

Town of Mineral Springs
Town Hall
3506 S. Potter Road
Town Council
Public Hearings / Regular Meeting
June 13, 2019 ~ 7:30 PM

Minutes

The Town Council of the Town of Mineral Springs, North Carolina, met in Public Hearings and Regular Session at the Mineral Springs Town Hall, Mineral Springs, North Carolina, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, 2019.

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

Absent: None.

Visitors: Sheila Crunkleton, Andrew Friend, Jessie Lindberg, and Victor Thompson.

With a quorum present Mayor Frederick Becker called the Regular Town Council Meeting of June 13, 2019 to order at 7:33 p.m.

1. Opening

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

2. Public Hearing – 2019-2020 Proposed Budget

- Mayor Becker explained this was a statutory hearing, which is required every year on the proposed budget, this is for the 2019-2020 proposed budget. Mayor Becker hoped the budget would be adopted tonight.
- Mayor Becker opened the 2019-2020 Proposed Budget Public Hearing at 7:34 p.m.
- There were no public hearing comments.
- Mayor Becker closed the 2019-2020 Proposed Budget Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m.

3. Public Hearing – CUP19-01 – Western Union Community Development, LLC

- Mayor Becker noted he would need some help from Zoning Administrator/Planning Director Vicky Brooks and explained this was a public hearing for a quasi-judicial conditional use permit submitted by Western Union Community Development, LLC.
- Mayor Becker opened the CUP19-01 – Western Union Community Development, LLC Public Hearing at 7:36 p.m.

- Mayor Becker explained he understood this was for a development and operation of a small park in the Western Union neighborhood and he believed Mr. Thompson was here on behalf of the applicant.
- Mayor Becker explained this was called a quasi-judicial hearing, which means the council will operate like a courtroom. Mayor Becker will be swearing in anybody who is going to be presenting evidence. This is formal, because the council has a specific set of guidelines and a specific set of Findings of Fact on whether or not to approve the conditional use permit.
- This conditional use permit is to operate a park, so it should be simple/straight forward, but they are a little more formal, because of the swearing in and the type of evidence is more formal. Normally, when the council has a public hearing, people come up and say what they like, or don't like, or they think you should do that, but in quasi-judicial public hearings, the council expects evidence, such as an appraiser who can testify that something would harm property value; that would be his evidence. There is a difference in the type of evidence that the council can consider at a quasi-judicial hearing, where it has to be factual and more formal in nature and the council can only make their decision based on evidence entered in writing, which the clerk will accept as written exhibits (just like in court) and evidence that is presented under oath by the applicant, staff, and other members of the public who wish to make comments on it, which will give the town council the opportunity to find the facts either in the affirmative or the negative and whether or not to approve the permit.
- Mayor Becker swore in Mr. Victor Thompson and Ms. Vicky Brooks.
- Mayor Becker explained the parties in this case are entitled to an impartial board, which means any of the "seven of us" shouldn't have had any preconceived notions for or against the project and if somebody has been involved or believe they have a strong opinion one way or the other (a strong favor or disfavor). Mayor Becker asked if any member of the council thought they had a fixed opinion, or they have heard it before to speak up.
- Councilwoman Coffey stated she would like to recuse herself as a member of the community, having been involved in the past, and being aware of some of the things they are doing.
- Councilwoman Cureton stated she would have to recuse herself, because she is heavily involved in it.
- Councilwoman Krafft stated she would need to recuse herself as being part of the planning board.
- Attorney Griffin explained the board would vote to recuse, if that is what the board chooses to do.
- ***Councilwoman Critz made a motion that we accept the recusal and Councilman Countryman seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:***
 - Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft, and Neill*
 - Nays: None*
- Mayor Becker noted there was a quorum of three and there would not be a tie, so he won't be voting. Councilwoman Critz asked if the mayor needed to vote, since a

quorum would be four. Mayor Becker responded a quorum would be three and him. Attorney Griffin added "he votes only in the case of a tie". Ms. Brooks noted the vote to approve or disapprove is a simple majority of those present.

- Mayor Becker asked if anyone thought they had other involvement with the project, has been to the site, or has had any ex parte discussion. Councilwoman Neill and Councilman Countryman responded no involvement. Mayor Becker stated even though he had no vote and even if he did, he didn't think it would disqualify him, but he has visited the park, but he didn't feel it affected his ability to vote, although he didn't think he will have to vote with an odd number, but he did want to disclose that. Mayor Becker asked if the board felt satisfied that would be okay. Councilwoman Critz responded yes. Mayor Becker stated he would continue to chair the hearing with no further objections. The council feels that they have an impartial board who can hear the evidence.
- Mayor Becker reminded Ms. Brooks she was still under oath.
- Ms. Brooks stated she had notified everyone that needed notice, posted a sign on the property, and would like to enter the conditional use permit application into the record as evidence. Ms. Brooks explained the property was located at 5101 Lee Massey Road and per our ordinance, in Article 5 – Table of Uses, if you are going to have a community park or recreational facility, you may do so, but it has to go through the conditional use permitting process. Ms. Brooks suggested that Mr. Thompson present his evidence.
- Mayor Becker reminded Mr. Thompson that he was still under oath.
- Victor Thompson – *"My name is Victor Thompson. I am the vice president of the Western Union Community Park Development, which we have now entered into a nonprofit status. We are also 'Western Union Community Development, LLC'. First of all, I want to thank the mayor for allowing us to speak to council. Ms. Brooks, I want to thank you also, as well. We thank the Mineral Springs neighborhood and we also acknowledge that we thank the Western Union Community Park Development group for being here tonight. Thank all of you for allowing us to speak. So, first of all, I would like to give you an indication of what we are doing in our community. This land was purchased back in the 50's by some of our founders, an individual, to develop it for our community. Those forefathers have passed on and so as a new organization, we took on the responsibility in 2016 to redevelop our park for our community, for our youth to have something to do and a place to go. With the new rules and guidelines for the school system, we were not able to use their facility within our budget, so God has allowed us the property that was already ours, owned by us, we took the initiative to move forward to renovating and redeveloping this property. At this time, we only have picnic tables on site and some horseshoes right now that we use at this time, but we do have plans to do more development on the property as the funding and the permits allow. One of the things that we do, we have a Fourth of July annual cookout, which is free to the public. Last year, we served over 200+ people, which the food that was served was donated by the committee along with the neighbors and also outsourcing individuals outside of the community. They helped us with the financing of food. The board itself worked very hard to accomplish that goal. If I am not mistaken, everyone enjoyed themselves, we didn't have any negativity, we had the sheriff's office come out to spend some time with us as well, so we didn't have any interruptions or anything of that nature. This year we are*

planning again, and we are looking to exceed 200 to 300 people. Again, this is through the board and the members of the community funding this event. Again, God willing, we have our nonprofit status, so we can reach out and get some assistance from others. One of the things that we are doing is bridging the gap between our seniors and our youth. By doing that, we're also adding a vegetable garden and a flower garden that our seniors are able to come out and maintain and teach our youth a little bit about history and about gardening and things of that nature. We are also doing some things with the flower garden and also to teach our youth how to have a green thumb. So, we are taking this opportunity to give back to our community and help our community develop to where it needs to be. In order for us to do that, it takes us, as a unit, to get together and we spend a lot of time just going back and forth and as a group and an organization, making sure we get everything right, dotting our 'i's' and crossing our 't's' to the best of our ability. We make sure we go through all the legal aspects of what we are attempting to do and so by doing that, I can honestly say, based on me standing here before you 'that everything we have done thus far has been legal, has been checked by an attorney, and again by history sake, we have accomplished great things on the property.' Everything that has been done over there was donated. The work that was done was donated, so we have asked a lot of people to assist us and participate. Again, the mayor came over and saw it and noticed it. Ms. Peggy from zoning, she has acknowledged that she would love to come over on the fourth and we encourage each and everyone of you, we would love for you guys to come out and see exactly everything we are doing, because this is going to be the heart of our community and by doing this, we are not only going to bridge the gap, but we are going to change our neighborhood for the better and I think, as council, I think as the members of this city, I think that is one of the things we are looking forward to do is cause change and in order to have change, it takes individuals to take a step outside their comfort zone and do the things that we do. I thank God for our president, President Greg, for leading us, he is an entrepreneur, he owns his own business, for our treasurer, Treasurer Damon, which owns his own catering business. We thank you families, as well, so we have some of our trustees here and secretary and the assistant secretary as well, along with individuals from the community. So, we do have the support, we are small in number, but big at heart, and so with saying that, I hope and pray that you guys get the opportunity to come out and see what we are doing and then take part, because we would like to take this opportunity for you guys to come and meet us. This is not about politics, but it's a chance for us to get a chance to meet you, you a chance to meet those that are voting for you and that plays a part. This community has been established before I was born, and I am 50. Thank God for that, but this community was established years before I was born, and it has a long-lasting heritage of unity and so we are just taking that opportunity to enhance it. We are just encouraged by the opportunity to be here; we encourage an opportunity that you guys have given us to move forward and we hope that with additional permit that we can move forward and do great and mighty things."

- Mayor Becker asked if there were any questions for Mr. Thompson. Councilwoman Critz stated she had no questions, but wanted to say, "I think Western Union has accomplished something that a lot of communities have failed to accomplish and I am a native North Carolinian, I grew up in Wilkes County, and I have relatives that

still live on land that's been in our family for over 200 years. A lot of them go away, but they come back and by staying in your community, you've built relationships and strengths and unity that you otherwise wouldn't have accomplished." Mayor Becker suggested that would probably be good to use as part of council deliberations, if they feel that is part of it based on the testimony. Councilwoman Critz continued, "I think you've caught something that a lot of communities have missed."

- Councilwoman Critz advised Mr. Thompson to make sure all of their things meet the requirements, because there are people that do look.
- Mayor Becker stated if there are no further witnesses that wish to be sworn in, the council can temporarily release Mr. Thompson from the "hot seat."

4. **Consideration of Conditional Use Permit 19-01 for Western Union Community Development, LLC**

- Mayor Becker explained this item was for the "Consideration of Conditional Use Permit" and there has not been a lot of testimony, but the council can only base their decision/findings of fact (the sheet in front of the council) on whether somebody has said any of those things will or will not happen. The council will determine whether the findings can be found in the affirmative and if the standards have been met.
- Mayor Becker reminded the participants they were still under oath.
- Mayor Becker presented the Findings of Fact:

- a. The use will not materially endanger the public health or safety if located where proposed and developed according to the submitted plan.

Councilman Countryman made a motion to vote "yes" on this Finding and Councilwoman Critz seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

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

This decision was based on:

1. There are no witnesses providing any indication that it would provide a hostile environment for their neighborhood or that it would be in anyway counter to their lifestyle, or their living conditions, or anything in that area.
2. Statements made by the vice president of the organization were found to be affirmative, enheartening, enlightening, and provides a great opportunity for the youth of that community in their development process.

- b. The use meets all required conditions and specifications.

Ms. Brooks referred to the site plan, which shows a lot of trees and asked Mr. Thompson if at some point they would be getting rid of any of those trees. Mr. Thompson responded, "at this time, we do not have any plans to get rid of any of the trees. We are looking forward to keeping that canopy of trees, because one of the things that we are doing, we are setting a picnic area along the park, inside the park and we will soon have a walking trail, so in order to do that, we want to

keep the canopy of trees in place". Ms. Brooks suggested that the council might want to get something from the Western Union Community Development showing a landscape plan where they propose to keep the trees, because we are required to have the trees and a buffer area to adjoining residential properties.

Councilwoman Critz asked if they were planning to have an engineer do an official schematic rather than what was submitted with the application. Mr. Thompson responded, "at this time, again, it's based on our funding, and because of our funding, everything we have addressed in your drawing is things that we, as an organization, are physically able to maintain. In the future, endeavors that we are looking to do, are, one day, we would actually bring an engineer in for the schematics of the property and also any structure that we might plan to do at that time based on any utilities that would be placed and positioned would determine that factor."

Mayor Becker commented that Mr. Thompson or whoever was in charge would have to go to Ms. Brooks again for an individual permit for a structure, at which time she would have to review buffering and screening requirements to make sure they were being brought into compliance or were still in compliance.

Councilwoman Critz made a motion in the affirmative that the use meets all required conditions and specifications based on testimony and based on the information on the application itself from the planning board committee who have thoroughly reviewed this and recommended to the council as well.

Ms. Brooks noted there was no one from the planning board present to testify to that. Attorney Griffin stated the application and its data exhibits are part of the evidence. Mayor Becker added that was an exhibit that Ms. Brooks introduced into evidence and the council approved it.

Councilwoman Neill seconded the motion made by Councilwoman Critz. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

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

This decision was based on:

1. The written permit.
2. The planning board recommended approval.
3. The council believed the landscaping, etc. are being addressed.
4. The planning board found in the affirmative based on the written evidence that was introduced.

- c. The use will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property or the use is a public necessity.

Mayor Becker commented the town always waives the public necessity, because it does not apply and just say “this will not substantially injure the value of adjoining property.” Councilwoman Neill responded, the council had no testimony of evidence of adjoining or abutting property that this would cause injury. Councilwoman Critz added the council also had the “certification of mailing” as the notice of public hearing and nothing negative was reported to them.

Councilwoman Neill made a motion to find in the affirmative and Councilwoman Critz seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

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

This decision was based on:

1. There was no testimony by any appraisers that the use would substantially injure the value of adjoining properties.
2. There was a “certification of the mailing” and the notice of public hearing and nothing negative was reported to the council.

- d. The location and character of the use, if developed according to the plan as submitted and approved, will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located and will be in general conformity with this Ordinance and the Town of Mineral Springs Land Development Plan.

Councilman Countryman deferred to the planning director/zoning director having reviewed it for conformity and meeting the requirements under the terms of zoning and planning.

Mayor Becker referred to Mr. Thompson’s testimony about the involvement of the neighbors/neighborhood. Mayor Becker thought that the neighborhood feelings were that it is in harmony would be a finding.

Councilman Countryman made a motion the council rule in the affirmative and Councilwoman Neill seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

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

This decision was based on:

1. The use is in conformity and meets the requirements under the terms of zoning and planning.

2. Mr. Thompson's testimony about the involvement of the neighbors.
- e. Additional review criteria, as stated in the Ordinance shall also be considered and addressed where required.

Mayor Becker asked if there were any additional review criteria and if they were considered and addressed. Ms. Brooks responded yes, there were additional review criteria and the council could determine if they were addressed in order to make that determination.

6.10.8 – Zoning Ordinance – Public Parks and Recreational Facilities:

- a. Relationships to and impacts upon adjoining and nearby properties and the adequacy of proposed measures to minimize any adverse impacts.
- b. The proposed use will be compatible with the general characteristics of the area with respect to the location of structure and the location, design, and screening of off-street parking areas.

Mayor Becker stated that was just a general finding and based on Mr. Thompson's description of the site and the neighborhood. Mayor Becker asked if Mr. Thompson had any more to add to that. Mr. Thompson responded, "based on established parking. One of the things we are in the process of doing, we are going to partner with Thompson Chapel Zion Church, which is a cemetery adjacent to us, so we are going to make available for them the usage of parking for any event that they have and so we met with their leaders and established everything. Some of the neighbors adjoining are here that adjoin to the property and we have talked to them as well and made sure everything we've done has been okay with them and we have not overstepped anyone or bypassed anyone to make sure anything that we've done has not caused anyone disruption in our community."

Mayor Becker noted there hasn't been any testimony from those neighbors that would indicate that there was a problem and the Thompson Chapel Cemetery is an adjoining property owner.

Councilwoman Critz made a motion to find in the affirmative based on testimony and again refer to the certification of the mailings to the property owners and no negative responses from them and Councilman Countryman seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

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

This decision was based on:

1. Testimony.

2. The certification of the mailings to the property owners and no negative responses from them.
- f. Any deviation from the terms of this Ordinance will result in a project that is at least equal to or better than what would be accomplished under the strict application of this Ordinance.

Mayor Becker asked Ms. Brooks if F & G applied. Ms. Brooks responded no.

Councilman Countryman made a motion to find in the affirmative on "F", because it is not applicable and Councilwoman Critz seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

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

This decision was based on:

1. The finding does not apply.
- g. Any deviation from the terms of this Ordinance will not adversely affect the right of other abutting or nearby property owners in any material manner.

Councilwoman Neill made a motion to find in the affirmative on "G", because it is not applicable and Councilwoman Critz seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

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

This decision was based on:

1. This finding does not apply.
- Mayor Becker explained the council had found in the affirmative all seven Findings of Fact and at this time they can vote, and the word is based on the above Findings of Fact and the tabulated votes of the sitting members. A simple majority is required, the following action was taken on June 13, 2019 by the Town of Mineral Springs Town Council after a public hearing was held and duly advertised beforehand on the dates recorded. The choice is a conditional use permit granted as applied; granted conditionally with additional conditions; or disapproved/denied.
 - ***Councilman Countryman made a motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit granted and Councilwoman Critz seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:***

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

- Mayor Becker closed the CUP19-01 Public Hearing at 8:09 p.m.

5. **Public Comments**

- There were no public comments.

6. **Consent Agenda**

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

- A. May 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. April 2019 Tax Collector's Report
- C. April 2019 Finance Report

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

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

7. **American Red Cross – Sheila Crunkleton**

- American Red Cross Representative Sheila Crunkleton gave a presentation to the council. Volunteers make up 90% of Red Cross, they have a very small staff. Ms. Crunkleton is the only paid staff in Union County. In the six counties Ms. Crunkleton has in the southern piedmont, there are four paid staff on the humanitarian services side, the rest are volunteers. Ms. Crunkleton stated she has amazing volunteers who deliver the mission. Ninety cents on every dollar goes straight to the mission and the other is administrative costs (salaries, buildings).
- Disaster was a big one last year, not only from a local front, but also from the national front. Most of what Red Cross did locally was responding to family house fires. On the national side, they had Hurricane Florence come through in September. Florence hit all six of Ms. Crunkleton's counties at the same time, so they had five shelters open (Cabarrus County did not have one open). Ms. Crunkleton mentioned she and Chief Gaddy were on several committees that make decisions. They work with emergency management and they are county partners. Decisions are made long before a storm comes in; they talk about shelters and they have shelter agreements, so they have already surveyed them and know what they offer. Florence was different, because they knew it was going to be a slow-moving storm and they were able to prepare well in advance. A shelter was opened on Friday morning and at the height of the storm they had 100 people in the shelter being taken care of.
- Ms. Crunkleton stated their volunteers gain experience going to national disasters and currently they have people in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. Currently, there are nine states with disaster operations going on, which does include North Carolina, because of the recent flooding of the Catawba River. There are always things that are happening, and Red Cross is ready, always on standby, and ready to go.
- Ms. Crunkleton explained on the blood services side, it is critical that they have blood available, because people need it. Red Cross is the largest supplier of blood in the

United States, collecting about 40% of the nation's blood supply. Only three out of a hundred people donate blood. Most people don't realize about the transfusions that cancer patients need or accident victims. People say to Ms. Crunkleton they will give blood if their family ever needs it, but they are waiting too long if they are waiting until their family needs it, because that blood needs to go through the testing cycle and everything that happens to it to be ready for when that happens. Every two seconds somebody is needing blood, so it's very important.

- Red Cross provides a service to the Armed Forces, they are the only organization nationwide that can relay emergency messages to service men and women while they are deployed.
- Red Cross offers training services to make sure people are trained on CPR and First Aid.
- Ms. Crunkleton mentioned a special blood drive (in memory of her mom) on July 2nd at the Chamber.

8. Council on Aging – Andrew Friend

- Council on Aging Executive Director Andrew Friend made a presentation to the council. Council on Aging is a nonprofit organization that was founded in the 70's with a purpose of helping our older neighbors remain independent for as long as possible. Their mission has stayed the same for over 41 years, but their demographics and the amount of people they are serving continues to grow rapidly.
- North Carolina is aging and history has been made this year. For the first time in our state's history, we now have more people over the age of 60 than under 18, which means we have more older adults in our community than we have children in our schools/daycares. The demand for services continues to grow each year and they meet that demand through different programs they have.
- The "Options Counseling Program" is connecting seniors through resources with different partner agencies in all the resources that are out and available to the community using a person center approach. There is the SHIP Medicare program, which is through the North Carolina Department of Insurance, that provides unbiased Medicare counseling. When you turn 65 or you are on Medicare due to a disability, there are lots of decisions to make, it is not as easy as getting Medicare and signing up. In our state, Medicare beneficiaries must choose between 10 supplemental plans, sold by 45 private insurance companies, 28 Part D prescription drug plans, and 14 Medicare Advantage Plans. Council on Aging offers services at no cost (they don't sell insurance) to show people all their options and help them understand all of them, so they can make informed decisions and not overpay for insurance. Last year, Council on Aging had over 2,000 Medicare client contacts. Council on Aging can't do that alone with their small staff at their office, so they do have a team of about 14 volunteers that are trained by the Department of Insurance to provide those counseling services. One of the biggest things Council on Aging does with the program (during Medicare open enrollment) is to help seniors and those on disability review their prescription drug plan. Clients will bring in their medicines and Council on Aging will find out which of the 28 plans will cover their medicines the most and cost them the least. In 2018, they helped 632 people in seven and a half weeks and helped those people save over \$450,000 on their medicines just by reviewing and comparing plans. There are over 30,000 Medicare beneficiaries in our county alone

and they only see a small fraction of them, but through their outreach they are trying to reach more people with that program.

- Through the “Options Counseling Program”, Council on Aging also does home safety repairs and yard work for seniors. They can connect their older neighbors with volunteers that can build wheelchair ramps, install grab bars in bathrooms, install handrails on stairs, change light bulbs, change smoke detectors, and things that get harder as people age.
- Council on Aging has an equipment program where they give out (and accept donations of) durable medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, bedside commodes, shower chairs and safety equipment, which are typically not covered by insurance. These items are given out at no cost; last year they gave out 495 pieces of equipment. In addition to that, they also give out incontinence supplies and they accept donations.
- Council on Aging partners with the North Carolina Legal Aide to connect seniors with free legal services, such as living wills, powers of attorney, etc.
- Council on Aging also has an “In-home Services Program” where they provide, at no cost, in-home services to 130 of their old neighbors once or twice a week for things such as personal care or help with small household chores in an effort to keep people safe in their home, so they don’t have to move into an assisted living or nursing home if they don’t want to.
- There is a “Family Caregiver Support Program” to help family members that are caring for their loved ones, particularly with memory loss, so they can continue to care for them and not get burned out. They provide support with different support groups, and usually have family caregiver classes and workshops.
- Last year, Council on Aging opened a new day program in the building adjacent to their office, where family members who are caring for their loved ones can bring their loved ones and they spend the day with them, so they can go out and get a break. There is a great team of volunteers that come in and do activities with those folks. The activities include corn hole, pet therapy, cards, bowling, and trivia.
- Council on Aging also offers social opportunities; last night, they just got back from Flat Rock Playhouse in Hendersonville. There are monthly programs. In the fall, they have a senior wellness program, which draws hundreds of seniors to get a free health screening. There are evidence-based programs, balance classes, living healthy with diabetes workshop, living healthy with chronic pain workshop, etc.

9. Turning Point – Jessie Lindberg

- Turning Point Representative Ms. Jessie Lindberg made a presentation to the council. Turning Point is the only domestic violence shelter, sexual assault resource center, and children’s advocacy center serving Union County.
- The domestic violence shelter has 42 beds and is open for 24-hours a day. The shelter is pretty much full all the time right now.
- At the children’s advocacy center, they provide forensic interviews, medical exams, support groups, counseling and advocacy for children who have been sexually abused.
- The sexual assault resource center provides 24-hour response to sexual assault. Calls come in from the hospital, law enforcement, or survivors and the resource

center personnel will meet with the survivor wherever they are at bringing them clothes, because sometimes their clothing becomes evidence, and making sure they have the support or whatever services they need.

- There has been a “Me To” movement over the past year and a half and there has been a lot of sometimes-productive and sometimes-unproductive conversation about sexual assault. It is triggering for people, so they are getting calls from people who were assaulted 25 - 30 years ago where nobody intervened and now it is finally manifesting itself in emotions and behaviors that they feel like they need to address now.
- Turning Point has three stores that are impactful to their organization, providing about 34% of their operating revenue. The stores also provide whatever their clients need when they move out into homes of their own (clothing, furniture, home décor).
- Last year, Turning Point served 978 women and children fleeing from domestic violence. The Tree House Children’s Advocacy Center served 285 sexual abuse survivors, and the sexual assault resource center served 79 sexual assault survivors.
- Ms. Lindberg explained part of her mission when she came into her role a year and a half ago was to start providing their services by meeting people where they are, because you can’t expect the people who need them are always going to be able to come to Turning Point. What Ms. Lindberg (Turning Point) has done over the last year is with a program they provide for children witnesses of domestic violence, which is provided in their shelter for kids staying in the shelter, and then also if somebody has family they can stay with, they are coming to Turning Point for all the services they need regardless of whether they are living in their shelter. The program is now being provided in the school system for kids with significant behavioral challenges, we have to be aware that there is trauma that underlies a lot of this behavior and how they get to the root of that and figure out how they can intervene.
- In addition, during this past school year, they started providing the “Empower Me Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Program” in Union County Public Elementary Schools. It teaches little ones (K-5) about safe touches, body awareness, body safety, and what to do if something has happened. Nine out of ten children who have been sexually abused do not disclose that abuse, so they are trying to increase those numbers. The program was done for over 3,000 students and they had 13 disclosures of abuse that they were able to intervene on. The program has been impactful. Last month, they served 12 more children than they did last year, so the numbers are increasing, which Ms. Lindberg thought had to do with some of their outreach.
- In February of this year, they began providing their sexual assault and domestic violence counseling to women who are incarcerated in the Union County jail and then their “hero program” for child witnesses of domestic violence to the youth that are incarcerated in jail. There is a lot of trauma behind why you are incarcerated and if nobody intervenes on that, these folks are going to get released back into the public and they are going to be at square one, because nobody has helped them.
- In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, Turning Point provided shelter for 11 women and two children from Mineral Springs. Ms. Lindberg likes to mention that, because it brings it close to home, because they know this type of crime does not discriminate.
- Turning Point now has a full-time counselor imbedded at the Tree House and are having to hire a second counselor, because they are keeping the other one so busy.

Additionally, they are working on a partnership with Atrium Health, who will become the provider of the medical exams in the Tree House.

- Last year, approximately 1,300 Union County Public High School student received Turning Point's Health Relationship Teen Dating Program.

10. **Consideration of 2018-2019 Nonprofit Contributions**

- Mayor Becker explained the budget is a hard cap (for the past two years) and the council will just look at the amounts. There are three, plus the Catawba Lands Conservancy that are mostly the usual amounts. Mayor Becker pointed out the Red Cross specified their amount, but the other two... Councilwoman Coffey stated she was in favor of keeping the level of commitment to all the organizations, which can be done without any problem (budget wise).
- **Councilwoman Coffey made a motion to fund the nonprofits the same as last year as follows: \$2,500 to Catawba, \$2,000 to Council on Aging, \$2,000 to American Red Cross, and \$2,000 to Turning Point and Councilwoman Krafft seconded.** Councilwoman Coffey added \$300 to the Literacy Council. Mayor Becker mentioned the problem with the Literacy Council was they didn't have the spelling bee this year and now it has been postponed until possibly November. The council can keep them and if it comes up, Mayor Becker will bring it before the board. *The motion by Councilwoman Coffey passed unanimously as follows:*

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

Nays: None

11. **Consideration of the 2019-2020 Budget Ordinance**

- Mayor Becker explained this was the annual budget ordinance. The council has seen it and there are no changes in this final ordinance from what was brought forward from last month. The total budget is \$360,825 of appropriations and revenues. The tax rate is again 2.5 cents this year.
- **Councilwoman Coffey made a motion to adopt the 2019-2020 Budget Ordinance and Councilwoman Cureton seconded.** Councilman Countryman noted on the sheet the council just reviewed the budget appears at \$10,300, but on another one it appears at \$10,500. Mayor Becker explained the \$10,300 was for this current year, which is three percent of last year's total and the \$10,500 is three percent of last year's budget, so the charity appropriation is three percent of the previous years budget. It is up \$200 for the upcoming year. *The motion by Councilwoman Coffey and seconded by Councilwoman Cureton to adopt the 2019-2020 Budget Ordinance passed unanimously as follows:*

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

Nays: None

- Mayor Becker explained the town will operate within this budget as they always do. This council has been very responsible with how they spend the money. Mayor Becker applauded the council for their care with the public dollars they are entrusted with.

- The 2019-2020 Budget Ordinance is as follows:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
TOWN OF MINERAL SPRINGS

**AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020
O-2018-02**

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 7/1/2019 and ending 6/30/2020, in accordance with a Chart of Accounts to be established for the Town:

ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL GOVERNMENT:		\$327,928.00
	Advertising	\$1,800.00
	Attorney	\$9,600.00
	Audit	\$4,730.00
	Charities and Agencies	\$10,500.00
	Community Projects	\$28,300.00
	Contingency	\$3,000.00
	Elections	\$3,100.00
	Employee Overhead	\$29,900.00
	Fire Protection	\$12,000.00
	Intergovernmental	\$15,000.00
	Office and Administrative	\$146,944.00
	Planning and Zoning	\$52,304.00
	Street Lighting	\$1,600.00
	Tax Collection	\$1,950.00
	Training	\$3,000.00
	Travel	\$4,200.00
CAPITAL:		\$32,897.00
	Capital outlay	\$32,897.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS:		\$360,825.00

Section II. Estimated Revenues. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the General Fund for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/2019 and ending 6/30/2020:

Property taxes	\$68,830.00
Interest	\$8,500.00
Other income	\$3,000.00
Sales taxes	\$270,445.00
Vehicle taxes	\$7,550.00
Zoning fees	\$2,500.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES: **\$360,825.00**

Section III. 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, 2019.

ADOPTED this 13th day of June 2019. Witness my hand and official seal:

Frederick Becker III, Mayor

Attest:

Vicky A. Brooks, Clerk

12. Staff Reports

- There were no staff updates.

13. Other Business

- There was no other business.

14. Adjournment

- **Councilman Countryman 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 8:42 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, July 11, 2019 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