

# *White Springs Town Council dismisses complaints against councilmember*

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The Tuesday, March 14, White Springs Town Council meeting began with two changes to the agenda. Town Manager Vanessa George, asked that a complaint from Derek Snead be moved to the bottom of the agenda, then councilwoman Nicole Williams asked to add an item on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of the town. The meeting then moved into public comment. At this time, Beth Daniel asked if it was appropriate for the council to take questions from non-residents about things outside of town council affairs. Town Attorney Joel Foreman responded stating it would be inappropriate but, because of the way the town charter is written, in this situation, it was how the council was supposed to handle it.

The meeting moved on to discuss the first of two complaints from Snead regarding Williams. Attorney Foreman explained that, normally, the proper way to handle these issues is to take it to the commission on ethics. However, after reviewing the town charter, he said he was incorrect in that direction. Foreman then cited section 2.03 of the charter which explains that a councilmember can have their seat vacated for a plethora of reasons upon a majority vote. Upon the vote, the council must then provide the councilmember with written notice that they consider their seat forfeited. The affected member then has seven days to request a hearing. At the hearing, the councilmember will provide evidence to refute the accusations being made against them. As Mayor Anita Rivers read the complaint, there was confusion amongst the council as to what the complaint was actually about. After some

discussion, it was determined the complaint was about the alleged car chase involving Williams and Snead. Williams then claimed, once again, that there are charges being filed against Snead. She also claimed he had filed charges against her, but his charges had been thrown out and hers had not. Rivers then asked Foreman for his advice about the situation. Foreman told the council that they would have to present evidence to prove Williams had forfeited her seat and, if there was any doubt about what they could prove, he would recommend not proceeding with removing her from her seat. Vice Mayor Jacqueline Williams motioned for the complaint to be dismissed and the motion was approved.

The meeting then moved to Williams's added item, where she wanted to discuss the SOP. Williams claimed that she had acquired a copy of the SOP, however her grandchildren had spilled apple juice on it. She kept the tainted copy, but got a new one. In reviewing the two copies, she claimed changes had been made. Williams then acquired copies from previous town employees, and claimed they matched her original copy, but not the new one she had received from the town hall. The council motioned to investigate the changes, and the motion passed unanimously.

The final item discussed was Snead's second complaint. Once again, there was confusion as to what the complaint was about. However, after further discussion, it was determined the second complaint from Snead was also about the car chase and was subsequently dismissed by the council.

The next White Springs Town Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at the White Springs Town Hall, located at 10363 Bridge St., in White Springs.