone removed them. No positions were advertised, the Town should be more transparent, and water issues.

Council members addressed all of Mr. Werner's issues.

**Bo Beauchemin** – Mr. Bo thanked the Town for allowing The Youth Leadership Initiative to adopt the Wayside Park Boat Ramp. The mural of the wall at Wayside Park is approximately 75% complete. He is still searching for Youth Ambassadors.

Mr. Beauchemin would like to have the park's hours from dusk to dawn. Mr. Garner said he would discuss this request with the Fishing and Gaming department, because the area is also used for fishing and hunting.

**Gretchen Fouchecourt** – Ms. Fouchecourt has concerns regarding what are we doing to keep people from changing our website? She also wanted to know about

the cameras at Wayside Park. Cameras was placed at Wayside by the police department.

## **8. Department Reports: Town Manager, Public Works & Town Attorney**

**Mr. Lee Garner** – The Town is better than it was. Mr. Garner provided everyone a copy of the Town Manager Report – January 2026 (copy attached)

Mr. Garner wanted permission from the council to purchase/lease the old jail and the old town hall buildings. Council Members love the idea; however, Councilman Gamsby wants detail information from whomever is leasing the buildings.

Mr. Garner discussed the Town of White Springs 5 Year Capital Improvement Program – (see attached copy).

Telford Hotel – Before we move forward with considering purchasing the Telford Hotel, Mr. Garner want a Business Plan.

Mr. Garner also thanked Sheriff Creech and the Sheriff department.

Mr. Garner told everyone there was no report from Ray Vaughn, Utility Director. Ray went home, not feeling well.

**Attorney Leslie Jean-Bart** – 2026 General Election Notice: Attorney Jean-Bart presented a copy of the 2026 General Election Notice procedures. (See attached copy).

**Corrections** – 2026 General Election Notice; **Early voting will be 8 hours a day – 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., April 20 – 24, 2026, at White Springs Town Hall.**

**Qualifying opens at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, and closes promptly at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Vy Star and First Federal Banks provide temporary checks.

Attorney Leslie Jean-Bart, Cynethia Williams and Donsha Brown will meet with Laura Hutton, Election Supervisor, Jasper, Fl.

**Election Package will be ready for pickup on February 17, 2026.**

**Councilwoman McCall – None**

**Councilman Gamsby – Letter Writing Campaign** – Constrained Rural Counties regarding funding. (see attached copies of letters). Councilman Gamsby will send out 110 letters to the House regarding Senate Bill 250. Council members and Mr. Garner will support Councilman Gamsby.

**Vice Mayor Williams** – Candlelight Prayer Vigil was successful. Parent of the young man who loss his life was there, and they appreciated the Town Prayer Vigil.

Telford Hotel – the owner will negotiate the cost for the purchasing of the building. Also, the owner has already spent \$250,000.00 to upgrade the building in the last few months.

The Town of White Springs has formed a committee regarding the Telford Hotel. The committee consists of approximately 14 members. Next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2026.

There might be some cost to the Town if the Town purchases the Telford Hotel. i.e. Property Survey – Fund Raising will be held to offset the cost.

Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration – January 19, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Guest Speaker, Rev. Brandon Bowden and Special Honoree, Mrs. Jeanette Udell.

Beautiful Dreamer Awards will also be presented at the Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration.

10:45 a.m. – Walk from Old Carver High School on Mill Street to the Welcome Center, on highway 41, January 19, 2026.

**Mayor Brown** – Pastor Corey J. King, St. Luke Freewill Baptist Church will host a Community Church Coalition Meeting on Friday, January 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Purpose of this meeting is to Bring Back to our community and strengthen the community. He is inviting all pastors and Church Leaders.

Mr. Garner and Pastor Corey J. King had a great meeting regarding giving back to the community.

**Adjourned – 10:23 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