

Town of Mineral Springs  
Town Hall  
3506 S. Potter Road  
Town Council  
Regular Meeting  
January 9, 2020 ~ 7:30 PM

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**Minutes Draft**

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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, January 9, 2020.

**Present:** Mayor Frederick Becker III, Mayor Pro Tem Valerie Coffey, Councilman Jerry Countryman [arrived at 7:50 p.m.], Councilwoman Janet Critz, Councilwoman Lundeen Cureton, Councilwoman Bettylyn Krafft, Town Clerk/Zoning Administrator Vicky Brooks, Attorney Bobby Griffin and Deputy Town Clerk Janet Ridings.

**Absent:** Councilwoman Peggy Neill.

**Visitors:** Stephanie Simmons.

With a quorum present Mayor Frederick Becker called the Regular Town Council Meeting of January 9, 2020 to order at 7:31 p.m.

1. **Opening of the Regular Meeting**

- Councilwoman Lundeen Cureton invocation.
- Pledge of Allegiance

2. **Public Comments**

- Stephanie Simmons – 1812 Shannon Road – Waxhaw, NC 28173.

3. **Consent Agenda**

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

- A. November 14, 2019 and December 12, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. November 2019 Tax Collector's Report
- C. November 2019 Finance Report

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

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

4. **Consideration of Funding for the Western Union Elementary Outdoor Classroom**
- Mayor Becker mentioned the Western Union funding request for support on their outdoor classroom was up for consideration again, but the council was low on members. Councilwoman Critz put a call into Councilman Countryman to see if there was a reason he was running behind. Mayor Becker asked if the council wanted to wait on the discussion and just switch the order [of agenda items].
  - At 7:38 p.m., the council moved onto agenda item number five and returned to agenda item number four at 8:09 p.m.
  - Mayor Becker asked the council if they wished to proceed with the vote and not much discussion on the school request from a couple of months ago. Councilwoman Critz responded she would definitely like to move forward with a decision, because it was not in anyone's best interest to keep dragging it out.
  - Councilwoman Krafft stated she would like to make a motion that we give the school some funding, because it aligns with the community desires with conservation of design and it does serve the Mineral Springs children, although she knew that there was a fine line between funding that they already get from the county through our taxes and what not, but this is a special project and this really aligns with what the town does and the way our community feels. "I just feel like this fits for us and that we should give some funding to it", Councilwoman Krafft stated. Mayor Becker asked if Councilwoman Krafft had a dollar amount for the purposes of her motion. Councilwoman Krafft responded she honestly, in her mind, would like to see the town do either \$1,000 or \$2,000, because of what they are in need of and she didn't think it was something they were going to come back to the town for year after year (it was not their intent). Councilwoman Krafft continued what the school really needed, she thought, was help with the sheltering and shading for the kids to be able to be out there longer during the hotter time of the year. Councilwoman Krafft thought that was reasonable, it isn't going to be something that was going to continue once it was purchased and it should last quite a long time.
  - Councilwoman Critz stated she felt it was pretty clear that it was a one-time ask and it was specific to that project and the town could actually make it specific (if they do choose to give funding) to that outdoor project. Councilwoman Critz strongly agreed, as she said before, if the school was asking for money for soccer fields, she would not feel the same as she feels about the whole outdoor... Councilwoman Critz did not know how many of the council had seen the outdoor classroom where they are actually teaching the children the value of outdoors, the value of conservation, the value of the things that the council has really focused on and all of the moves for zoning and everything else that they have worked so hard for and our mantra being "Conservation by Design." Councilwoman Critz stated it fits with the community feel and what the town is trying to do as a surrounding community.
  - Councilwoman Krafft mentioned she thought the thing that really struck her when they were there was encouraging the kids to farm, to garden, to produce, which is what the community is about in this area. We have a lot of farmers and for some reason that just hit Councilwoman Krafft as "this is what our community is about."
  - Mayor Becker suggested the motion be pared down.
  - Councilwoman Coffey asked if anyone had checked to see the level of funding that had been received since the request was made. It could be exceeded by now. Councilwoman Critz responded she did not have an update on whether they have

exceeded what they needed for their funding, but they did assure the council the funds could be earmarked for this project only. Councilwoman Krafft explained she did have a request for them to let the town know if they had exceeded their funding and she had not heard from them. Councilwoman Krafft knows one of the vice principals at the school and she had not reached out to Councilwoman Krafft for some reason, but with it being the holidays, she didn't know they would have gotten a lot during the holidays. Councilwoman Critz reiterated the funds would be earmarked for that and they would have the responsibility of returning the funds or turning the offer down if they had exceeded the funding.

- Mayor Becker asked Councilwoman Krafft if she could word the motion and if she had an amount in mind, providing it is still needed for the capital project only.
- **Councilwoman Krafft made a motion to give Western Union, for the outdoor project only as presented to us, a donation of (I'll compromise) \$1,500 mainly to be used for white board and shading are the two classroom needs for that project, for the capital part of it and on the condition it has not been funded and Councilwoman Critz seconded. The motion passed as follows:**

*Ayes: Critz, Cureton, and Krafft*

*Nays: Coffey and Countryman*

- Councilman Countryman explained he was going to voice his opinion now that it was over. "I had felt very uncomfortable about the need to vote the affirmative. I just think it set a bad precedent, as much as it's heartfelt, and we want to feel good about ourselves and feel good about the community. I don't think it's the town's responsibility to provide those funds to the school. I think that responsibility lies with the parents of the children that go to that school like it does with any other PTA organization and it also lies within ourselves if we feel that strongly about it that we should make a personal contribution to it, but I don't think it's the city's responsibility to do that when there are county agencies, state agencies and PTA's that should be doing that for the children that are attending that school. I have nothing against taking care of those kids and I think the concept is great and everything that has been said in support of that program, I think is valid. I just don't think we should be doing it."
- Councilwoman Critz commented what Councilman Countryman just said does not represent her motive. Councilwoman Critz feels zero responsibility to fund this project, she felt compelled to be involved as a town council, because it represents our theme and our motto and what we've worked for. It's something that we should be behind and supportive of, because it sets the tone for what we've been doing. Councilwoman Critz feels no responsibility at all, to her, it was being compelled to be involved, because it sets a precedent if we are going to set one of staying continuous in our motive, we are doing the same thing over and over, we might be doing it in different genres, but the same objective, the same goals, the same guidelines, but Councilwoman Critz didn't think of this in any way, shape, or form as a responsibility.

- Mayor Becker noted the motion had been voted on and they didn't hear from Councilman Countryman before the vote and he had the right to speak when he wanted to, but...
- Councilwoman Cureton stated she thought it was wonderful and explained there was one parent that has a child that goes there, and she has four kids that play in sports. Like Councilman Countryman said, the parents should help, but that one parent has four other kids playing sports and those parents can't afford to give a lot of money in Councilwoman Cureton's opinion. Councilman Countryman responded that was what they were entitled to – "is our opinions."
- Mayor Becker commented the council had a lot of soul searching and discussion on this and they made a decision for this particular instance at this time. If it comes up again, Mayor Becker hoped they can make the decision more quickly one way or the other, but it was important to have the discussion, because it is the taxpayers' money. Mayor Becker appreciated everybody wanting to be sincere and know that they were at peace and satisfied with their own decision. Mayor Becker will let the school know the conditions and will report back to the council next month on whether the check had been cut and what the funding level was. Councilwomen Critz and Krafft thanked Mayor Becker. Mayor Becker thanked the council for spending a lot of time thinking about it - either side of the issue, because all sides were important and all considerations were important, and it was important that they not just decide that every good project needs a taxpayer contribution.

**5. Consideration of an Eagle Scout Project**

- Mayor Becker explained it was irregular on his part to not have met the scout, but the scout was supposed to (according to the memo) talk to his scoutmaster at their meeting on Monday. The scout has not gotten back with Mayor Becker yet. The reason Mayor Becker is asking to get a concept approval from the council on this so he can sign off on it, is because the scout is on a tight time schedule if he goes through with it; the project has to be done by March 24<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Becker noted he and Ms. Brooks had discussed the idea of a rather big bench [at the trailhead], which would probably require an additional paved piece next to it to meet the ADA requirements, so it would be a significant project if the scoutmaster wants to have him sign off on those preliminary steps. Councilwoman Critz asked if the town usually goes 50/50 on these projects. Mayor Becker responded yes, but the council doesn't have to address that tonight. The process is they have the Eagle Scout project workbook and a representative from the town (Mayor Becker) would sign off on it and then they go back to the troop and that gets kicked up. Councilwoman Critz asked Mayor Becker if he didn't see funding as being a problem. Mayor Becker responded no, he thought the scout could come in February if the council decides to approve it and the scout could decide if he wanted to have a funding match or not. The only crucial things are to make sure the project is run through the county and documented that it either passes the county's requirements or those are waived.
- Mayor Becker asked if the council wanted to make a motion to authorize him to proceed with the next steps if this scout indeed wants to do it. Mayor Becker would meet the scoutmaster before he would consider approving anything.

- **Councilwoman Coffey** made a **motion** to set it up that way giving mayor authority to execute preliminary approvals if the scout does come through with his project and **Councilwoman Critz** seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

Ayes: Coffey, Critz, Cureton, and Krafft

Nays: None

**6. Consideration of Approving the 2019 Local Government Agencies General Records Retention and Disposition Schedule and the Municipal Records Retention and Disposition Schedule**

- Mayor Becker noted Ms. Brooks had given the council great documentation and they have had the material, which looks cumbersome, but it was straightforward. Mayor Becker turned the topic over to the council and for Ms. Brooks to answer any questions.
- The council went through several of the records retention items individually with the following discussions/conclusions:
  - Item #7 – Audio and Video Recordings of Meetings. Council adopted a policy in 2004 requiring the audio of meetings to be retained for one year following approval of the meeting minutes, even though the state records retention schedule allows for disposal of the audio after the meeting minutes were approved. Council determined it was not necessary to retain the audio any longer than the state required it to be kept.
  - Item #51 – Price Quotations. There was no suggested disposition policy and the council suggested the policy be to retain for 2 years.
  - Item #4 – Agenda and Meeting Packet File. Change the disposition suggestion from two years to one year.
  - Item #19 – Citizen Surveys. The raw materials (i.e. completed surveys returned to the town by citizens) could be destroyed after one year, but the original survey and the compiled results should be retained permanently.
- It was noted that Ms. Brooks got the suggested retention policies template from Wesley Chapel who has already established these guidelines.
- The council will come back to this item next month with suggestions after having more time to go over it and making notes.
- Attorney Griffin suggested item #58 – Reports and Studies could be where the compiled survey results would fit in if the wording was phrased differently.
- Attorney Griffin also suggested the council get their individual preferences back into the clerk before the next meeting and she could compile all of it for council discussion. Ms. Brooks suggested the council get the information back to her by January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Staff Reports**

- Mayor Becker reported he was still waiting on the auditor, but everything is on track and she may be here next month or March to do her report.

**8. Other Business**

- Councilwoman Critz went on record that the council can talk with the Simmons's when the meeting was over concerning the DOT and the Sheriff's Department and

how the council will definitely try to come alongside of the Simmons's and help. Mayor Becker noted they could talk in groups of less than a quorum.

- Councilwoman Krafft asked Ms. Brooks when the festival planning was going to start. It was noted it was the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival will take place on September 12, 2020. Ms. Brooks responded she would be happy to talk with Councilwoman Krafft anytime.

9. **Adjournment**

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

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

*Nays: None*

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mineral Springs Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Vicky A. Brooks, CMC, Town Clerk

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Frederick Becker III, Mayor