

**Minutes of the  
Mineral Springs Town Council  
Regular Meeting  
September 9, 2021 – 7:30 p.m.**

The Town Council of the Town of Mineral Springs, North Carolina, met in Regular Session at the Mineral Springs Town Hall located at 3506 Potter Road South, Mineral Springs, North Carolina, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 9, 2021.

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

**Absent:** Councilwoman Janet Critz and Attorney Bobby Griffin.

**Staff Present:** Town Clerk/Zoning Administrator Vicky Brooks and Deputy Town Clerk Janet Ridings.

**Visitors:** None.

**1. Opening**

With a quorum present at 7:30 p.m. on September 9, 2021, Mayor Frederick Becker called the Regular Town Council Meeting to order.

Councilwoman Cureton delivered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**3. Consent Agenda – Action Item**

Councilwoman Coffey motioned to approve the consent agenda containing the August 12, 2021 Evidentiary Hearing / Regular Meeting Minutes and the July 2021 Finance Report and Councilman Countryman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Cureton, and Krafft. Nays: None.

**4. 2021 Property Tax Order of Collection – Action Item**

Mayor Becker explained the county was a little behind, but the settlement was received, and it seems to have balanced for last year and previous years. The council can approve the settlement, but Vann Harrell and Robin Merry have not drafted the Order of Collection yet, so that will be on the agenda for next month.

The tax bills have been sent out; however, there was a miscommunication between Mayor Becker and the tax office in June or July and they did not get the proper tax rate for Mineral Springs. The tax bill shows the Mineral Springs portion as being 2.5 cents. Mayor Becker contacted Vann Harrell and he got to work on it; they are rebilling all the town residents and taxpayers. Anyone who has paid already will get a refund from the county. It is a small amount, 4/10ths of a cent (\$4 per \$100,000 of valuation), but it has to be right.

Councilman Countryman asked what the actual rate was.

Mayor Becker responded it was 2.1 cents, which is what the council adopted in the budget.

Mayor Becker noted the Order of Collection would probably reflect the proper amount and he should have it for the council next month.

Councilwoman Coffey motioned to approve the settlement and Councilwoman Krafft seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Cureton, and Krafft. Nays: None.

#### **5. Prior Years' Tax Settlement and Write-Offs – Action Item**

Mayor Becker explained this was the last settlement for the legacy taxes that Janet Ridings was tasked with collecting way back when she started in the tax collector job. The last two payments of \$28.64 were all that was left for the previous years and those must roll off based on statute because they are 10 years old. The property taxes balance out to zero.

Councilman Countryman motioned to approve the settlement and Councilwoman Cureton seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Cureton, and Krafft. Nays: None.

#### **6. NCDOT Updates**

Mayor Becker explained this is information and there was no action required yet. Mayor Becker commented he thought he was disappointed, but he "kind of" trusts the NCDOT. Mayor Becker referred to his memo and explained NCDOT ran simulations from every combination of green arrows and did not find a significant improvement and in some cases, they found a worsening of congestion (from an aggregate throughout the day). Mayor Becker stated he did not talk to Tony [Tagliaferri from NCDOT], he just read his emails, but he thought part of it was that they could not put a light in that was smart enough to know whether a car was going to turn left or go straight, so they cannot have it as smart as they would like it to be because it is only one lane. Setting the light to give 15 seconds for left turns with no left turners will cause a backup for all those straight people for 15 seconds. There is not enough benefit from the extra time for the turners to make it work. NCDOT even tried a four-way stop in the computer model and that was horrible. Mayor Becker explained that short-term temporary fix for maybe \$10,000 seemed like a good idea at the time and he was glad NCDOT was willing to give it a shot, but he was also glad NCDOT was not going to tell the town to pay them the money and they do it and then have it not work out. Mayor Becker stated NCDOT "did right by us."

The second design is to change Potter and Pleasant Grove to a three-way stop and change the angle of approach where Pleasant Grove comes into Potter. That is a more expensive project, which would not be on the town, if NCDOT can get it funded through spot safety, then they will go ahead and do it. NCDOT does think it would improve the situation at that intersection, because that is a high wreck intersection regarded by people that live near it who are hearing the crashing all the time. This is an \$88,000 job according to NCDOT, but it would be a NCDOT funded project if it takes place.

#### **7. Proclamation for Constitution Week – Action Item**

Mayor Becker explained this proclamation was sent to the town by Elizabeth Gibson to declare September 17<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> as Constitution Week. The town has adopted this one quite a few years running now, and it is very important.

Councilman Countryman motioned to adopt the proclamation for Constitution Week and Councilwoman Krafft seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Cureton, and Krafft. Nays: None.

The proclamation is as follows:

**Town of Mineral Springs  
Proclamation  
Constitution Week  
September 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

**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, 2021, marks the two hundred thirty-fourth 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, 2021 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 (State or City) to be affixed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frederick Becker III, Mayor  
Town of Mineral Springs

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vicky A Brooks, CMC, NCCMC

**8. Proclamation for Domestic Violence Month – Action Item**

Mayor Becker explained this proclamation was to proclaim October as Domestic Violence Protection Month and it is sponsored by Turning Point.

Councilwoman Coffey motioned that we adopt the proclamation in observance of Domestic Violence Month and Councilman Countryman seconded. The motioned passed unanimously. Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Cureton, and Krafft. Nays: None.

The proclamation is as follows:

**TOWN OF MINERAL SPRINGS  
PROCLAMATION  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence affects all Union County residents, and far too many people suffer abuse at the hands of a spouse, partner, parent, child, or sibling; these victims can be of any age, race, religion, or economic status and the resulting damage is inflicted not only on the victims, but their children, families, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence includes not only physical but also mental abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse, and isolation; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is widespread, including one in four families is impacted by domestic violence with an annual cost to Union County of \$11,688,756; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, there have been 1,421 women, men, and children murdered as a result of domestic violence since January 1, 2002 in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the North Carolina Council for Women, domestic violence programs across the state responded to over 48,310 crisis calls and provided services to over 34,245 victims last year; and

**WHEREAS**, the key to prevention is education, community awareness, having zero tolerance for domestic violence, and requiring accountability by the abuser; and

**WHEREAS**, Union County recognizes the importance of having collaborations by multiple partners to promote social norms, policies and laws that support gender equity and foster intimate partnerships based on mutual respect, equality, and trust; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, Frederick Becker III, Mayor of the Town of Mineral Springs, do hereby proclaim October 2021 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Union County and urge all citizens to support this observance. I further urge our citizens to increase their awareness and education of this destructive force which deeply affects a large number of families in our State each year and to become part of the efforts to stop violence in families.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Mineral Springs to be affixed this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frederick Becker III, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vicky Brooks, CMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk

#### **9. Consideration of Adopting O-2021-03 – Concurring Speed Limit – Action Item**

Mayor Becker explained there was a revised version of the ordinance in front of the council, because there was a little weirdness in the way the material came from NCDOT. The ordinance in the agenda packet ended up being a little confusing, so Ms. Brooks and Mayor Becker looked it over and Ms. Brooks clarified it to make it one simple 45 miles an hour on state route 1008 between those two end points from Knotty Pine to just north of McNeely.

Councilman Countryman motioned to approve the ordinance declaring a speed change as indicated and Councilwoman Cureton. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Cureton, and Krafft. Nays: None.

The ordinance is as follows:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
TOWN OF MINERAL SPRINGS

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING SPEED LIMIT MODIFICATION  
CONCURRING WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
ORDINANCE NUMBER 1077545  
O-2021-03**

**WHEREAS**, N.C. G.S. 20-141 (f) authorizes speed limit modifications based upon engineering and traffic investigation on portions of a State Highway System Street located in the Town of Mineral Springs;

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

**SECTION 1. Enact the Following Speed Limit.**

<u>Speed Limit</u>	<u>Route</u>	<u>Road Description</u>
45	SR 1008	SR 1008 (Waxhaw Indian Trail Road) between SR 2501 (Knotty Pine Road) and a point 0.08 miles north of SR 1325 (McNeely Road).

**SECTION 2. Effective date.** This ordinance is effective upon adoption of the Department of Transportation of a concurring ordinance and the erection of signs giving notice of the authorized speed limit.

ADOPTED this 9th day of September, 2021. Witness my hand and official seal:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frederick Becker III, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vicky A. Brooks, CMC, Town Clerk

**10. Staff Updates**

Mayor Becker noted there was no movement on the ARPA funding.

**11. Other Business**

There was no other business

**12. Adjournment – Action Item**

At 7:41 p.m. Councilwoman Coffey motioned to adjourn the meeting and Councilwoman Cureton seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Cureton, and Krafft. Nays: None.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, October 14, 2021 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