

Town of Mineral Springs
Town Hall
3506 S. Potter Road
Town Council
Public Hearing / Regular Meeting
June 11, 2020 ~ 7:30 PM

Minutes Draft

The Town Council of the Town of Mineral Springs, North Carolina, met in Public Hearing / Regular Session in a virtual meeting via ZOOM, Mineral Springs, North Carolina, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2020.

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

Absent: None.

Visitors: None.

With a quorum present Mayor Frederick Becker called the Regular Town Council Meeting of June 11, 2020 to order at 7:37 p.m.

1. Opening

- Town Clerk Vicky Brooks did the roll call of those present [as shown above].

2. Public Hearing – 2020-2021 Budget

- Mayor Becker noted the 2020-2021 Budget Public Hearing notice was posted, noticed in the paper, and called for last month. There was no one signed up to speak. Mayor Becker explained the written public comment period would remain open until 8:00 p.m. on June 12, 2020 in keeping with the statute, which is for public comments to remain open for 24 hours past the public hearing.
- Mayor Becker closed the electronic portion of the 2020-2021 Budget Public Hearing at 7:40 p.m.
- Town Clerk Vicky Brooks asked if Mayor Becker opened the regular meeting (for clarification). Mayor Becker responded he did open the regular meeting. Ms. Brooks then asked if he opened the public hearing. Councilwoman Krafft thought that he did. Ms. Brooks commented she only heard him say one time that he was opening a meeting. Councilwoman Critz suggested that Mayor Becker do it again to be safe. Mayor Becker stated, “just for clarity, I did open the public hearing, agenda item #2 on the 2020-2021 Budget, commented that it had been notice, advertised, and publicized per statute.”

3. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments; no requests for public comments were received via text or email.

4. **Consent Agenda**

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

- A. May 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. April 2020 Tax Collector's Report
- C. April 2020 Finance Report

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

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

5. **Consideration of a Resolution (R-2020-05) to Adopt the Cabarrus Stanly Union Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

- Mayor Becker explained there were two sheets in the agenda packet: it is a very simple piece of agenda item for a big project. Mayor Becker believed the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan was 500 and some odd pages. It is not new, it is a rewrite and an update of the one the town adopted for Union, Cabarrus, and Stanly Counties several years ago. Mr. Don Moye sent the link and Mayor Becker glanced at it and explained to be honest he was taking Mr. Moye's word for it. Mayor Becker reminded the council there was a lot more interaction when this was done the first time. This is the same plan that has been updated and recommended by Mr. Moye. The adoption of the resolution to adopt the plan specifically is to make sure that there is no break in our continuity of eligibility for any type of disaster funding if it comes. Our plan does expire on June 18th.
- Councilwoman Critz asked if the council could access the full thing just to glance over it if they were to have any questions for the next meeting. Mayor Becker responded it could be emailed to them or it was available online.
- **Councilwoman Coffey** made a **motion** to adopt the Resolution referred to as R-2020-05 to adopt the Cabarrus Stanly Union Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan and **Councilwoman Critz** seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

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

- The resolution is as follows:

TOWN OF MINERAL SPRINGS
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE
CABARRUS STANLY UNION REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
R-2020-05

WHEREAS, the Town of Mineral Springs is vulnerable to an array of natural hazards that can cause loss of life and damages to public and private property; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Mineral Springs desires to seek ways to mitigate situations that may aggravate such circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the development and implementation of a hazard mitigation plan can result in actions that reduce the long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Mineral Springs Town Council to protect its citizens and property from the effects of natural hazards by preparing and maintaining a local hazard mitigation plan; and

WHEREAS, it is also the intent of the Mineral Springs Town Council to fulfill its obligation under North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 166A: North Carolina Emergency Management Act and Section 322: Mitigation Planning, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to remain eligible to receive state and federal assistance in the event of a declared disaster affecting the Town of Mineral Springs; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Mineral Springs, in coordination with Cabarrus, Stanly and Union Counties and the participating municipalities within those Counties has prepared a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan with input from the appropriate local and state officials; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are reviewing the Cabarrus Stanly Union Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for legislative compliance and will approve the plan pending the completion of local adoption procedures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Mineral Springs hereby:

1. Adopts the Cabarrus Stanly Union Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan; and
2. Agrees to take such other official action as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the proposed actions of the Plan.

ADOPTED on this 11th day June, 2020.

Frederick Becker III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Vicky Brooks, CMC, NCCMC

6. Consideration of Approving an Interlocal Agreement with Union County

- Mayor Becker explained Ms. Brooks participated in the RFQ with Bjorn Hansen and the county procurement department on 17 separate engineers who made proposals for this version of the critical intersection study. Mayor Becker did not know who had been selected, but the county did get the funding from CRTPO [for the study] and it turns out the town's portion is only \$2,500, which Mayor Becker thought was at the very low end of what they anticipated the town's obligation would be for the critical intersection plan, which does feature our downtown intersection study and for several preliminary suggested corrections or changes. This will probably be paid for this coming fiscal year and the town does have the money in the budget and it does meet pre-audit requirements. It will probably not be finished until late in the 2021 fiscal year or even early in the following fiscal year, but it is moving forward and we will have something to look at in the next couple of years if we can adopt this Interlocal Agreement with Union County and commit ourselves. Mayor Becker pointed out this was an actual commitment and a budgetary commitment for the \$2,500 local match.

- **Councilwoman Krafft** made a **motion** to approve the *Interlocal Agreement with Union County and Councilwoman Cureton* seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

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

7. Consideration of 2019-2020 Nonprofit Contributions

- Mayor Becker explained the council did streamline the nonprofit process last month and he emailed the four that are on the list. Andrew Friend from Council on Aging got the message loud and clear and told Mayor Becker he would get something to the town for the agenda packet, but Ms. Brooks did not receive anything from him. Mayor Becker noted he thought Council on Aging was the one agency (of the four) whose mission in Mineral Springs has always been made the clearest; they have been very specific about the type of programs that are available to a lot of Mineral Springs residents. Mayor Becker left it up to the council if they wanted to accept it and fund the nonprofits at the levels as requested, which happen to be the same levels as last year.
- **Councilwoman Neill** made a **motion** to approve the *2019-2020 nonprofit contribution including Council on Aging for the levels that are indicated*.
- Councilman Countryman mentioned in the past the town got a request from Catawba Lands Conservancy, but this time it appears to be coming from Carolina Thread Trail. Councilman Countryman asked if they were one and the same.
- Mayor Becker responded that was a really good question. They are very, very closely affiliated, they even really share a lot of funding pots. Mayor Becker pointed out that Bret [Baronak] had signed it as the Director of the Carolina Thread Trail by the Catawba Lands Conservancy. Mayor Becker believed the Catawba Lands Conservancy was the lead agency and it was his belief the town was supporting the Catawba Lands Conservancy. Mayor Becker stated he thought what Mr. Baronak did was that he had a really good opportunity to show the town some specific dollars and cents with these volunteer hours.
- Mayor Becker mentioned that Councilman Countryman got the ball rolling on this two or three years ago when he suggested that the town start having some workdays on the trail and some nature hikes. Mayor Becker proposed that to them, and they have done that, and it has grown into a really big effort on our trail. Mayor Becker stated he thought the Carolina Thread Trail got their attention, because they are seeing that type of attention being brought forth to a piece of the Thread Trail system. Mayor Becker believed that it was still the Catawba Lands Conservancy that the town is supporting.
- Ms. Brooks noted some of the confusion would be in the subject line where it says, "Carolina Thread Trail funding request". Mayor Becker responded that was weird and he would clarify it with Bart Landess who is the Director of the Conservancy and make sure he understands there is a distinction and he will bring it back to the council next month just to clarify what their relationship is, because they are two separate organizations.
- **Councilman Countryman** seconded the *aforementioned motion made by Councilwoman Neill*. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

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

8. **Consideration of a Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

- Mayor Becker explained a budget amendment was done last month for \$200, but he didn't consider the Tax Collector Bond, which is \$100 annually in June even though it covers the following year. Mayor Becker is asking the council do a transfer of \$100 from Contingency to Employee Overhead to be able to complete those payments for the rest of the fiscal year.
- **Councilwoman Coffey** made a **motion** to adopt the Budget Amendment of the extra \$100 for the Employee Overhead and **Councilwoman Krafft** seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

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

- The budget amendment is as follows:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
TOWN OF MINERAL SPRINGS

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF
THE TOWN OF MINERAL SPRINGS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020
O-2019-03**

WHEREAS, NC G.S. 159-15 authorizes a municipal governing board to amend the annual budget ordinance at any time after the ordinance's adoption;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Mineral Springs, North Carolina, the following:

SECTION 1. **Appropriations and Amounts.** Amendment #2019-01:

	INCREASE		DECREASE
	\$200		\$200
Employee Overhead		Contingency	
Total	\$200	Total	\$200

SECTION 2. **Effective Date.** This ordinance is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 14th day of May, 2020. Witness my hand and official seal:

Frederick Becker III, Mayor

Attest:

Vicky A. Brooks, Clerk

9. Staff Updates

- Ms. Brooks mentioned she had the opportunity to speak with David L Cook and he was wanting to know about the funds that the town gives the Artists Music Guild. Ms. Brooks asked the council if they wanted him to present something in writing to them in order for him to get those funds or if because it was in the budget the funds were just supposed to be given to them. Mayor Becker noted it was in the budget, but it hasn't been adopted yet. Mayor Becker stated the council didn't have to spend the entire amount if there's a reason not to, but Mr. Cook does normally come. Mayor Becker didn't know what they were going to do this year, there are so many changes, so it might be worth having him submit something to the council. Mayor Becker asked the council how they felt. Councilwoman Coffey responded she would like to have something in writing from Mr. Cook. Ms. Brooks will get in touch with Mr. Cook and have him submit something for the July meeting. Mayor Becker noted it would be nice to know exactly how he is operating with COVID-19 and the mission of the Artists Music Guild.
- Mayor Becker mentioned the June Sales Tax Payment was posted on June 15th, and as he pointed out during the budget discussion, because of the anticipated declines in retail sales in the county during people being quarantined and not traveling, we have seen it go from \$2,200 down to \$1,900, which is \$300 times 12. It wasn't a big change. For the month of June, which the town will get on the 15th for purchases made in Union County from April 1st to April 30th that sales distribution is back up to \$2,200, but Mayor Becker isn't going to read anything more into it than necessary, but he did propose a slight reduction in Sales Tax Revenues based on that; "if we get more, we get more, and we are happy." Mayor Becker stated he thought maybe people were, because April 1st through April 30th there was quite a bit of quarantine and people were teleworking, perhaps people who were going to Mecklenburg County to work weren't going to Mecklenburg County and they were buying more in Union County.

10. Other Business

- Councilwoman Critz stated she wanted to go on record to let everyone know that Mayor Becker and Ms. Brooks will be preparing something for the town to do a resolution to vote on and look at and extend it to Chief Gaddy due to the loss of his wife for the agenda packet. Councilwoman Critz thought the council needed to clarify if they can't meet in person or have to continue virtual meetings for July that Ms. Brooks and Mayor Becker make sure that Chief Gaddy joins the council so they can present it to him.
- Councilwoman Krafft suggested the council have another Zoom meeting in July. Mecklenburg County is discussing going back to Step 1, because of the rise of cases that have happened, because all the variety of things that are happening in our world right now. Councilwoman Krafft thought we were going to see a rise in everything.
- Councilwoman Coffey stated the biggest rise we were seeing was because of more testing; what is going on right now hasn't had the opportunity to manifest and impact, but it's coming. Councilwoman Krafft added she thought the holiday weekend was the big push there and that is what we are starting to see right now. Mayor Becker agreed the council should stay the course for July with the virtual meeting.

- Mayor Becker noted by the time the agenda packet is being put together Governor Cooper and Secretary Cohen should be evaluating where we stand on Phase 2/Phase 3 and that will give us something to look at. We will have an item in the agenda in July to look at what our meeting schedule is going to look like.

11. **Adjournment**

- **Councilman Countryman** 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 8:07 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by:

Vicky A. Brooks, CMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk

Frederick Becker III, Mayor