

Town of Mineral Springs
Town Hall
3506 S. Potter Road
Town Council
Regular Meeting
October 13, 2016 ~ 7:30 PM

Minutes Draft

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 Thursday, October 13, 2016.

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

Absent: None.

Visitors: None.

With a quorum present Mayor Frederick Becker called the Regular Town Council Meeting of October 13, 2016 to order at 7:33 p.m.

1. **Opening**

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

2. **Public Comments**

- There were no public comments.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- **Councilwoman Coffey** made a **motion** to approve the consent agenda as presented contained the following:

- A. *September 8, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes*
- B. *August 2016 Tax Collector's Report*
- C. *August 2016 Finance Report*

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

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

4. **Consideration of Approving a Proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

- Mayor Becker explained that Ashley Lantz from Turning Point has reminded us that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We do appreciate the work that Turning Point does.
- **Councilwoman Neill made a motion to approve the Proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Councilwoman Critz seconded.** Councilwoman Critz reminded the council and community that there are thrift stores (Second Chance) in Waxhaw and Monroe; all proceeds go to Turning Point. *The aforementioned motion by Councilwoman Neill passed unanimously as follows:*

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

- The Proclamation is as follows:

Proclamation
Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Whereas, domestic violence affects all Union County residents, and far too many people suffer abuse at the hands of a spouse, partner, parent, child, or sibling; these victims can be of any age, race, religion, or economic status and the resulting damage is inflicted not only on the victims, but their children, families, and communities; and

Whereas, domestic violence includes not only physical but also mental abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse, and isolation; and

Whereas, domestic violence is widespread, including one in three Americans who have witnessed an incident of domestic violence with an annual cost to US companies of \$3.5 billion in lost work time, increased health care costs, higher turnover, and lower productivity; and

Whereas, according to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, there have been 819 women, men, and children murdered as a result of domestic violence since January 1, 2002 in North Carolina; and

Whereas, according to the North Carolina Council for Women, domestic violence programs across the state responded to over 114,034 crisis calls and provided services to over 57,000 victims last year; and

Whereas, the key to prevention is education, community awareness, having zero tolerance for domestic violence, and requiring accountability by the abuser; and

Whereas, Union County recognizes the importance of having collaborations by multiple partners to promote social norms, policies and laws that support gender equity and foster intimate partnerships based on mutual respect, equality, and trust; and

Now, Therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederick Becker III, Mayor of the Town of Mineral Springs, do hereby proclaim October 2016 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urge all citizens to support this observance. I further urge our citizens to increase their awareness and education of this destructive force which deeply affects a large number of families in Union County each year and to become part of the efforts to stop violence in families.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Mineral Springs to be affixed this the 13th day of October 2016.

Frederick Becker III, Mayor

Attest:

Vicky Brooks, CMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk

5. Consideration of a Literacy Council Donation

- Mayor Becker explained he touched on this last month; it's an unfortunate thing that we cannot do the Spelling Bee again, but we contributed to them long before there was a Spelling Bee. Mayor Becker asked the council if they wanted to continue contributing and explained between last month and putting the memo out he did talk to the Literacy Council people and they said if the town were to do the \$300 sponsorship again (last year the town was called a "sponsor" in their program) and if the Parkwood faculty did at the last minute put themselves together a team they would accept the team as being sponsored by the town.
- Councilwoman Coffey stated she would not like to see the town donate this year. The town needs to take a look at all of the donations they are making and whether or not it is really to the benefit of our town; we need to pull back on donations across the board. Councilwoman Critz commented personally she has been accused of being overly generous, but she has gotten a lot of feedback from community members saying "they appreciate that town's vested interest in the nonprofits that do come back into the community and support the community and benefit the community", which for Councilwoman Critz has always been a standard she has tried to look at whether she does or does not want to go in that direction as a personal council member and as a representative of those that she has spoken to about it. Councilwoman Coffey commented the town is getting more and more donation requests and we cannot meet all of the needs in America. It has gotten to the point (as you can see our agenda has some other requests on it) and we are just not in a position to meet these needs; "if we want to take on these agencies and benefit them from a personal perspective then let's write them a check as individuals, but not as a town please". Councilwoman Coffey continued we can't meet these requests and if they were coming to our homes in our mailboxes we would have to make some different decisions, so she is just saying at this time we have to make some hard decisions; our heart is there, but we have to make some hard decisions when it comes to the financials and we can't meet everybody's needs. Councilwoman Neill commented in the past there have been people in our community who did benefit from the Literacy Council and while she understands where Councilwoman Coffey is coming from, this is something the town council has done consistently; it's \$300.
- Councilwoman Critz explained for the benefit of those in the audience, the council basically has a parameter of giving back to the community in which they try to stay within the boundaries of, so they are supporting those nonprofits that benefit the community.
- Mayor Becker explained the town used to give the Literacy Council \$250, because they do operate at probably the lowest overhead; it's all volunteers except the Executive Director who is part-time. Mayor Becker didn't believe \$300 means anything specifically in terms of the category of support; we settled on that, because we were Spelling Bee participants and it was so close to the \$250 we had been giving them when we weren't doing the Spelling Bee.
- Councilwoman Coffey explained the whole thing is she wants the council to be more cautious and it is going to come to a point in time that how you make a decision to give or not give is determined and that is not what we want to bring on ourselves. There are a couple of requests here tonight that Councilwoman Coffey doesn't believe they can honor and the question comes up "well you gave so and

so, why couldn't you give to me". Where is your criteria for giving? Councilwoman Critz responded they stay with the criteria they used in the past. Councilwoman Coffey responded back "we can't meet all the needs". It has to stop somewhere and this is Councilwoman Coffey's start and it is nothing personal, but this is her line. Councilwoman Neill agreed the council should draw the line, but she didn't think they should start with the Literacy Council and she thought they should donate.

- **Councilwoman Neill** made a **motion** to give the Literacy Council a contribution and an event sponsor of \$300 and **Councilwoman Critz** seconded. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill

Nays: Coffey and Countryman

6. Consideration of Purchasing New Banners for Downtown

- Ms. Brooks explained she had noticed some of the banners downtown looking pretty bad (especially the green ones). The green ones are not holding up as well as the blue ones for some reason. Ms. Brooks asked the council if they would consider replacing those banners or if they just want them to stay up like they are. Ms. Brooks noted, as a starting point, she has a price from SignPros for the identical banners [in the agenda packet]. Councilwoman Cureton asked if they would all be replaced or just the bad ones. Mayor Becker responded it was hard to determine, some of them are much worse than others, some could last another year, but the question is do you do them all at once so they are all fresh or do you want to selectively replace them. While they are all the same age, for some reason depending on where they are located, which ones got more sun and the green ones seem to have less stable ink so they have faded more than the blues, which don't look bad at all for the most part; those could be saved. The council may want to go with all blue (even though "green" is "the" color), since the blue inks have a better track record; they may last five years instead of three years. Councilwoman Critz asked if we could bring this to their attention and ask if there is anything they could do to the green, maybe a different shade that wears better or something. Ms. Brooks responded she would ask him. Councilwoman Coffey mentioned we were coming up on the holiday season and asked if we would be waiting until after the holiday season to get the new banners. Mayor Becker responded it probably makes sense to wait, so we wouldn't be doing the new ones until the January installation. Councilwoman Krafft commented if it's going to be in January, there is a new sign banner place in Waxhaw and it might be interesting to see what her quote would be; she is eager for business, so it might be a good thing to do. Ms. Brooks was instructed to find out the information on the color stability and to talk to the other person [in Waxhaw]. Ms. Brooks commented Mr. Rorie came up with the design, so it would have to be another design if we went to Waxhaw. Councilwoman Critz felt the town should stick with the design, since it was sort of our "brand". Councilwoman Coffey noted the council has time for the final decision and they could make it next month. Councilwoman Krafft mentioned depending on how he did the design, if the town bought the design with the banners it's your intellectual property, so it goes with you; it's a graphic. Ms. Brooks mentioned Mr. Rorie is very good to the town as far as anything we need

done that needs a bucket truck. Councilwoman Critz stated with Councilwoman Krafft being new, she is not aware as much as they rest of them the ongoing relationship. Mayor Becker commented sometimes it is good; sometimes you are paying for that service. Councilwoman Krafft responded this is what she does for a living, she works with banners and graphics and knows what the pricing is and that is why she is suggesting. Mayor Becker suggested Councilwoman Krafft and Ms. Brooks could get together and talk about the alternative provider. Councilwoman Coffey commented to put it back on for next month.

7. **Discussion of the Nuisance Ordinance Survey Result and Consideration of Next Action to Take**

- Mayor Becker noted that the council had done all the long work on this and Ms. Brooks is maybe looking for guidance on what the next step is. Looking at the timeline, this is one that is going to take a while and we certainly are not going to go to public hearing until January at the earliest (November is too soon and December is Christmas). Ms. Brooks noted at this point she will talk to N-Focus to get some of the answers and asked the council if they wanted her to bring it back to them next month. Councilwoman Coffey responded “please” and Councilwoman Critz responded “absolutely”. Mayor Becker commented maybe N-Focus could start drafting some language of how the rest of the ordinance would be. Mayor Becker noted that Attorney Griffin’s name was invoked at the special meeting, because certain things about procedure, appeal rights, timing, liens and liability, the council wanted to make sure that he weighed in on and reviewed how it works legally for the town. Councilwoman Critz suggested once Ms. Brooks get the rest of the information/wording she should just send it to Attorney Griffin and let him come prepared.
- **Councilwoman Coffey made a motion to have Ms. Brooks contact N-Focus and move forward with actually fixing, modifying the few that we wanted looked at and actually moving forward with the next step and Councilwoman Critz seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:**

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

8. **Mineral Springs 3rd Annual Festival Wrap Up**

- Ms. Brooks pointed out she submitted the [festival] budget to the council; it is not quite complete, because she hasn’t received the bill from Artists Music Guild [for music and licensing], which will put us just over \$600 the town actually spent on this festival. The budget sheet also included the list of donated products and services.
- Councilwoman Critz commented she knows this is a lot of work (especially for Ms. Brooks and Ms. Ridings) and we can’t control the weather (it was hot as Hades this year) and suggested doing the festival in increments of every five years (more to an anniversary moment – 20th year, 25th year, 30th year) and to move the date to the first weekend in October. Councilwoman Coffey commented she knew staff needed a lot of help, but expressed concerns of whether it would have the same impact; if we drop back on it now will we lose? You need to build on it, not tear it down. Councilwoman Krafft shared she thought we were on a roll; it takes a while

to get something like that started and people understanding it. Councilwoman Coffey and Ms. Brooks felt the town shouldn't keep moving the date. Mayor Becker pointed out the one thing that mitigates against doing it every five years with both Ms. Brooks who dealt with sponsors/vendors and Ms. Riding who knows a lot about craft vendors is they want to be able to have a consistent date of an event or you lose them, they don't want to come back and you are starting from scratch. Councilwoman Critz asked why we couldn't do it the first weekend in October. Councilwoman Coffey responded "we have already moved it once". Ms. Brooks responded there are a lot of other things going on in Union County, so with this date we are not competing with Unionville, Waxhaw, Weddington, Monroe, etc. The first weekend in October there is a craft show at the Monroe Aquatics Center featuring 120 crafters, so Mineral Springs wouldn't get any crafters on that weekend.

- Councilwoman Krafft noted it was hot, but they had a lot of traffic with kids (not as many kids as last year because it was so hot), but she thought we were definitely building on what we did the year before and we get better at it each year, because we know what to anticipate. The thing we are lacking is more advertising; it's hard to get the word out to everybody, but maybe a little more advertising beforehand. Councilwoman Krafft also felt if you change the date too much you were going to lose the traffic that you do have; people are starting to understand that it's this date and she thought the community liked it.
- Councilwoman Neill commented the majority of the people she talked with were from Monroe and Waxhaw; there were very few people from Mineral Springs, so how do we get people from our own community. Councilwoman Krafft shared she worked with a lot of kids from our own community, because she sat down at the table with them and did hands-on crafts with them and she would ask them "where do you go to school", "do you like school", "what grade are you in" and that kind of thing. Councilwoman Krafft engaged the parents too, so she knew the children they worked with (at least 100) were predominately from this area.
- Mayor Becker commented there are certain things we particularly hate about it [festival]: we hate the stage and the big tents. Mayor Becker stated he can't even explain how much work day-to-day Ms. Brooks is doing (and Ms. Ridings) in terms of getting the outside personnel organized, the vendors, the sponsors and the newsletters; it is a lot of work, it's not the money. Mayor Becker mentioned he and Ms. Brooks talked about the second newsletter, which isn't charged to the festival and costs close to \$1,000 to produce and mail; Ms. Brooks herself thought it should be charged to the festival, because it is all festival. If you add another \$900 to the cost of the festival, it's still not a lot of tax dollars to spend for an annual event, it is "how do we make it a little less of a burden on staff and how do we get more volunteers". Councilwoman Krafft responded she didn't know, but she was wiped out at the end of it. Mayor Becker commented that he didn't get a chance to see much of it, because he was stranded (with so many acts) backstage and didn't get a chance to really walk the festival. Councilman Countryman commented that he walked it and thanked every vendor on site personally for being there and he spent three hours in the dunk tank. Councilman Countryman explained that he got nothing but good reviews, the vendors seem to have expressed they had a good time and their booths were successful; he saw it as a real successful event and would be in favor of conducting it on an annual basis. Councilman Countryman

reminded the council when Moose [former Carolina Panther Muhsin Muhammad] attended the festival and suggested some type of celebrity figure that kids could associate with and that would be a crowd drawer, because if the children know somebody is going to be here they are going to be telling their folks “hey, I want to go see somebody”. This would be something we might look into. Councilwoman Cureton suggested Mayor Becker was a Panthers fan and he could probably talk to some of those guys. Mayor Becker responded he didn’t think you could get Carolina Panther players that day; a Saturday in September is a workday for them. Councilwoman Krafft suggested we might could get the mascot Sir Purr. The cost is not that much and Councilwoman Krafft can get information on that, because she does that for the football jamboree over in Lancaster.

- Mayor Becker commented that the thought was “we don’t need to make any changes at this time, we are happy, we want to maybe just work with Ms. Brooks on.....” Ms. Brooks commented it is hard work, but she agreed with Councilwomen Krafft and Coffey and Councilman Countryman, at the end of the day if you are going to have the event you need to stay consistent having it the same time every year.
- Mayor Becker updated the council on one of the things he was involved in, which was the sound equipment; he believed their tax money was spent well on it. Ms. Brooks added their money was spent well with the Artists Music Guild as well. Mayor Becker agreed and explained it’s a nonprofit that we’re making a contribution to, but it’s also a partnership that we are actually getting direct services from. Mayor Becker explained he and Ms. Brooks had been agonizing over music licensing, because it had come to their attention over the years if you are playing recorded music on CD’s that you bought and you own, you don’t own the license to that music if you are doing a public venue. We were able to get 100 songs that Ms. Brooks selected and downloaded onto a USB stick and then got a blanket license through Artists Music Guild who work with ASCAP, BMI and SESAC (royalty organizations). Mayor Becker believed it was good for five years and along with the entire collection of music the bill will only be approximately \$389. These royalty organizations are literally sending people out to festivals and saying “where is your license”, so we are squeaky clean on that and that is worth its weight in gold all by itself. Plus, through the Artists Music Guild, we had three performers.
- Mayor Becker referred back to the sound equipment and explained that in addition to a new mixer we bought a combination CD/USB stick player; it is worth its weight in gold at approximately \$299. We were able to play all of our background music on it and use the backup for two musicians (one was a CD and one was on USB). Richard Kiser brought his own mixers. The Helms brothers had enough microphones for them. Mayor Becker believed our sound system has really come together. Ms. Brooks’ contact with Stage Rite Productions paid off, because not only did we get the two speakers that were in perfect condition and the stands to go with them for the main area, we got the stage case the speakers fit perfectly into and there is a center compartment where the mixer, CD player and the cables go; all of that was \$450, so it was an excellent purchase.

9. Welcome Sign Mowing Payment

- Mayor Becker referred to the memo [in the agenda packet] and explained Mr. Newell asked if the town would give him a \$25/month increase after 15 years.

- **Councilman Countryman** made a **motion** to increase his rate from \$200 to \$225 and we authorize him to buy the mulch up to \$100 and **Councilwoman Neill** seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

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

10. **School Donations**

- Mayor Becker pointed out there was a long self-explanatory memo [in the agenda packet]. The town is very loyal to our two schools that most of our town kids attend (maybe too loyal). Parkwood is not a regular item; we haven't been asked to give them anything this year. Western Union was cut back, because we told them they weren't getting \$2,000 every year. CATA and Union Academy are just different situations. In Mayor Becker's opinion, it is one thing if the town is cutting back, but we shouldn't be expanding our donations to schools that are so far out. Councilwoman Neill pointed out CATA and Union Academy attract students from all over the county, not just from Mineral Springs. Councilwoman Coffey mentioned she had family members that came out of CATA and Union Academy that are doing well; however, their personal dollars have gone to help them, they did not come to Mineral Springs for that and she said that to say this is a "no" for her. Councilwoman Neill also had a family member that graduated from CATA. Councilwoman Critz commented the council makes decisions that serve the community as a whole and not just a select few and she thought it was very applicable to this situation. Councilwoman Critz home schooled all of her children, but her tax dollars still went into public education while she was spending money out of her own pocket and her own time to educate her own children. Councilwoman Critz has no regret or animosity, but as a council member looking at the community as a whole it doesn't seem to her to be serving the community that same way as they do at Western Union and Parkwood. Councilwoman Krafft agreed.
- **Councilman Countryman** made a **motion** not to support either of the two schools (CATA or Union Academy) donation requests and **Councilwoman Coffey** seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

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

11. **Staff Reports**

- There were no staff reports

12. **Other Business**

- There was no other business.

13. **Adjournment**

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

Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill

Nays: None

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, November 10, 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

DRAFT