

**Town of Mineral Springs
Town Hall
3506 S. Potter Road
Town Council
Regular Meeting
March 8, 2018 ~ 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 Thursday, March 8, 2018.

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

Absent: None.

Visitors: David L. Cook.

With a quorum present Mayor Frederick Becker called the Regular Town Council Meeting of March 8, 2018 to order at 7:31 p.m.

1. Opening

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

2. Public Comments

- There were no public comments.

3. Consent Agenda

- **Councilwoman Neill made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented containing the following:**

- A. *February 8, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes*
- B. *January 2018 Tax Collector's Report*
- C. *January 2018 Finance Report*

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

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

4. Artists Music Guild

- Mr. David L. Cook explained they had prepared a sizzle reel for the council to see how their money was spent last year and that they were requesting the same amount of money this year: the \$4,000 that they got. Mr. Cook brought to the council's attention how their \$4,000 paid off in just one day. During the festival last year, as he was walking through the park he saw a man out there wearing an ASCAP [American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers] shirt with a pad in his hand and he was looking for the licenses for all the music that was being played. Mr. Cook met him and at that point he said, "does this event have a license" and Mr. Cook pulled out his phone and showed him their LLC license, so he got back in his car and he left, so the Artists Music Guild saved the town \$4,000 right there. Mr. Cook stated he was glad that he was there; the town's money was put to good use.
- Mr. Cook explained they have expanded their program into more schools this year. They did partner with Western Union; it's going to be really bad this year coming up with Western Union, because they are affected now by the split, so their students are going to go from 620 down to 330 or something like that. Their arts programs are destined to be cut; therefore, we will have to step in and do more work with that school. Today, they found out that Waxhaw Elementary will be coming on board with them this year as well and some of those students (they checked the demographics) live here in Mineral Springs as well, so it does have an impact on Mineral Springs.
- Mr. Cook showed the council and audience the sizzle reel from the 2017 AMG Heritage Awards.
- Mr. Cook explained this was a very passionate issue for him and he knows we're in a time where the economy is just pulling at us and everything like that, but one thing that it's pulling at also, is it is pulling at our kids and it's pulling at the arts and if we don't support the nonprofits like us out there doing something to try to make a difference, then these kids are the ones to lose and Mr. Cook refuses to let that happen. Mr. Cook stated as you can see our impact on the community speaks for itself and so he would just pray that council would give the same consideration and continue to fund them for the amount that they asked for.
- Councilwoman Critz asked if Mr. Cook planned to be at the festival again this year. Mr. Cook responded, "yes, as long as we continue to receive funding, we look at that as a partnership and so we'll be there, we'll help supply artists for it and we will continue to cover it with our licenses".

5. Consideration of Appointing a Member to the Board of Adjustment

- Mayor Becker explained the Board of Adjustment needed an alternate and Mr. Jim Muller had volunteered to fill the position.
- **Councilman Countryman made a motion to accept Jim Muller as an alternate and Councilwoman Neill seconded.** Councilwoman Critz thanked Mr. Muller for volunteering and for being here during other things where he participated as a planning board member. *The aforementioned motion by Councilman Countryman passed unanimously as follows:*

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

6. **Consideration of the Deer Urban Archery Season Renewal**

- Councilman Countryman explained this was a program designed to manage the deer herd here in Union County, actually statewide, but it sets up a specific hunting season that's archery only that is outside the general hunting season, generally from the 15th of January until the 15th of February. It's really critical that we continue to maintain this, because the problem is there are way too many deer and the balance is really out of whack, ideally in an ideal world, as a hunter you would like to see the buck to doe ratios be as close to one-to-one as possible. In the general area (he talked to a game warden a couple years ago) and his estimates were it was probably twenty-to-one or more and you don't really understand if you're not a hunter, you don't understand the impact of that disparity, but what that causes bucks to do is there is a certain period of time when bucks don't have anything on their mind except those girls and unfortunately, they are very much like females and they cycle every 28 days and because there's so many of them than what normally should happen within a two month period gets extended for as much as five months, there's still bucks breeding does as we speak and you'll see bucks now that are still carrying antlers that should have been shed in late January or early February, as long as the testosterone levels are up, they are going to continue to do what God tells them to do and literally some of them run themselves to death. So it's really critical that we have this extended season for those guys that are into archery like Councilman Countryman and some other individuals he knows. That just helps to better manage the deer herd; save some peoples azaleas and gardens. Councilwoman Critz said "or their lives". Councilman Countryman repeated or their lives that they are not hitting them with cars. There's really only two things that deplete the deer herd in North Carolina, one is automobiles and the other is hunters and automobiles do a better job; they kill as many deer as hunters do.
- ***Councilman Countryman made a motion to approve that season for next year, it's a requirement by the state that we request it, they don't just give it to us, so I'm going to make a motion that we have that Urban Archery Season for the year 2018 (mid-January of next year until mid-February) and Councilwoman Critz seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:***

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

Nays: None

7. **Consideration of Purchasing a Steeplechase Advertisement**

- Mayor Becker stated it is in the budget as a line item. It is the same ad, unless the council wants to do something different. The event is April 28th this year. Mayor Becker hoped to see everyone at the race and our town represented in the race program.
- ***Councilwoman Neill made a motion to purchase the Steeplechase advertisement as presented and Councilwoman Cureton seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:***

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

Nays: None

- Mayor Becker mentioned that was a \$300 ad; it's full page black/white.

8. **Consideration of a Contract with Taylor & Sons Greenway Parking Maintenance**

- Mayor Becker explained the council discussed this in the fall and there was quite a bit of interest in having Taylor and Sons maintain the borders, the grasses, etc. at the parking area on a more regular basis than he is able to do it. Mayor Becker was over there with Derrick Taylor a couple weeks ago and they walked the parking area, even beyond the picnic areas where cutting is also done. Taylor and Sons will do it once a month (which is all we really need) for \$125 a time and they will bill the town. Mayor Becker also asked Derrick about the driveway, which Councilman Countryman and he tried to deal with that very loose gravel, but Derrick has some experience with that type of gravel and he is fairly confident that he can level it (it doesn't last forever, cause just normal use plus doing donuts tears it up) for \$325 on an as needed basis, which may be twice a year. That should satisfy some of the complaints the town has had about the parking area being unkempt.
- **Councilman Countryman made a motion to accept that offer and put them under contract.** Mayor Becker restated the motion "to accept the Taylor and Son's proposal of \$125 for the mowing and trimming and \$325 on demand for the driveway and parking lot clearing". **Councilwoman Cureton seconded the motion.** Councilwoman Krafft asked if we had a season where the grass is growing rapidly can they come a second time as needed. Mayor Becker responded that he talked to Derrick about that, the contract sort of just says this, but it would just be that. Mayor Becker and Derrick discussed that and he didn't think it would happen, but he would be willing and it would just be the same amount. *The aforementioned motion by Councilman Countryman passed unanimously as follows:*

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

9. **Staff Reports**

- Ms. Brooks stated she thought Mr. Cook would like sort of idea on his request. Mayor Becker responded the council could vote on that. Mr. Cook responded, no, he was just trying to get their budget in order, so they know what, if they had a deficit. **Councilman Countryman made a motion that we approve his request to go into the budget.** Mayor Becker responded okay, they can do that as a motion and referred to Attorney Griffin asking if that was correct. The council can go back to making the motion to accept the item #4 and direct it to be placed in the budget at this time; the council can't really spend it until its approved in the budget. Attorney Griffin responded they surely could and they can always change their mind too. **Councilman Countryman continued his motion to fund it at the same rate it was funded last year.** Mayor Becker stated he would put it in the budget 2018/19 at \$4,000. **Councilwoman Krafft seconded the motion by Councilman Countryman.** *The motion passed unanimously as follows:*

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

- Mayor Becker clarified that he would put that in the budget and they will see how that goes through. As our attorney said “you can change your mind right up until June 30th at 11:59 he guessed; hopefully the council will stick to it. Councilwoman Coffey commented she didn’t realize the council was considering it this evening, because it wasn’t presented that way on the agenda. Mayor Becker responded he didn’t think so either, but that’s okay, at least there’s some clarity and it will be put in the budget at that amount; it gives Mr. Cook some certainty.
- Mr. Cook explained that he had worked with Vicky and with the mayor and they are trying to think of things that they can do to help perpetuate more acknowledgement of Mineral Springs. Artists Music Guild just did a program with Waxhaw where they did the “I Love Lucy” display and they had close to 600 people that came through the display. They were thinking about doing it during the festival, taking this area here [council chambers] and turning it into a display area, so that people can come in from the festival and we’ll have maybe the first ladies and gentleman of country music, we can do the “I Love Lucy” again, we can do all of that stuff so that it will help bring some recognition to the town as well.

10. Other Business

- Councilwoman Critz explained that Mayor Becker and herself attended the government school in Asheville the week before last. Councilwoman Critz proposed that the council pick a time in the not too far future, because she and Rick divided and conquered, she went to the veteran officials classes and Rick went to the essentials class. There’s a lot of really good information in the veterans class that was totally new to Councilwoman Critz and it would be totally new to the council as well and then the essentials were just good reminders. Councilwoman Critz thought Rick picked up on a few things that were a little different or need to be repeated and reinforced from time-to-time. Councilwoman Critz suggested that maybe the council could meet 30 minutes early in the next couple of months at one of our meetings and let Rick and herself sort of do a little outline briefly from what they gleaned; they networked with a few people, met all, they called them “the kids”, they sort of got named that the first day, all of the under 30’s that just got elected in Charlotte were at the training and it was exciting to see a younger generation participating and coming up in the ranks. Councilwoman Critz would like the council to consider that. Councilman Countryman responded he would say a special meeting. Mayor Becker commented it would have to be considered a special meeting, so they probably can’t call for that tonight, because it’s not on the agenda, but they could call for it next month for a May meeting.
- Ms. Brooks commented as much as it was not like her, she was going to go back to staff reports and say she won’t be here next month. Mayor Becker responded that’s important to know. Ms. Brooks added the council will be having two public hearings. Councilwoman Critz asked if this was when Ms. Brooks was at her training. Ms. Brooks responded she was going to be training to become a new mother-in-law!! Mayor Becker commented Ms. Brooks would do a lot of briefing for him and Janet prior to that so they can handle it.

11. Adjournment

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

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

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, April 12, 2018 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