

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION

321 WALNUT STREET, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023 – 5:00 PM



MINUTES

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – **Mayor Butler**

Roll Call

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Connie Butler, Vice Mayor Steven Kelley, Council Member Ed Gaw, Council Member Matt Johnson, Council Member Thomas Smith

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: L.J. Arnold, III, City Attorney, Steve Kennedy, City Manager, Mike Null, Assistant City Manager, Erin West, City Clerk

Mayor to call on members of the audience wishing to address the Council on matters not on the Agenda.

1. Matthew O'Berry 6317 Amherst Ave. Keystone Heights introduces himself to the Council and advises he will be running for Clay County Sheriff.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Rivers House Discussion

Lesley Davidson 418 - 422 Walnut St. speaks personally about the Rivers House. Ms. Davidson advises she reviewed the engineering report and there is less damage than expected. Ms. Davidson speaks about resources available to help with the Rivers House. Council Member Thomas asks Ms. Davidson what her immediate forecast for the property would be.

Ms. Davidson advises the most important step is making the structure safe and looking for grants.

Erica Simmons 1393 Pacetti Rd. GCS speaks concerning the Rivers House. Ms. Simmons advises the Council of her vision for the Rivers House. Ms. Simmons discusses the phases from a competitive quote that she received.

Van Royal 3688 LaCosta Ct. GCS speaks about the Rivers House. Mr. Royal speaks about funding and making the commitment to start.

Council discussion followed concerning ideas for the Rivers House, showing gratitude for the ideas, and thanking the citizens for speaking and showing their support for the Rivers House.

City Manager Steve Kennedy speaks concerning the money in the budget for the Rivers House and there is money in the budget for grant writing services.

Brian Cook 840 St. Johns Ave. GCS speaks for the Rivers House and about committing to make a start on fixing up the house.

Council discussion followed with the discussion of budget concerning the Rivers House.

2. FY 2024 Millage Rate Discussion

Van Royal 3688 LaCosta Ct. speaks concerning the budget and the increase of the millage rate. Mr. Royal advises he supports the increase as long as he can see what is being done with the money.

City Attorney Arnold speaks about funding for the Rivers House and establishing a corporation to help support the fundraising.

City Manager, Steve Kennedy speaks concerning the millage rate and how it will affect the city. Council discussion followed concerning the millage rate and budget.

Erica Simmons 1393 Pacetti Rd. GCS concerning budgeting money for the Rivers House to get started on the project. Ms. Simmons questions if the increase will be used for the Rivers House. Mr. Kennedy speaks concerning the budget and the money being used for projects.

Brian Cook 840 St. Johns Ave. GCS advises he supports the increase and the quality of life in Green Cove Springs.

Council discussion followed concerning the millage rate and city projects.

Adjournment

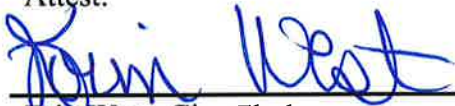
There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA



Constance W. Butler, Mayor

Attest:



Erin West, City Clerk