

Town of Mineral Springs
Town Hall
3506 S. Potter Road
Town Council
Public Hearing - Regular Meeting
June 9, 2016 ~ 7:30 PM

Minutes

The Town Council of the Town of Mineral Springs, North Carolina, met in Public Hearing and Regular Session at the Mineral Springs Town Hall, Mineral Springs, North Carolina, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2016.

Present: Mayor Frederick Becker III, Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Neill, Councilman Jerry Countryman, Councilwoman Janet Critz, Councilwoman Lundeen Cureton, Councilwoman Bettylyn Krafft, Attorney Bobby Griffin and Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Janet Ridings.

Absent: Councilwoman Valerie Coffey and Town Clerk/Zoning Administrator Vicky Brooks.

Visitors: Matt Covington, Sheila Crunkleton, Vanessa Gorr and Ashley Lantz.

With a quorum present Mayor Frederick Becker called the Regular Town Council Meeting of June 9, 2016 to order at 7:31 p.m.

1. **Opening**

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

2. **Public Hearing – 2016-2017 Proposed Budget**

- Mayor Becker opened the Public Hearing on the 2016-2017 Proposed Budget at 7:33 p.m.
- There were no public hearing comments.
- Mayor Becker closed the Public Hearing on the 2016-2017 Proposed Budget at 7:33 p.m.

3. **Public Comments**

- There were no public comments.

4. **Consent Agenda**

- **Councilman Countryman** made a **motion** to approve the consent agenda as submitted containing the following:
 - A. *May 12, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes, May 14, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes and May 26, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes*
 - B. *April 2016 Tax Collector's Report*
 - C. *April 2016 Finance Report*

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

Ayes: Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill

Nays: None

5. **Turning Point – Ashley Lantz**

- Ms. Ashley Lantz explained that she brought some really cool information this evening. Over the years, Ms. Lantz presented on behalf of what was once Safe Alliance and now Turning Point, but Turning Point is excited to let everyone know that back in July they took over some programs that Safe Alliance did in Union County. Many people know Turning Point, because they have been the domestic violence shelter for this county for 30 years, so they have had enough time to make a name for themselves and for the people in the community to know about them. Turning Point is proud to say they are the only victim services provider here, so they are offering the sexual assault program that Safe Alliance used to run and they are running the Tree House Children's Advocacy Center.
- Ms. Lantz gave an overview of Turning Point's three programs that they are now offering. The Domestic Violence Program operates a crisis line 24/7, has a shelter, offers counseling, legal advocacy which includes court accompaniment, case management and safe planning regardless of whether or not they are living in the shelter. Already this year (running from July through May), the Domestic Violence Program, which includes their teen dating abuse prevention program (offered at Parkwood) has served 1,006 folks as compared to last year where they served 439. Prevention efforts have really been amped up with teens, because we all know that's where kids learn about relationships and they want to reach them early, so they can learn what some red flags are and what a healthy relationship is.
- Since taking over the Sexual Assault Research Center they have seen some astounding numbers and Ms. Lantz doesn't credit that all to Turning Point. Carolinas Health Care System in Monroe and Waxhaw has done a really good job of amping up their response to survivors of rape and sexual assault. Turning Point has been called to the hospital 41 times since July. Last fiscal year when the program was run by Safe Alliance they were called out 25 times. Ms. Lantz commented that you can see those numbers have jumped, but she thought some of that was the media attention allowing them to get the word out about Turning Point taking over the programs; some of it was also the hospital.
- Turning Point's Tree House Children's Advocacy Center works with kids 0 to 18, as well as developmentally disabled adults who are referred by law enforcement and social services. The Children's Advocacy Center works directly with the Sheriff's Office, Waxhaw Police Department, Monroe Police Department and all the municipalities' police departments. The Children's Advocacy Center interviews those children, they provide the medical exams and then they add all of that to their case files, so it is more child friendly when there have been allegations of sexual abuse or severe physical abuse. Sometimes if they witness things like their parents' murder they will work with those kids to make sure that they have a safe place to talk about what happened. In turn, law enforcement and DSS are able to use that information to hopefully prosecute the person who did those horrible crimes.

- Turning Point operates the Second Chance Boutiques (there is one in Waxhaw and one in Monroe) and they also have a Home Décor Store; this is where they are able to generate some of their revenue.
- Ms. Lantz asked the council if they had any questions about Turning Point's finances and explained that a lot of that has changed in the past year since acquiring the two new programs. They have made it through the "hiccups" of that and are doing well. They just got word from the National Children's Alliance in Washington, DC this week that the Tree House was just reaccredited as a nationally accredited center, which speaks volumes to how much work they put into what they do.
- Ms. Lantz passed out information about Turning Point offering tours; anyone who gives generously to Turning Point should be able to come in and see what their money is going towards and see the services that they offer to the people in their community.
- Ms. Lantz stated that her last request was that the council considers all of the acquisitions that Turning Point has made this past year. Mineral Springs has generously funded them at \$1,000 in previous years, but if there was any way the council could increase that to \$1,500 it would be greatly appreciated. If not, Ms. Lantz wanted the council to please know that they accept and are thankful for every dollar they get from this community. Councilwoman Critz explained that she just pulled up the spreadsheet and noted that the town gave Turning Point \$1,500 last year and they gave Safe Alliance \$1,000 two years before that, because last year they were in transition, so there really wasn't a venue for the town to do that other than through Turning Point. Councilwoman Critz recommended that the council combine those two figures based on the combined two services/increasing the availability of both and suggested they give Turning Point \$2,500; "the money is there, let's keep that in mind". Ms. Lantz thanked Councilwoman Critz for the consideration. Councilwoman Critz explained that the fact is that she was concerned for everyone involved when they were told how the services were being combined, she was concerned that they would all be overworked and that things would fall through cracks and probably the former has happened and they have all been overworked from time to time. Ms. Lantz responded that they have and they are actually going to hire a second family advocate for the Tree House which saw 150 last year and they are already up to 227 this year and we still have one month left. "It's great that we can do it and I just appreciate your consideration", Ms. Lantz said. Councilwoman Critz commented that they appreciate her leadership in all of this, but the council will have to make that final decision. Councilwoman Neill asked Ms. Lantz if they accepted donations like bedding (i.e. someone has an extra bed). Ms. Lantz responded yes and explained that anytime they have a client who has completed their shelter program and move into their own independent violence free housing they completely furnish that with all the donated items at their furniture store. Some of it does get sold, so they can pay the electric bill, but a lot of it goes into the homes of people who are in their shelter and move out independently. Turning Point has teamed up with Hearts of Monroe, which has combined with a lot of churches in the area and they've promised to do their best to provide a bed for each family that moves out, but along with that you need sheets, comforters and pillowcases, so anything that you no longer use or you see on sale at Target and feel like getting it and giving it that would be great.

6. American Red Cross – Sheila Crunkleton

- Ms. Sheila Crunkleton commented that she was one of Ms. Lantz's biggest fans; she does a fabulous job and we are so blessed to have her in this community. Ms. Crunkleton stated that we truly do have a great community here in Union County, it only takes going out somewhere else and getting to see how other communities interact with each other and non-profits interact with each other to realize truly what we have here in Union County; we are so blessed, because our non-profits work together and support each other. If one of us can't take something, we give it to the other one; it's a partnership and Ms. Crunkleton appreciates that.
- Ms. Crunkleton thanked the council for having her here again as she passed out the impact report from last year. Ms. Crunkleton noted that the report said 2014, because that was the beginning of that year, but it is last fiscal year which ended last June 30th. The Red Cross responds to disasters whether they are big or small across the country or family house fires. Sometimes they have bigger things like a train derailment, flooding, hurricanes, you never know quite know, but the Red Cross is always going to be there to help those people. Disaster assistance with the Red Cross is free to anyone and everyone; it does not matter what your income is and it doesn't matter whether or not you have insurance. The Red Cross has great partnerships with local fire departments, especially with Mineral Springs. This year the Red Cross is working with them on another initiative called the smoke alarm initiative. When you turn on the news and you see there has been a house fire and there's been a fatality in it, Ms. Crunkleton's first thought is "did they have a working smoke alarm"? Most of the time they did not; you have less than two minutes to get out of a house after a fire starts. This is why the Red Cross is working with the local fire departments to install smoke alarms. They did that last year for United Way. When Ms. Crunkleton thinks of somebody not having a working smoke alarm when she knows the American Red Cross will do it free of charge for anybody, as well as local fire departments, it absolutely breaks her heart. Or when she sees a child that has died in a fire and she knows that it is probably because they got scared if they started the fire and they went and hid and then the parent couldn't find them or they didn't hear, because kids are so used to hearing loud noises and things that they sometimes don't pay attention to it if an alarm goes off in the house (a lot of times they will sleep right through it). There are little things we can teach kids: where are you going to go when that house catches on fire, where are you going to meet your family – out in the front yard or back by the swing set or at a neighbor's house; children need practice, they need to know and you need to have said to them before it ever happens what they are going to do, because they don't need to be thinking about it at that point in time, it needs to be a habit. The Red Cross spends a lot of time teaching children about that. They also spend a lot of time with their youth education on swim safety; going in and reading to preschoolers about Stewie the Duck making sure that children know how to be safe around water. Lately if you've watched the news you see every time you turn around there has been another drowning. It is usually always a young adult and there is one common factor there that could almost always – probably 99% chance of it not happening is if they had worn a life jacket. Ms. Crunkleton knows they are not always cool, but having experienced almost drowning herself a couple years ago, she doesn't care how cool they are, because dying is not cool either. The Red Cross also has community blood drives all

throughout their community. They also do health and safety training to make sure people know what to do in an emergency situation with CPR, first aid; they are working with Turning Point on that making sure that their people are all trained. This is what the Red Cross does each and every day and they are very proud of their work. The Red Cross is almost 90% volunteer led; they have a very small staff, so it is mostly all volunteers. In the middle of the night it is going to be a volunteer out there. Ms. Crunkleton rarely gets that phone call, but if she does get that phone call that means something serious has happened – there is a fatality or a serious injury or it's a big thing. If a volunteer needs Ms. Crunkleton they know that can always call her, but it is volunteers that are delivering their services and Ms. Crunkleton is very proud of that; it is not always easy. Ms. Crunkleton referred back to the council talking with Ms. Lantz about combining services and things like that and commented that it is not always easy to operate very lean, but it is the right thing to do for the community, because we are still taking care of all the services we need to be taking care of. Ms. Crunkleton thanked the council for their support in the past and hopefully in the future. "We are going into our 99th year here in Union County, so next year I will be coming to you with a big 100 year celebration", Ms. Crunkleton said.

- Councilwoman Critz commented that they appreciate everything, because one of the things that they do as a council as their "gold standard" for giving was the fact that these services are actually taking place in our community. The council does not take it lightly that they are making decisions to spend taxpayer money; they feel like their people want them to support the services that they support and it makes sense. It's a partnership and when municipalities fail to recognize their role in that partnership then Councilwoman Critz thought that it was a real loss.

7. Catawba Lands Conservancy – Matt Covington

- Mr. Matt Covington from Catawba Lands Conservancy (CLC) introduced himself as the Director of Land Acquisition and Vanessa Gorr as the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator for the Thread Trail. Mr. Covington thanked the council for having them here tonight and expressed their appreciation for the town's continued support that they have given over the years. As a non-profit, the CLC can't exist and do the work that they do without partners and supporters. The CLC is the local land trust for the region protecting undeveloped land and farm land in six counties: Catawba, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg and Union County. The CLC also partners with the Thread Trail to create a network of trails across a 15 county region; they have 1,500 miles of trail planned to date, so they have a common mission of saving land and connecting lives in nature. The CLC focuses on four categories of land to protect: land that will help clean the water, land that will help protect wildlife habitat, local farms and providing a connection to nature (what they do through the Thread Trail). The reason that they focus on this type of land is that the rapid loss of undeveloped land and farm land that we are seeing in this region is pretty drastic and by 2030 we are going to lose over half of our undeveloped land in this region. That is not necessarily a bad thing, development is good for our region, it helps keep the economic engine running, but it's just important that we think about it while we do it and plan strategically and help protect those places that are important. The CLC tries to connect those through their plan of network of trails through the Carolina Thread Trail; that's the master plan over the 15 counties.

In Union County, the CLC and the Thread Trail worked with the 12 Mile Creek bridge that crosses North and South Carolina (Ms. Gorr will talk about that), in 2013 they were able to protect a 152 acre property along Waxhaw Creek, which is a really important area for our water system, because it feeds into the Catawba River and it's a relatively clean creek for the area. The CLC was awarded a grant from Duke Energy to do some more conservation work along there and Mr. Covington is working with a landowner right now to protect an additional 31 acres adjacent to that property, so they will continue to build and hopefully create a critical mass around Waxhaw Creek.

- Ms. Gorr explained that over a month ago a 170 foot suspension bridge now connects North Carolina and South Carolina; this is a true example of a collaborative partnership between two municipalities. Three and a half miles of that resides in Lancaster, South Carolina now connecting to the suspension bridge, which leads to an almost one mile trail in the Millbridge community of Waxhaw. Currently there is a gap between Nesbit Park (in the Millbridge community) and that is the Thread Trail's next targeted corridor to connect to a quarter mile trail through the Town Creek Park. After that it will go up through to YMCA along NC 16 and continue on from there. The Thread Trail is currently working to acquire land and trail easements for that segment of trail. Over 100 people attended the opening; it's a beautiful trail, the bluffs looking down to the creek are gorgeous. It is a fabulous hike if you would like to take your family to this wonderful 170 foot suspension bridge. Ms. Gorr recommended parking at Nesbit Park on the Waxhaw side and coming in, otherwise you have to park three and a half miles away from the bridge and hike to the bridge. Another trail that is happening in Union County is in Wingate, which is also part of the Carolina Thread Trail. Ms. Gorr also noted that they do host 25 to 35 volunteer workdays a year; they host 10 to the public and the rest of them are privately held workdays for either hiking groups, paddling groups or corporate partners. If the town ever wants to partner on a community driven workday at the Mineral Springs Greenway, they would be happy to join in on that. Mr. Chip Sell has been in this community for a very long time, he is one of the Thread Trail's trail masters, he is a volunteer leader and he helps on a number of special projects and workdays throughout the region, but he specifically keeps an eye on the Mineral Springs Greenway. Ms. Gorr also mentioned their grant program is on its second term and that will close August 5th. Currently, Union County has \$83,000 that's allocated to support trail initiatives whether that is a natural surface trail or paved greenway, sidewalk and then greenway. There is a blueway not too far north from here that is the Rocky River Blueway; two years ago they created the first access to this Rocky River Blueway in Catawba County in Midland. They now have seven of the nine. Mr. Covington explained that a blueway is a river and one of their big goals has been trying to push for getting public access to our rivers for kayaking, canoeing, fishing and just general recreation. Ms. Gorr continued that the Rocky River Blueway for a while had four and a half miles accessible in Catawba County; however, that has come down and there are now seven out of the nine launches that are currently built. The newest ones are in the Town of Norwood and Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge, so that is a 50 mile corridor that is an undammed accessible river to experience and is an amazing amenity to have in this area. As a Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator, Ms. Gorr is the first one to pick up the phone call, the first one that people reach out to on social media and emails and she has seen an uptick of folks calling and asking

various questions about paddling on the Rocky River. In Ms. Gorr's experience, this has become a growing outdoor recreational amenity to add to this region. Mr. Covington pointed out (on the PowerPoint presentation map being shown) the key focus for the Thread Trail for the past couple of years that are nearly completed projects. In addition to the two access points Ms. Gorr spoke of (Park Family Preserve and River Bend in Cabarrus County), they are working on the northern most point called Vanderburg and the Pumpkin Creek Preserve in Stanley County. Once they get the two middle ones opened up, this river will be pretty much open all the way from Cabarrus County down into the Yadkin/Pee Dee River. Mr. Covington recommended taking it; it's a great river to be on and an untapped gem for this region.

- Councilwoman Critz commented that they need to seriously talk to them about partnering for some work on the trails, because there are some things that need to be done. Mr. Covington responded yes, that would be great. Ms. Gorr shared that there is a woman's hiking group that just emailed her two days ago wanting a pair of loppers, because of some of the overgrowth happening on the Mineral Springs Greenway. Ms. Gorr commented that she has loppers and handsaws; she is in the dirt a lot so she would be happy to do it. Councilwoman Critz pointed out that there are some things down there that is going to take a group effort. While she and her husband have land that backs up to part of the greenway and they do a lot of personal maintenance on that section, there is always stuff inevitably that comes from upstream. Some of it is natural and some of it is not, but with all the rain we had back in the fall/winter there are some down trees; a lot of them are dead and needed to come down and they happen to be blocking your path. Mr. Covington suggested community workdays on trails. Ms. Gorr suggested that if there were any trail masters around this area she was sure they would be happy to rally some folks and Ms. Gorr would be happy to work/partner with some of the other non-profit organization if they would be interested. Councilwoman Critz responded that the town would love that, so they need to coordinate and create a day that they could. Mayor Becker mentioned that "Andy" emails him if there is an issue that he hears about and they worked together on an obstruction that was quite bad last year; he got the poison ivy removed and when the tree finally came down where it was blocking then Mayor Becker had to go in with the chain saw and handle that. There has been some pretty good communication, but Mayor Becker thought it could use a touch up now. Councilwoman Critz responded that would be the benefit. When you go down there and you inch your way as a one, two or three person crew it looks great for the moment, but we need a good solid workday with a group where we could really tackle [it]. Mr. Covington commented that the other thing is when you get a work group together it certainly builds community ownership of the trail and that's what they are trying to do; Ms. Gorr does that on a daily basis. Mayor Becker commented that the town has a newsletter that will be coming out twice in the mid-summer/early fall, so if there is a workday that falls in that window it might be something we can publicize, so our own community can become involved.

8. **Consideration of the 2015-2016 Non-Profit Contributions**

- Mayor Becker noted that was the final three and the council has had some others. The council has a spreadsheet and Mayor Becker has given them the summaries

of what they have to spend and what they have spent in the past; if they maxed out what everybody was asking for or what was suggested, it will be fairly high for this year. The Catawba Lands Conservancy is looking for \$2,500, Council on Aging is \$2,000, Red Cross is \$2,500, Community Arts is \$600, Turning Point is \$2,500, the Literacy Council was \$300 and there was a one time (not necessarily one time, but not necessarily every year) \$2,000 for Western Union. That adds up to \$12,400, which is in the budget if the council wants to go that high; it would be the highest non-profit year to date, so the council needs to look at it. Councilwoman Critz asked Mayor Becker if he was carrying zeroes across from Hospice. Mayor Becker responded yes, because now that they are CHS they aren't fundraising in the same way they use to when they were their own board and their own independent organization. Councilwoman Critz mentioned that she has been accused of being a giver and commented that there are worse things you can be accused of, but she doesn't give frivolously; giving with discernment is very different than just careless giving. Councilwoman Critz felt that in light of the percentage of the tax that the town brings in this is still a pretty low percentage figure, so she doesn't see the council stretching into an area percentage wise looking at the charity itself; this still keeps the town looking like a responsible municipality supporting organizations that support the community and "we all know that each of these are active in Mineral Springs itself with our constituents".

- **Councilwoman Critz** made a **motion** to continue funding as follows: Catawba Lands Conservancy at \$2,500, Council on Aging at \$2,000, we are increasing our giving to American Red Cross to \$2,500, we are increasing our giving to Turning Point, which now combines Turning Point/Safe Alliance Family Services to \$2,500, which if you put those together is really not an increase, it's just a combination, then the \$300 that went to Literacy Council, Community Arts Council at \$600, that total is \$12,400 and **Councilwoman Krafft** seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

Ayes: Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill

Nays: None

9. **Consideration of the 2016-2017 Proposed Budget**

- Mayor Becker pointed out that he had a copy of the actual detailed budget if the council wanted to remind themselves, but the ordinance with the broad categories is in the agenda packet and it is what we had in the proposed budget. It shows operating expenditures of \$286,834 with a capital outlay of \$41,311 for total appropriations and revenues of \$328,145. That also keeps the project ordinance for the town park open; we have some funds that are recognized in there that can still be transferred. Mayor Becker explained that we were almost done and will probably be closing that out in the next couple of months. The property tax levy is 2.5 cents per \$100 with no tax increase; this is the same levy the town has had for several years.
- **Councilman Countryman** made a **motion** to approve the ordinance and establish the 2016-2017 budget as presented and **Councilwoman Cureton** seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

Ayes: Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill

Nays: None

- The Ordinance is as follows:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
TOWN OF MINERAL SPRINGS

**AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017
O-2015-03**

Be it ordained by the Council of the Town of Mineral Springs, North Carolina, the following:

Section I. Appropriations. The following amounts are hereby approved in the General Fund for the operation of the Town government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/2016 and ending 6/30/2017, in accordance with a Chart of Accounts to be established for the Town:

ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL GOVERNMENT: \$286,834.00	
Advertising	\$1,800.00
Attorney	\$9,600.00
Audit	\$4,770.00
Community Projects	\$31,200.00
Contingency	\$3,000.00
Employee Overhead	\$26,500.00
Fire Protection	\$12,000.00
Office and Administrative	\$136,346.00
Planning and Zoning	\$49,568.00
Street Lighting	\$2,000.00
Tax Collection	\$3,450.00
Training	\$3,000.00
Travel	\$3,600.00
CAPITAL:	\$41,311.00
Capital outlay	\$41,311.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS:	\$328,145.00

Section II. Estimated Revenues. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the General Fund for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/2016 and ending 6/30/2017:

Property taxes	\$63,795.00
Interest	\$1,200.00
Other income	\$2,960.00
Sales taxes	\$250,200.00
Vehicle taxes	\$5,990.00
Zoning fees	\$4,000.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES: \$328,145.00

Section III. Project Ordinances. Capital Project Ordinance O-2014-02 authorizing the design and construction of a park adjacent to the town hall was adopted during the 2014-15 fiscal year and was amended by O-2015-01 on October 15, 2015. As authorized by the amended ordinance, this project will be funded by means of up to \$240,000 in transfers of fund balance from the General Fund into the Capital Project Fund. Transfers of \$5,715.03 were made during FY2014-15, and transfers of \$215,871.75 were made during FY2015-16 as of April 30, 2016, for a total of \$221,586.78. There remains \$18,413.22 in funding authorized by O-2015-01. This Capital Project Ordinance and Capital Project Fund are expected to be closed out during FY2016-17.

The Mineral Springs town council may approve additional multi-year capital projects during the 2016-17 fiscal year and adopt Capital Project Ordinances to authorize expenditures for those projects. Such projects may be funded either by transfers from the General Fund into a Capital Project Fund, or through other revenue sources such as grants.

Section IV. Property Tax Levy. A tax in the amount of \$0.025 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation is hereby levied on property within the Town of Mineral Springs which was listed for property taxes in Union County, North Carolina as of January 1, 2016.

ADOPTED this 9th day of June, 2016. Witness my hand and official seal:

Attest:

Vicky A. Brooks, Clerk

Frederick Becker III, Mayor

10. **Update on the Greenway**

- Mayor Becker explained that this was going to be Ms. Brooks. We don't have a whole lot of new information on the greenway, but he could tell the council what Ms. Brooks was going to say. Mayor Becker reminded the council of the special meeting where they did approve the \$2,000 construction document and code enforcement working with Bill [Dan] Hill of LaBella and he is now working on that, but we haven't got the new plans in yet. As soon as we get the plans we will be trying to show it to at least one of our contractors and see what the work can be done for. The council got that report last month: the handrails need to be raised; there was not much work that needed to be done, but it has got to be done by the book. Progress is being made and the important thing is Ms. Brooks (he believed) stays in touch with Union County Inspections, so there is no question.

11. **Consideration of the Proposed Nuisance Ordinance Survey**

- Mayor Becker explained that this one with new grandma Vicky Brooks not here he didn't know exactly how finalized the council wanted to get, because this is Ms. Brooks' project. The council has had the chance to look over the rough draft that Ms. Brooks has put together; she picked out roughly 10 items from that list of 20+ and then put it in the form of a survey as a starting point to just get an idea from the council. Is Ms. Brooks heading in the right direction? Councilwoman Neill and Councilwoman Krafft responded that they believed so. Mayor Becker noted that the draft said "July 5th", but we are not going to do that, because he didn't think the council should give a final approval until Ms. Brooks is available. Councilwoman Critz agreed. Mayor Becker stated that it was up to the council if they have any specific comments on the individual questions, wording of the question, anything that should be there that isn't. Councilman Countryman commented that she did an excellent job and Councilwoman Neill agreed. Councilwoman Krafft thought that it was very thorough. Councilwoman Critz agreed, she definitely thought Ms. Brooks was going in the right direction, but agreed that Ms. Brooks should be here. Mayor Becker commented that he didn't like to ask the council for a vote without Ms. Brooks here, but it was their decision. "We are not under any outside pressure here to adopt this. We want to make sure that the public is being adequately served", Mayor Becker said.
- **Councilman Countryman** made a **motion** to table the Nuisance Ordinance Survey discussion until next month and **Councilwoman Krafft** seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

*Ayes: Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill
Nays: None*

- Mayor Becker commented if the council had anything on it specifically they should get up with Ms. Brooks and by next month we should be ready to have it go to press.

12. **Mineral Springs 3rd Annual Festival Update and Consideration of Equipment Purchases**

- Mayor Becker commented that he didn't know much about the festival, but Ms. Ridings knows some. Mayor Becker reported that Ms. Brooks did get two more

sponsors from what the council sees in the finance report for April and she has got some vendors, so that is moving forward.

- On the equipment purchases, Mayor Becker explained that what he and Ms. Brooks have been doing is trying to put together some sound equipment, sort of “piece meal” where we can find things if it’s on sale or if we get a good opportunity. Recently they picked up a new power mixer and power amplifier, instead of the crackly hand-me-down 100 watt audiophile unit that he was using last year, which was his and he loaned it to the festival. We rented speakers last year and this year we are looking to get some speakers. Just last week, Ms. Brooks was talking to a local sound production company who has a small inventory of gently used speakers of his own, which are very much the same that we would have been purchasing for new for half price; \$150 each (similar to what we used last year) instead of \$300, so Mayor Becker wants to look at those. Mayor Becker explained that he wanted to keep the council in the loop, because everything that we are buying is not in one big lump sum and is under the capital threshold and under the equipment threshold of \$500, but he doesn’t like to spend \$500 here and \$300 there without telling the council. Mayor Becker explained that one of the things that Ms. Brooks really wants, which he believes he can put together for \$600 to \$700 in two separate pieces is a remote powered speaker that can be placed out toward the front of the property, because the playground and children’s activities people could not hear the raffle. Mayor Becker stated that the town has the money in the budget for equipment, it’s not capital, because it’s individual pieces. The town has money in this year’s budget and in next year’s budget in the equipment category as long as we can get an approval from the council to spend \$1,500 to \$1,800 more on this equipment.
- **Councilwoman Krafft** made a **motion** that you continue on the process of purchasing sound equipment in piece meal. Mayor Becker commented “purchasing in piece meal”, which is what we are doing, and Ms. Brooks is getting in touch with that local. Councilwoman Krafft responded that was much better, it’s much cheaper that way and you get better quality stuff. Mayor Becker commented that he is buying a lot of new and we are getting it from a professional vendor out of New York; they’ve got the best prices around, but the local guy has some really nice speakers. **Councilwoman Neill** seconded the aforementioned motion by Councilwoman Krafft. *The motion passed unanimously as follows:*

Ayes: Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill

Nays: None

- Ms. Ridings asked to pass on a few words from Ms. Brooks about the festival. Ms. Ridings explained that Ms. Brooks has been real slow with sponsorships coming in and asked if the council knew of anybody that is looking to do some sponsorship to let her know, so she can get in touch with them. Craft vendors are also on the slow side. Ms. Brooks only has nine, which includes Mr. Howie and Philip Morehead with their books, so she only actually has seven crafters. Ms. Ridings stated that she did forward the application over to LeAnn Yandle at the Aquatics Center who will distribute it out to all of her people (she has close to 150), so we will see where that goes. Councilwoman Critz asked if we have lots of sponsors from previous years and vendors that aren’t coming back. Ms. Ridings responded yes, Ms.

Brooks had a couple that have not made any indication that they are coming back and normally she already had them in by this time last year. Craft vendors are always kind of slow.

13. **Consideration of an Audit Contract with Kendra Gangal CPA, PLLC**

- Mayor Becker reminded the council that he had given them the information (so called engagement letter) last month or the month before with Kendra Gangal (auditor). There is a boiler plate Local Government Commission Contract that we always had from Mr. Burns. The hard and fast number is \$4,620, if there was additional work it would be \$75 per hour.
- **Councilwoman Critz** made a **motion** to accept the contract with Kendra Gangal at \$4,620 and **Councilman Countryman** seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

Ayes: Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill
Nays: None

14. **Consideration of Purchasing a Downtown Park Sign**

- Mayor Becker explained that he thought Ms. Brooks put this on the agenda, because Councilwoman Krafft had brought it up. Councilwoman Krafft responded that when they were doing the opening of the park she was watching the traffic going down this street and she thought people didn't realize that the park was actually here, because the sign is over here and you have to turn in. Councilwoman Krafft stated that she thought it would be really nice if we had a sign at the end (on the road side of the park); it doesn't have to be a big sign. Mayor Becker responded that he would see about getting one made by Vaughan Parish (he believed he was still in business); we could do a smaller sign in the same theme. Councilwoman Krafft agreed with the conservation theme and commented that she thought it was important to have a sign that says it's here. Councilwoman Critz thought it was a great idea; people might realize that there is something different; they may not know exactly what it is. Mayor Becker asked what we would call it – "Mineral Springs Park". Councilwoman Critz responded we could name it the "Mineral Springs Downtown Park" or "Mineral Springs Park". "How many words do you want on the sign", Councilwoman Critz asked. Councilman Countryman responded "Mineral Springs Park" is basic, it's elemental, everybody should understand that and you don't have to deal with that many letters. Mayor Becker commented that we will come up with some sketches and even talk to Mr. Parish about getting a price; we might have something next month to move forward on. Councilwoman Critz suggested that it be called the "Mineral Springs Memorial Park", because we established it as a memorial site of sorts, because of our bricks. Councilwoman Neill responded that in a way it sounds like it could be a cemetery and she didn't know about that; it could be misleading. Councilwoman Krafft suggested "Mineral Springs Park". After a brief discussion, the council agreed on "Mineral Springs Park".

15. **Consideration of Calling for a Special Meeting to View an Ethics Webinar**

- Mayor Becker explained that the council had until November 30th to do the Ethics Webinar; it has to happen every two years. Councilwoman Krafft has done that,

because she took the new council members class, which incorporated this. The live webinar was done at the end of May, so it is now available for purchase for \$125. Councilwoman Critz asked if Ms. Brooks needed to be involved in choosing of the date. Mayor Becker responded that it would be nice. Councilwoman Critz suggested tabling this until July.

16. **Consideration of Approving the Town Hall Landscaping Agreement with Taylor and Sons for Fiscal Year 2016-2017**

- Mayor Becker explained that Ms. Brooks talked with Dolores [Taylor] today and they emailed back and forth. There were a couple of penciled in changes that have to be made to this contract, but by and large there are two major changes in their duties: more detail work where the park is now (edging, weeding, weed killing, trimming) and to add the ant treatment into the contract, which is done annually. Mayor Becker commented that he was very pleased when Ms. Brooks said this morning that Ms. Taylor had said “well because of these extra things it is going to be a little more and it will be \$365 a month”; we are paying \$300 a month now. Their contract runs from July 1st through June30th.
- **Councilwoman Critz made a motion to approve the new agreement for \$365 a month with Taylor and Sons Landscaping and Mowing and Councilwoman Krafft seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:**

*Ayes: Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill
Nays: None*

17. **Consideration of Reappointing Board of Adjustment Members**

- Mayor Becker stated that this should be easy. The term for both Lisa McCoy and Marty Connell is expiring. Ms. Brooks has talked with them and they would like to be reappointed, so we just need the council to approve the reappointment.
- **Councilwoman Neill made a motion to reappoint Lisa McCoy and Marty Connell to the Board of Adjustment and Councilwoman Cureton seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:**

*Ayes: Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill
Nays: None*

18. **Staff Reports**

- Mayor Becker explained that Ms. Brooks had a “little” staff update, which he could do quickly. The second house on the left as you go into Copper Run there is a big tree (12” DBH) on our side of the property about three feet in; some of the town property abuts this property. The property owner said that it had injuries or disease/rot and he was afraid it was going to fall on his house. Ms. Brooks called Union County Urban Forester Bill Smith to do an inspection and he believed that the tree had been damaged by construction vehicles; it had been hit pretty hard and gouged badly and then the rot had been introduced. Mayor Becker explained that Ms. Brooks and he were concerned that it was on town property and the town would be “eating” the cost of cutting it down, which may not be cheap. In speaking with Rodney [Holtzmuller] of True Homes it looks like he is probably willing to take that on; he has people and they are clearing the sites. Mayor Becker further

explained that he contacted the stewardship people from the Catawba Lands Conservancy, because being the conservation easement they need to know if we are cutting down a tree. Mayor Becker received an email from them yesterday saying the easement permits removing trees that are diseased or a danger to human life; so that is approved. If we can get True Homes to do it for us at no cost to us, so much the better. Staff will let the council know (if it is finalized by next month) if they're going to cut it down.

19. **Other Business**

- Councilwoman Critz brought up the Humane Society Spay/Neuter Clinic FYI [in the agenda packet]. Councilwoman Critz has a “rescue” that she has used the Spay/Neuter Clinic exclusively for, except for one illness that required a veterinarian that wasn't onsite at the time. They have “Wellness Wednesday” now where you can take your pets in for their regular shots – rabies, distemper, parvo, heart worm tests, etc.; they also have lower prices for medications. Councilwoman Critz stated that she was very pleased and they are just right down the street from us. Initially, Mineral Springs did support them (with a donation) when they were gearing up to start the organization.

20. **Adjournment**

- **Councilwoman Critz** made a motion to adjourn the meeting and **Councilwoman Krafft** seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

Ayes: Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill

Nays: None

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, July 14, 2016 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