

Approved
12/15/25

For approval

**TOWN OF FORT WHITE, FLORIDA
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: November 17th, 2025

TIME: 6:00 PM

**ALL AGENDA BACKUP MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN WEBSITE UNDER THE
GOVERNMENT TAB/TOWN COUNCIL AT www.fortwhitefl.com.**

INVOCATION

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Pledge of allegiance by Fort White Elementary School

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Mayor, George Jacob Thomas

Council Member, Kathryn Terry

Council Member Lonnie W. Harrell

Council Member, Monica Merricks

Council Member, Bill Koon

OTHERS:

Town Clerk, Kelly MacPherson

Town Attorney, Rhett Bullard

ITEM 1 - ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CHANGES, AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Pole saw & hedger to purchase for public works - Councilmember Koon requested - Councilmember Koon ordered from Ace
2. Notary quotes for Clerk – Councilmember Terry requested – Clerk to get notary

3. Deese Park renovation & events
4. Plaque for Gardening for change

Motion to approve minutes with changes by Councilmember Terry – Seconded by Councilmember Merricks – Pass unanimously

ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of 10/20/25 Agenda Minutes – Motion to approve 10/20/25 minutes by Councilmember Merricks – Seconded by Councilmember Koon – Pass unanimously

ITEM 3 - PUBLIC COMMENTS

Maggie Greene – Street lights to be put up for patrons

Stew Lilker – Last minute agenda additions not necessary

ITEM 4 - NEW BUSINESS

1. NFPS - WWTP update – **Greg Baily gave WWTP update**
2. Cody Barrs approval for impact fee waiver for Easements – **Motion to deny impact fee waiver by Councilmember Harrell – Seconded by Councilmember Terry – Motion passes by majority vote – Councilmember Merricks dissenting.**
3. Fort White Planning Staff Report – Michael Rankin – LPG – **Mike Rankin presented staff report for town permit activity to council and get plan for proposal for comp plan and LDR's**
 - a. **Mr. Crespo – Code enforcement officer presentation**
 - b. **Maggie Greene – Street lights outside for Maggie's Table Restaurant**
4. Land Planning Group Invoice for approval – **Motion to approve invoice by Councilmember Merricks – Seconded by Councilmember Harrell – Pass unanimously**
5. Rhett Bullard Invoice for approval - **Motion to approve invoice by Councilmember Harrell – Seconded by Councilmember Terry – Pass unanimously**
6. Request Kelly to move to the role of clerk – **No motion – Council requested a workshop in December**
7. Findings from the Internal Investigation & actions suggested – **Council discussed the investigation and the invoice fee.**

8. Community Center/Train Depot Rental Fee Waiver Policy – **Discussed and Tabled until next meeting**
9. Cassuto LLC Land clearing without proper permits - Blue Jay & Hwy 27 – **No motion - Bill Koon to call property owners and discuss**
10. The Depot and Caboose – Restoration, historical distinction, grants, Lighting – **Clerk to get 2 or 3 bids to restore Caboose back to functional**
11. Pancake breakfast, Christmas Parade, Depot reception for parade participants – **Councilmember Terry withdrew agenda item**
12. Status of “Fort” and road behind FWES that Columbia County School Board is seeking – **No motion – Town Attorney is getting survey, then revisit**
13. Pole saw & hedger to purchase for public works – **Motion by Councilmember Merricks to purchase pole saw & hedger – requested to keep local & purchase from Ace hardware if they match price – Seconded by Councilmember Terry – Pass unanimously**
14. Notary quotes for Clerk – **No Motion – No motion - Town clerk to get quotes**
15. Deese Park reservation & events – **No motion - Town Attorney to get example ordinance to send to Council**
16. Plaque for Gardening for change – **Clerk to get appreciation plaque**

ITEM 5 – CITIZEN COMMENTS

Stew Lilker – 3-hour meetings are too long. Public records request should be done individually.

ITEM 6 – COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

1. FRDAP Grant update at Johnny B Bryant Park
2. Appreciation of Monica Merricks / FRDAP Grants
3. Dissemination of pertinent information from clerk to all council members
4. Codification update for Civic Plus – Councilmember Harrell gave update
5. Audit fee to Columbia county -

ITEM 7 – ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Terry - Seconded by Councilmember Merricks – Pass unanimously

Minutes of the Town Council meeting may be obtained from the Town Clerk's office. The minutes are recorded, but not transcribed verbatim. Persons requiring a verbatim transcript may make arrangements with the Town Clerk to duplicate the recordings or arrange to have a court reporter present at the meeting. The cost of duplication and/or court reporter will be borne by the requesting party.

In accordance with Sect. 286.0105 Florida Statutes, notice is given that if a person wishes to appeal a decision made by the Town Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, they will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact the Mayor through the Town Clerk's office no later than 4:00 PM on the Friday prior to the meeting.