

Town of Mineral Springs
Town Hall
3506 S. Potter Road
Town Council
Regular Meeting
March 12, 2015 ~ 7:30 PM

Minutes

The Town Council of the Town of Mineral Springs, North Carolina, met in Regular Session at the Mineral Springs Town Hall, Mineral Springs, North Carolina, at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2015.

Present: Mayor Frederick Becker III, Councilwoman Valerie Coffey, Councilman Jerry Countryman, Councilwoman Lundeen Cureton, Councilwoman Melody LaMonica, Councilwoman Peggy Neill, Town Clerk/Zoning Administrator Vicky Brooks and Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Janet Ridings.

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Janet Critz and Attorney Bobby Griffin.

Visitors: Neva Helms and Bill Howie.

With a quorum present Mayor Frederick Becker called the Regular Town Council Meeting of March 12, 2015 to order at 7:31 p.m.

1. **Opening**

- Councilwoman Cureton delivered the invocation.
- Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Public Comments**

- Mr. Bill Howie – 4617 Pleasant Grove Road.
- Ms. Neva Helms – 5315 S. Rocky River Road.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- **Councilman Countryman** made a **motion** to approve the consent agenda as presented containing the following:

- A. February 12, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. January 2015 Tax Collector's Report
- C. January 2015 Finance Report

and **Councilwoman Cureton** seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Cureton, LaMonica and Neill
Nays: None

- Mayor Becker noted that Councilwoman Critz did notify him that she had a little bit of a turn for the worse (health wise) and did not make it; she is excused from the

votes at this meeting. Mayor Becker stated that he thought she was going to be okay.

4. **Discussion and Consideration of a Town Seal**

- Town Clerk Vicky Brooks pointed out that there was a memo in the agenda packet, but she would explain it [to the audience]. At the town council/planning board retreat in January there was talk about the possibility of coming up with a town seal, so Ms. Brooks got in touch with Nadine Bennett who referred her to Blair Israel (also with Centralina Council of Governments). Mr. Israel could perhaps do the seal for between \$1,000 and \$1,500 depending on how much “face time” he has to have with the town. It is possible that he could take what Ms. Brooks had designed last year and really improve upon it to come up with something suitable for the town. Ms. Brooks mentioned that the seal she came up with last year had two places where there were hikers and asked the council if they had any thoughts or suggestions on what might go in that fourth [spot] or were they satisfied with the trees, a horse and hikers. It was noted by Ms. Brooks that the seal that she developed and has utilized since last year was “pretty” for the festival applications and documents that she used. Mayor Becker added that it’s not the official seal, the one on the left is the one we use [referring to the pictures shown in the agenda packet]. Councilwoman Coffey responded that she believed the seal that we need to continue using is the one on the left. For between \$1,000 and \$1,500, we are not trying to impress anybody with a seal. Councilwoman Coffey stated that she was just speaking on her behalf, “that’s not what we need to be spending money on, let’s put the money in the park or put some trees somewhere or whatever the needs are for the town, but a seal; not for that kind of money, no, I am not feeling it”. Councilwoman Cureton concurred that she was not “feeling it” either. Councilman Countryman agreed with Councilwoman Coffey and stated that he thought the cost was a little exorbitant. Councilman Countryman would love to have an attractive seal, but not at that expense. If there was a way that it could be done where it wouldn’t cost us that much money Councilman Countryman would certainly be more open to it, but he can’t justify that kind of an expense. Councilwoman Coffey commented that it was just a functional seal, it doesn’t need to impress anybody and all of the State seals that she has ever seen are just basic – no color and all of that. Ms. Brooks commented that it probably wouldn’t have color. Councilwoman Coffey continued that the ones that they use are just plain; they state what needs to be stated “the Town of Mineral Springs, established, Union County, North Carolina”. Councilwoman LaMonica commented that at some point if we wanted to make a minor investment in some sort of “flashy” version of the “Conservation by Design”; it would be more of a “logo” element that carries across the web site or other area. That is certainly doable, but that would be a couple hundred bucks. So, we are looking to kind of trademark ourselves or put a stamp on ourselves, Councilwoman LaMonica thought that would go further than a seal, just because of the amount of presence and the volume of usage a logo would get versus something like this and a logo doesn’t have to be full color either. Ms. Brooks commented that we could just say “Conservation by Design” and leave it at that. Councilman Countryman asked Ms. Brooks if she designed the one on the right. Ms. Brooks responded I did. Councilman Countryman commented that he thought it was quite attractive and he really liked it for a logo, but not necessarily for a seal. Councilman Countryman liked the seal on the left being official, but at

some point if something like this [seal shown on the right] could be used instead of the little square header at the top [design on the memo]. Councilwoman LaMonica commented that it carries the “Conservation by Design” tagline, so definitely. Ms. Brooks responded okay. Councilwoman Neill commented that she was in favor of that too. Councilman Countryman asked if we actually had the one on the left. Ms. Brooks responded yes, that is what we use. Mayor Becker added all our resolutions get stamped with that and our ordinances; we always stamp it with that. “It is our official seal”; Ms. Brooks has that in her drawer and we stamp all our official documents with that that go out.

- **Councilman Countryman** made a **motion** that we utilize the seal that we are currently using as our official seal and **Councilwoman Coffey** seconded. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Cureton, LaMonica and Neill

Nays: None

- Mayor Becker commented that he thought that one of the reasons that this came up was because we discussed it briefly at the retreat and he and Ms. Brooks were going through items that came up for future action; we wanted to decide if we wanted to go through our seal discussion. Councilman Countryman suggested that we pursue this design in place of this “ugly black logo” up on top [memo header]. Ms. Brooks commented that she designed that one too. Councilman Countryman responded that this one [on the right] is much better; Ms. Brooks has greatly improved in her designing. Councilwoman Coffey commented that it served its purpose at the time and now we are looking for a new purpose to be served. Councilman Countryman stated that he really thought it was atrocious. Ms. Brooks responded it’s just a memo thing. Councilman Countryman asked if it was possible to downsize it [logo] so it could fit up in a corner like that. Ms. Brooks responded that the people/horse will get smaller, but yes. Councilwoman LaMonica suggested that Ms. Brooks could go to one or two pictures instead of four or three. Mayor Becker commented that Ms. Brooks could make the pictures bigger with less white space so that the whole thing could be shrunk down; there are lots of things she can do, she is very good at that. Councilman Countryman commented that he was very serious when he says he really likes this and we should pursue it for a different reason and do it in-house and it doesn’t cost us anything.

5. Staff Reports

- Ms. Ridings shared that she had filed three small claims court cases yesterday and she will be in court on April 14th to see where it goes.
- Ms. Brooks explained that another thing that came out of the retreat was to pursue finding out if we could do anything with the community center and our first step would be contacting Union County Environmental Health to have them come out and do a site evaluation. The site evaluation has been done and they found some perk-able land, unfortunately it’s where we want to put our park and you can’t put any type of pervious surface (not even bark) where the drain field is. Ms. Brooks received that news today; however, he is not finished, he will be coming back out either tomorrow or early next week to look at the site again. After having their conversation today, he [Union County representative] isn’t completely ruling out using our existing drain field and adding some more to it; perhaps where it perks

over in our park area. Ms. Brooks stated that is where we stand on our septic for the community center. Councilwoman LaMonica asked if (in the worst case scenario) we would have an alternative as to where we could put the park. Ms. Brooks responded that we are limited to the space right over here by the cedar trees and down to the end of our parking lot; they [park and drain field] seem to be occupying the same space. Councilman Countryman asked (from a conversation standpoint) if our facility was ever part of a consideration in terms of the sewer system or were we too far away. Ms. Brooks responded when Harris Teeter develops the property is when we believe we will get the sewer. Mayor Becker commented “we know we will, cause then there will be pipes in the streets and we will be right there; there will be a street in front of that building and it will be just right there”. Councilman Countryman responded “but until then”. Mayor Becker right, because we have to cross 400 feet across someone else’s property to get to Potter Road or Highway 75, which we can’t do; the county won’t let us.

- Mayor Becker reported that one of the park vendors did come by last week. It was noted that Mayor Becker had sent out three [Requests for Proposal]. The men from Stewart came and they seemed the most interested. Mayor Becker got favorable replies from Stewart and from Wirth (in Charlotte). The third one has offices in Cary and Greensboro, but they have not responded. Mayor Becker commented that we should have presentations next month.

6. Other Business

- Councilwoman Neill reported that she had received information from Centralina Council of Governments to pass along to the council. It was the 2013-2014 Annual Report, the Charter Resolution and their bylaws (amended February 11th).
- Councilwoman Coffey thanked everyone who helped our trees to happen and the person that planted them. It became a private venture, so Councilwoman Coffey stated that she really didn’t need to speak on it here, but she wanted to make sure that everybody drove by, she hoped everyone was happy with what they saw so far and she hoped it did improve the situation. Councilwoman Cureton responded that she thought it looked nice.

7. Adjournment

- **Councilwoman Cureton made a motion to adjourn and Councilwoman Coffey seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:**

Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Cureton, LaMonica and Neill

Nays: None

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mineral Springs Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by:

Vicky A. Brooks, CMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk

Frederick Becker III, Mayor