

**Minutes of the
Mineral Springs Town Council
Regular Meeting via ZOOM
September 10, 2020 – 7:30 p.m.**

The Town Council of the Town of Mineral Springs, North Carolina, met in Regular Session in a virtual meeting via ZOOM, Mineral Springs, North Carolina, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2020.

Present: Mayor Frederick Becker III, Mayor Pro Tem Valerie Coffey, Councilman Jerry Countryman, Councilwoman Lundeen Cureton, Councilwoman Janet Critz, Councilwoman Bettylyn Krafft, and Councilwoman Peggy Neill.

Absent: None.

Staff Present: Town Clerk/Zoning Administrator Vicky Brooks, Attorney Bobby Griffin, and Deputy Town Clerk Janet Ridings.

Visitors: None.

1. Opening

With a quorum present at 7:31 p.m. on September 10, 2020, Mayor Frederick Becker called the Regular Town Council Meeting to order.

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

2. Public Comments

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

3. Consent Agenda – Action Item

Councilwoman Coffey motioned to approve the consent agenda containing the August 13, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, July 2020 Tax Collector’s Report, and July 2020 Finance Report and Councilwoman Krafft seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Appointment of Western Union Municipal Alliance Delegates – Action Item

MEMO

To: Mineral Springs Town Council
From: Rick Becker
Date: September 3, 2020
Subject: Western Union Municipal Coalition Delegates

According to Article 5, Section a of the WUMA Interlocal Agreement, the delegate and alternate shall be appointed by the governing board of each municipality. Therefore, Council should take a formal vote on these positions.

Councilman Countryman has volunteered to serve as alternate, and I have served as the acting delegate. I am willing to continue in that role, but would be happy to see another council member assume that duty. Currently, meetings are scheduled for the 4th Thursday of the month from 3:30 to 5:00 PM at various town halls on a rotating basis. The next meeting will be on September 24th at the Weddington town hall at 3:30 PM. Since the 4th Thursday in November is Thanksgiving and in December is Christmas Eve, I would suspect that the WUMA will change those meeting dates at the September 24th meeting.

Mayor Becker explained the council needed to formalize the Western Union Municipal Alliance staff. Mayor Becker referred to his memo [as shown above] and stated he was willing if somebody among the other five wanted to join the group to hand the reins over to somebody else, so it isn’t always his face being out there.

Mayor Becker pointed out the committee seemed to be favoring Thursday afternoons on the 4th Thursday at 3:30 p.m. on a rotating basis at the host municipalities.

Councilwoman Coffey motioned to appoint Mayor Becker as the delegate and Councilman Countryman as the alternate as we discussed last month, and Councilwoman Cureton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Western Union Municipal Alliance Support Staff – Action Item

MEMO

To: Mineral Springs Town Council
From: Rick Becker
Date: September 3, 2020
Subject: WUMA Staff Authorization

The Western Union Municipal Alliance will hold its monthly meetings at various members' town halls on a rotating basis. With five or six members, that would mean that each municipality would host two meetings per year. The Alliance's intent is to have staff of the host municipality prepare minutes for the meetings held at their municipality.

I asked Clerk Brooks and Deputy Clerk Ridings if Deputy Clerk Ridings could assume this duty, and Deputy Clerk Ridings has agreed to do so. The town would need to pay her at her regular hourly rate for attending the meetings which should take no more than two hours each time. We expect that she could prepare the minutes themselves – which for this Alliance will be brief – in the course of her normal duties.

Therefore, I am requesting that Council approve the additional hours required for Deputy Clerk Ridings to attend the WUMA meetings when they are hosted by Mineral Springs for the purpose of taking minutes.

Mayor Becker explained this agenda item related to agenda item #5; the way the municipal alliance is going to work (according to what they decided on at the first meeting), host towns will host once a month in a rotation. Often the clerk of the host town will take minutes, but our clerk is awfully busy, and the deputy clerk is willing to do it if it works out with her schedule with Ms. Brooks. This will be hours Ms. Ridings will bill above and beyond her normal daytime work hours, so Mayor Becker thought he needed to ask the council to approve the necessary hours, which should only be a few hours a year.

Councilman Countryman motioned to approve the necessary hours for Deputy Clerk Ridings to serve as the secretary to that committee and Councilwoman Krafft seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Proclamation for Constitution Week – Action Item

Mayor Becker explained this was an annual event that town always recognizes from the 17th through the 23rd.

Councilwoman Neill motioned to approve the Proclamation for Constitution Week and Councilwoman Critz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Proclamation is as follows:

Town of Mineral Springs Proclamation

Constitution Week September 17th – 23rd, 2020

Whereas, The Constitution of the United States of America, the guardian of our liberties, embodies the principles of limited government in a Republic dedicated to rule by law; and

Whereas, September 17, 2020, marks the two hundred thirty-third anniversary of the framing of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

Whereas, It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate it; and

Whereas, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week,

Now, Therefore, I, Frederick Becker, III, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Town of Mineral Springs in the State of North Carolina do hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23, 2020 as

~ Constitution Week ~

and ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties.

In Witness Of, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town to be affixed this 10th day of September of the year of our Lord two thousand twenty.

Frederick Becker III, Mayor
Town of Mineral Springs

ATTEST:

Vicky A Brooks, CMC, NCCMC

7. Consideration of Approving an Agreement with Taylor and Sons – Action Item

Mayor Becker explained this was the same contract with no change in price (\$395.00 a month) with Taylor and Sons for town hall landscaping.

Councilwoman Critz motioned to approve the \$395.00 a month contract renewal with Taylor and Sons for landscaping and Councilwoman Cureton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Social Security Withholding Deferral – Action Item

MEMO

To: Mineral Springs Town Council
From: Rick Becker
Date: September 3, 2020
Subject: Payroll Tax Deferral

As you may have heard in the news, a recent presidential order allows employers to defer withholding of the 6.2% employee portion of the Social Security withholding for the months of September through December. However, those deferred withholdings must then be "paid back" after January 1, at which time those deferred payments would be withheld in *addition* to the regular Social Security withholding.

I have researched this process and found that most payroll processors, CPAs, and HR consultants recommend *not* deferring these withholdings. Furthermore, none of our three staff members wants to have their withholdings deferred. Of course, the deferrals would also apply to Council salaries, but the amount would be \$9.30/month per council member – and that \$9.30 would then be withheld *double* next year until the deferred amounts are repaid. I believe that as an employer we must decide whether or not to defer these amounts for all employee or none.

Since Council officially represents the town as the "employer", I am requesting that Council vote on the deferral. I recommend that council elect *not* to defer these withholding amounts, and will notify our payroll provider Paychex accordingly.

Mayor Becker referred to his memo [as shown above] and explained staff discussed the deferral of Social Security, which has to be paid back via the payroll provider next year. The employer is not required to do this and three staff members agreed they don't want to do it, but it's all or nothing, so it really has to be a council approval, because the board as a whole is the employer.

Councilwoman Coffey motioned that the employer not participate in the deferral of employee Social Security withholding, it is not in the interest of our town and Councilman Countryman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Staff Updates

Ms. Ridings asked the council to take note of the amount left on the taxes.

Mayor Becker updated the council based on the recent Executive Order from Governor Cooper allowing playgrounds to open and a consensus of pretty much every Parks and Recreation director in the county, the playgrounds are opening. The Executive Order does require some type of disinfecting, but it was vague and didn't give any guidelines. Mayor Becker asked Attorney Griffin to post a chat if he disagreed with the following: yesterday, Jim Chaffin, the Union County Parks and Recreation director said their legal department said "you should post nothing new, do your routine disinfection, do a little extra, but just do not post a schedule, do not say we are disinfecting

every week, the less you say the better, we are following the order, your playground is open, use social distancing and hand washing just like all the others." A Union County Parks and Recreation employee came by and gave the town's playground a rinse down and then he came back and used a long term several-week-residual disinfecting spray as a favor to the town. Mr. Chaffin had that set up. Mayor Becker stated he rolled up the fencing and the playground is "a soft open." People are not announcing a lot of the openings, it is there now, and it is available. Mayor Becker noted he had ordered some compounds on the recommendation of the county Parks and Recreation people that will be appropriate for occasional spraying/misting down of the play structure.

10. Other Business

Councilwoman Cureton thanked all the town council members who gave her a donation for Mr. Brown's memorial; she raised over \$1,000.

Councilwoman Neill commented Councilwoman Cureton did excellent work.

Mayor Becker also commented Councilwoman Cureton did excellent work and he looked forward to seeing Principal Brown honored at Western Union School. It is really a great effort that has gone on for quite a few years now with the earlier graduating classes from the Western Union School.

Councilwoman Critz explained Mayor Becker and she noticed there were a couple of Union County Sheriffs cars in the parking lot of the greenway a little over a week ago, they did not feel the need to pull in, but the mayor saw a comment on the website concerning the greenway.

Mayor Becker clarified the comment was on Google Review.

Councilwoman Critz continued there were evidently a couple car break-ins and she was going to contact Sheriff Cathey to confirm that was the only thing that happened there and to make sure the town is up-to-date on anything that might not be on our radar.

11. Adjournment – Action Item


At 7:46 p.m. Councilwoman Coffey motioned to adjourn the meeting and Councilwoman Cureton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by:



Vicky A. Brooks, CMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk



Frederick Becker III, Mayor