

**Minutes of the
Mineral Springs Town Council
Regular Meeting
April 14, 2022 – 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 S, Mineral Springs, North Carolina, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2022.

Present: Mayor Frederick Becker III, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Countryman, Councilwoman Valerie Coffey, Councilwoman Janet Critz, Councilwoman Lundeen Cureton, and Councilman Jim Muller.

Absent: Councilwoman Bettylyn Krafft.

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

Visitors: Keith Helms.

1. Opening

With a quorum present at 7:30 p.m. on April 14, 2022, Mayor Frederick Becker called the Regular Town Council Meeting to order.

Councilwoman Critz delivered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Consent Agenda – Action Item

Ms. Brooks noted under "Consent Agenda", it referred to January 2021 in two places and it should be January 2022.

Councilwoman Coffey motioned to approve the consent agenda with the notations that were given on the correction in the minutes, containing the March 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, the February 2022 Union County Tax Report, and the February 2022 Finance Report and Councilwoman Cureton seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Critz, Cureton, and Muller. Nays: None.

4. Discussion and Consideration of a David Helms Artifact Agreement– Action Item

Mayor Becker explained he had provided the council with a lengthy memo about the possible need to rework or cancel the contract [David Helms Artifact Agreement]. Mayor Becker invited the Helms brothers to address the council.

Mr. Keith Helms explained his brother and himself went to town hall on Thursday, March 31, 2022 and when he got home from that meeting, he put down on paper what transpired at that time. Mr. Helms read it the way it was fresh on his mind that day as follows: "Rainy day, Carl and I decided to go over to the Mineral Springs Town Hall to look into getting the items that were on loan to the town. We walked in and introduced ourselves and stated our purpose there. Mr. Becker immediately approached us in a very combative manner. His voice was loud and high pitched, he was obviously very excited and not in a good way. He was very uncooperative in the manner and treated my brother and myself with very little respect. At this point, I asked him to calm down and let's talk but he would not let me get a word in, so I sat down in a chair with him standing to my right

side. He continued to take my statements about the items as personal attacks. He kept threatening my brother and myself with getting an attorney and the council involved. All we wanted was to talk rationally but that was not to be. His actions and tone of voice and mannerisms were all very threatening. I told him I did not have issue with either him or the town, that my brother and I were just very historical minded and did not want to see the artifacts lost, damaged or mistreated. I also told Mr. Becker that if my father could have seen his behavior that day, he certainly would be ashamed that he had ever loaned anything to the Town of Mineral Springs. Mr. Becker gave us copies of the loan agreement before we left. He offered no apology for his unwarranted behavior, all he said was that he would take the matter before the council on the 14th, I told him we would be back after that meeting. My brother and I were very shocked that a town official would act in this manner to people he had never met. I sincerely hope that what we witnessed here that day is not typical of Mineral Springs government.”

Mayor Becker thanked Mr. Helms and asked if anybody else had a request or any further wishes about the status of the loan contract.

Mr. Helms stated he would like to hear anything the council had to say about that contract.

Mayor Becker asked the council if they had a chance to read the contract over and mentioned he thought his memo was accurate and the minutes of Mr. [David] Helms and his cousin, Bill Howie starting this discussion back in 2008. Mr. [David] Helms took Mayor Becker on a tour of his buildings on his property at the time and said, “there are some things that I think I would like to see displayed in your town hall that is under construction and the old school.” Mayor Becker noted it was self-explanatory in his memo. Mayor Becker stated he was not sure what the council wanted to do, or if they would like to end the contract and give the items back to the Helms family.

Councilwoman Coffey responded she would like to hear from Attorney Griffin, since that had been put on the table, before she attempted to speak on it.

Councilwoman Critz mentioned she was not here to witness the conversation, but for clarification, Mayor Becker was not in a position to make that decision without bringing it before the council.

Mr. Helms responded he was fully aware of that, but all he would have had to do, in a nice way, is to say, “look guys, I can’t do anything for you”, but he did not do that.

Councilwoman Critz informed Mr. Helms she was not able to dialogue with him, because of the rules, but her point was that none of the council were present, and Mayor Becker was correct that he could not make that decision, he would have to bring it before the council since it was a contract, and he would have to confer with the town attorney. Councilwoman Critz stated she was with Councilwoman Coffey about hearing from the town attorney to see what he thought, and she would like to know if there were other siblings, so that the council knew they were acting upon the whole family and not just part of the family. If the council takes this into consideration, having the whole family here was the wish of their father and Mr. Howie. The council needs to be sure they have all the facts.

Attorney Griffin commented he was not prepared to respond, because he had not been asked to look at anything for discussion.

Councilwoman Critz suggested getting the rest of the information the council needed and to put this back on the agenda for May.

Mayor Becker mentioned one of the terms of the contract was that if members of the family wished the items returned, they would send a written notice. If the Helms family still wanted to do that, it could be ready to put before the council.

Attorney Griffin commented he would be glad to look at it.

Councilwoman Critz stated she thought legally it would require all of the siblings for a unanimous request.

Mayor Becker stated he would go on record, "I can't speak for the whole council, but I was very flattered at the time by Mr. David Helms wanting to entrust us with those, because the postal service items are all family members. The barber shop is friends and maybe probably distant relatives and that's not as much a family thing, but the postal things were very precious to David Helms, he was very proud of that. It's why we worked so hard with him to make sure that they would be given pride of place in the lobby where it was always visible to the public, which is what he really wanted to see happen. That was part of the contract, as you all know, and Attorney Griffin, that was like item number one, not number two, it had to be on display. If the town didn't want to display it, it had to be returned and it went on from there and I thought this contract was drawn up by Mr. Helms' attorney and we made a few changes, Mr. Helms and I did at the meeting we approved it. Attorney Griffin, you had looked at it and it's a pretty straightforward loan contract, so if the council would like time for you to look at it, Attorney Griffin and for the council to think about it some more, the Helms family tell us exactly what you want. I've done what I had to do, which is to bring this request to the attention of the council, because the council is the only authority; I'm not the authority in town. Our attorney is simply an advisor."

Councilwoman Critz mentioned she grew up in Wilkes County and was a native North Carolinian and her family has had land there for over 200 years. The first Postmaster General was the great, great Uncle of Councilwoman Critz, and her family has his handwritten ledgers, and they are all in an area where there is historical context and can be viewed by the public. Councilwoman Critz stated she understood the personal connection to those things and asked that the council be able to follow through so the contract is upheld. "I don't think any of us want to not do what is right", Councilwoman Critz said.

Councilwoman Coffey motioned to study the issue, dialogue, or at least get information from the Helms family and our attorney and put this on the May agenda and Councilwoman Critz seconded. The motioned passed unanimously. Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Critz, Cureton, and Muller. Nays: None.

Attorney Griffin stated he would review the contract over the next week and prepare to consult with the entire council and advise them in advance if they wished.

Mayor Becker commented the town would continue, as they have done for twelve years, to protect the items as if they were our own, because they were precious to Mr. Helms and his family. The town will continue to protect and honor the items while awaiting to see how the matter is resolved.

5. Consideration of a Designation Liaison for Bank Account Monitoring – Action Item

Mayor Becker explained his memo was almost a copy of the memo he had written eight or ten years ago when the council appointed the first bank monitor, and it was self-explanatory. Councilwoman Neill never got a call, the town never bounced a check, or wrote a check to cash. The Treasurer's Office did recommend this, it is another small-town check and balance, another layer of protection. All that happens is that Mayor Becker gives the name and phone number of whoever volunteers to the bank manager.

Councilman Muller commented he did not have a conflict with that; he does that through work.

Mayor Becker mentioned the town did not bank with or have a conflict with Councilman Muller's employer. Mayor Becker stated for the record, "Councilman Muller has volunteered to accept that role, so I guess I just ask for a motion by council to appoint him to the bank monitor role."

Councilwoman Coffey motioned to appoint Councilman Muller to the bank monitor and Councilman Countryman seconded. The motioned passed unanimously. Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Critz, Cureton and Muller. Nays: None.

6. Consideration of a Resolution to Choose the Standard Revenue-Reduction Allowance for Federal DARPA Funds – Action Item

Mayor Becker explained the town was at the point of having the report due on April 30th for the fact that the town accepted the promised \$270,000+ from the feds. The council has not designated any expenditures yet. It does not have to be in the budget. Mayor Becker thinks these will be Capital Project Ordinances and the town will fund anything they do through Grant Project Ordinances and Capital Project Ordinances and account for the fund in what is called a "Special Project Fund", but there are a few more housekeeping things that had to happen with the Federal things. One of the housekeeping things is the town must elect, like you elect in your income tax return, to take the standard allowance; the standard allowance is \$10,000,000 and Mineral Springs is only getting \$270,000. Mineral Springs is far below the ceiling for the standard allowance. What that means is the town is simply saying, "we will designate all that money as being so-called revenue losses" by the federal government definition, which means that it is free to be used for almost anything. It is a much more flexible thing and that was a change in the final rule from the Office of the U.S. Treasury. Mayor Becker explained he had been doing a lot of webinars; the small municipalities were concerned. There were four areas that the money could be spent on, and small municipalities did not really do any of those areas; it was almost like the town could do a revenue loss by a complex calculation, but a town like Mineral Springs might be able to come up with a \$20,000 loss out of that and that would be all Mineral Springs could spend. Apparently, there was a lot of give and take with the U.S. Treasury and the final rule did allow for this standard allowance and Mayor Becker has to make that election as part of the April 30th filing; the council will have to authorize that election, which will be done by Resolution, because it is the most straightforward way to do it.

Councilman Countryman asked once the town processed this [report] if the Federal Government was to going to give the town \$270,000.

Mayor Becker responded the Federal Government already gave the town \$135,000, which the council sees on the finance report in a separate category (Special Project Fund). The town received those funds last year and the next payment comes in a few months.

Councilman Countryman asked if the town could use the money for whatever they wanted to do with it in the future; the money would be deposited in a separate bank account. Councilman Countryman was curious, based on one of the things that has come up in the past, there were several things the town could use the money for, such as turning the schoolhouse into a senior center, but another thing that popped in his head was the project that has been talked about in terms of the road where the town would come up with matching funds. Councilman Countryman thought those were some things the council might want to consider.

Mayor Becker responded the matching funds was \$1,100,000.

Councilman Countryman thought the town should earmark some or all of the funds as a portion of that [matching funds].

Mayor Becker explained the council probably needed to put their heads together (it could be individually) to look at Capital Projects first, the funds could be used for operating expenses, although the town does not operate at a deficit or even close to the edge, so it really is not needed for operating funds, so it would be Capital of some sort. There is one catch, which is the town must have committed the funds by December 31, 2024 and it must be spent by December 31, 2026. The reason Mayor Becker mentioned that was because the town has no control over the road project, so the town would need to say they would spend the money on something that they would do and that way the money that the town has already can go toward the road project. If the town spends the money on something, or some things, or a combination of things, they can be sure that they can close out by December 31, 2026. It is \$270,000 more than what the town has, so whatever it is spent on, it can be accounted for in a different Capital Project that frees up \$270,000 in the regular bank account to go toward a match on the road grant.

Councilman Countryman commented that was a responsible plan, it is kind of like paying off a bill you are being charge interest on, so you do not have to pay the interest, but at the same time, then once the bill is paid you can take the money out of your bank account and pay yourself back.

Mayor Becker stated it was strictly an accounting process. The town has to account for that \$270,000 step by step and Mayor Becker will have to do another report if any of that money is spent or if the council adopts an Ordinance to commit some of it, which will be in the April 30, 2023 report. The council needs to get together in early summer to start looking at it.

Councilman Countryman commented, "reasonable ideas as to where to spend the money."

Mayor Becker noted the third choice could be some sidewalk access in the downtown area, which is a Capital Project the town has been looking at, so there are Capital things the town could make good use of; the road problem is that.

Councilman Countryman commented, "you don't know when that's ever going to happen."

Mayor Becker responded, "we don't know from step one to step ten, we don't know when it's going to happen. Let's say we got money from NCDOT, we got money from the county, we got money from the town, which would be covered by this, we had suddenly have \$1,100,000 in match, exactly 20%, we make our application in the fall of 2023, which is probably the best time to do it and there are much more worthy projects where they're putting up a match of 30% or 35% maybe, we don't make the cut and we don't get the federal \$4,000,000. So, then we can go back again the next year, which is why we really can't use this money in its own name. We can use the money in its spirit, because if we apply with regular funds from our general fund balance and we get shot down, no harm, no foul, we still have the federal money sitting in its project fund untouched, so it is all a matter of a fund accounting. It's fund accounting. We don't have to keep it in a separate bank account, I am just going to move it in for easy record keeping on the interest end, which there is no interest."

Councilwoman Cureton asked if the town could give money for the park [in Western Union] they are trying to build.

Mayor Becker responded it was possible. If the group, as a nonprofit got together and put together a proposal for a grant, that is a possibility that the council could look at. It would be a very formal thing because the feds will be definitely... You are not just looking at oversight by the Town of Mineral Springs Town Council, the feds want to make sure every step of the way is being funded. If there is a subrecipient such as a 501C, they will be under scrutiny also. There could be other nonprofits that could be interested.

Councilwoman Critz asked if there were any grants out there for matching funds on sidewalks.

Mayor Becker responded it was possible, but the town is behind the curve on that, a pedestrian plan or a bike-ped plan that we pay Benchmark to do, helps in applying for grants, but you are not always going to get them. There are not a lot of grants, but there are some from NCDOT that come through CRTPO. The town might be able to use some of the money to get the plan done. Everything the council is saying are things the money could be used for, but if it is spread too thin, \$270,000 does not go too far in the scheme of things.

Councilwoman Critz commented the road project is not stamped in cement and the community project is dear to her personally, but she knows the town is self-limited as far as sewer. Councilwoman Critz thought it would be nice to use the money in several spots that would be beneficial to the community.

Mayor Becker thought it was important for the council to start thinking about ideas, both from their own thoughts and things they have seen and looking at what municipal needs are. Of course, if they town spent the money on some of those projects, that is money the town did not spend that they still have to give to the match on the road construction; that is sort of how it would work. "As

Councilman Countryman said, you are paying yourself back, so the money will be very useful, and I am absolutely committed to not cutting a check to Uncle Sam sending back money we didn't spend, some finance officer in 2026 will not be sending money back to Uncle Sam; we've got to spend it", Mayor Becker said.

Councilwoman Critz thought the council was all for making it go for good uses.

Mayor Becker commented the feds are going to be pretty flexible on what the money is used for, but they want to make sure the town has accounted for everything, they want to know how it was spent, they want to see contracts, they want to see Capital Project Ordinances, but they are going to be pretty flexible from what Mayor Becker understands and almost any kind of a project would be a qualified project.

Councilman Countryman motioned that you use your Resolution to elect the standard allowance for the revenue replacement under Federal American Rescue Act (ARPA) and Councilman Muller seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Critz, Cureton, and Muller. Nays: None.

The Resolution is as follows:

TOWN OF MINERAL SPRINGS
RESOLUTION TO ELECT THE "STANDARD ALLOWANCE"
FOR REVENUE REPLACEMENT UNDER THE
FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

R-2022-01

WHEREAS, the Town of Mineral Springs by means of R-2021-06 accepted funding from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund ("SLFRF") revenues of H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA") on August 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the final funding amount for Mineral Springs is \$270,618.75 which is being distributed by the State of North Carolina acting as agent for the United States Treasury Department ("Treasury"); and

WHEREAS, Treasury issued its Final Rule on January 6, 2022, effective April 1, 2022, which provided additional flexibility for recipients over and above the approved expenditure categories originally included in the Interim Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, the Final Rule now provides a "Standard Allowance" of \$10,000,000.00 which allows recipients to designate SLFRF revenues up to that amount for "Revenue Replacement" without being required to perform an actual revenue-loss calculation; and

WHEREAS, the Final Rule clarifies that Revenue Replacement funds may be used for "any service traditionally provided by a government, unless Treasury has stated otherwise"; and

WHEREAS, the Final Rule requires recipients to make a one-time election to use the Standard Allowance if they wish to designate up to \$10,000,000.00 of their SLFRF revenues for Revenue Replacement purposes without performing an actual revenue-loss calculation; and

WHEREAS, electing the Standard Allowance simplifies and streamlines the reporting process and allows Mineral Springs to utilize the SLFRF revenues in ways that most broadly and expeditiously benefit the town's citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Mineral Springs that the town does hereby elect to use the Standard Allowance for Revenue Replacement under the Final Rule for allocating and spending SLFRF revenues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Mineral Springs hereby designates its full SLFRF allocation of \$270,618.75 to the "Revenue Replacement" category; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Mineral Springs hereby directs the Finance Officer to notify Treasury of its election to use the Standard Allowance as part of the required first Annual Report to be submitted to Treasury by April 30, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Mineral Springs will continue to account for SLFRF revenues in a separate fund, will document transfers of SLFRF revenues to the General Fund or Grant Project Funds as applicable, and will comply with all applicable federal and state budgeting, accounting, contracting, reporting, and other compliance requirements for SLFRF revenues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Mineral Springs designates and directs the Town Finance Officer to take all actions necessary on behalf of the town council to administer the SLFRF revenues in compliance with the Final Rule.

This the 14th day of April, 2022

Frederick Becker III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Vicky Brooks, CMC, NCCMC

Mayor Becker noted he would be filing the report next week now that he has the approval of the council to elect the standard allowance.

7. FY2022-2023 Budget: Preliminary Departmental Appropriations – Action Item

Mayor Becker explained this was the usual April operation of the general fund budget. The council will notice that none of the Capital, including the ARPA, appears in these appropriations. The town was awarded \$270,000, which will be for Capital Project Ordinances that may be applicable to the fiscal year 2022-2023. That appears in the budget, but it is not in the general fund. Mayor Becker explained this was his recommendation for appropriations in the general fund and next month he will present the council with the recommended budget with revenue estimates. From Mayor Becker's little bit of study, the town may end up with about a \$10,000 bump in revenues next year over what was budgeted last year. Some things are up, sales tax will be up, property tax will be up because of new construction, not too many things are going to be down, at least not significantly. Mayor Becker explained it looked like the town would have a little bit more money and what that means is that it will cover some of the increases where there are salary increases and it will be "kind of" a break even and still be able to have a similar amount in the Capital category (not the Capital Project funds). It looks to be okay for next year in terms of just enough increased revenues to cover increased expenditures.

Councilwoman Coffey motioned to incorporate the recommended appropriations for the 2022-2023 budget as presented and Councilwoman Cureton seconded.

Councilwoman Critz thanked Mayor Becker for doing such a thorough job, it makes the council job easier.

Mayor Becker responded he tries to make it straight forward; everything looks good. The salary increases, the recommended changes where the town needed to change a few things up or down.

Councilwoman Cureton asked if the council was getting a salary increase.

Mayor Becker responded, no, the staff is, as long as the council approves it and Councilwoman Coffey made a motion that Councilwoman Cureton seconded for staff. The budget is not done until the council adopts it in June; this is the first step.

The motion made by Councilwoman Coffey to incorporate the recommended appropriations for the 2022-2023 budget as presented, which was seconded by Councilwoman Cureton passed unanimously. Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Critz, Cureton, and Muller. Nays: None.

8. Consideration of Selecting a Movie for the Outdoor Movie Night – Action Item

Mayor Becker mentioned that Ms. Brooks did a great job of narrowing down [the list of movies], since we are not kids, but some have grandchildren, so they may have some insight.

Councilwoman Critz stated she had seen several of these [movies].

Mayor Becker noted one thing he told Ms. Brooks was the town should get a first and second choice, because Mr. Pihanich will say "oh yeah, Wesley Chapel's doing Sing II", so Mineral Springs does not want to do that one if somebody already made it a choice.

Councilman Muller responded Mineral Springs was not going to have everybody from Wesley Chapel.

Mayor Becker noted that was true, so it did not matter, and he would leave it up to the council if it was one choice.

Councilman Muller stated he would like to see Dog; it looks good.

Councilwoman Critz stated she thought Sing II appealed to a broader audience, because it is very upbeat with a lot of music, and a lot of opportunity to sing along and dance. Councilwoman Critz thought it would be easier to engage more kids, so it might keep the children on point. Councilwoman Critz selected Sing II over the three that she had seen for that reason, and Dog does not do that.

Councilman Muller commented the only thing about Dog was it is a new movie in the theaters now, and it would be something nobody has seen, so it might bring more people to Mineral Springs to view.

Councilwoman Critz stated Councilman Muller had a point, but she was thinking of how to keep children more funneled and tunneled.

Councilwoman Critz motioned to choose Sing II for the reasons she stated. Councilwoman Critz stated she did not think you could go wrong with any of them, but she wanted to see it possibly be more engaging to the audience. [This motion was not acted upon]

Councilman Muller suggested going with Sing II, but if it was not available to put Dog as the second choice.

Ms. Brooks suggested Councilwoman Critz restate her motion.

Councilwoman Critz motioned that Sing II is our first choice and Dog would be our second choice and Councilman Muller seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Critz, Cureton, and Muller. Nays: None.

Ms. Brooks mentioned that Councilwoman Krafft would not be doing the children's activity, because that is the weekend she will be taking her son to school. Ms. Brooks mentioned the movie started at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor Becker asked if the library would still do their thing at 7:00 p.m. or so.

Ms. Brooks responded the library would be there from 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Councilwoman Critz stated she thought that was sufficient and asked if there were going to be vendors with popcorn, pretzels, and ice cream.

Councilman Muller suggested Pelican's.

9. Consideration of Appointing a Delegate for the NCLM 2022-2023 League Board of Directors

Mayor Becker mentioned the council had been getting emails from the League saying who the nominees were for the board; a slate has been made and the delegate will just have to say yes to the slate the nominating committee recommends. This is a one-time thing, because the League's charter says anytime they have a vote of all member municipalities, the town must designate a voting delegate to do that. The council just needs to designate a voting delegate who will get in

touch with Ms. Brooks tomorrow and they will get an email from the League and the delegate will send the Mineral Springs vote for the slate of candidates.

Councilman Muller volunteered.

Councilwoman Coffey motioned to appoint Councilman Muller and Councilwoman Countryman seconded. The motion passed unanimously by roll call. Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Critz, Cureton, and Muller. Nays: None.

10. Staff Updates

Attorney Griffin referred to the second page of Mayor Becker's memo for item #7 and asked if the word "decreased" should be "increased" under #1.

Mayor Becker thanked Attorney Griffin for pointing that out, and explained he used the previous year's as a template trying to remember to change all the words/dates if they had to be changed. The reason that was increased was because the town goes by that 3% flat rate, and a budget amendment had to be done the first month of the fiscal year to accommodate the comprehensive plan, so the budget was bigger last year than normal. It went from \$10,545 to \$11,675, which is an increase.

11. Other Business

Mayor Becker mentioned that Councilwoman Cureton and he just came from Parkwood High School where they had a wonderful little Terrance Gittens Memorial at the stadium with speakers. There was a memo in the agenda packet that Coach Gittens put out, but Mayor Becker did not speak to him about the fact that the town generally does not contribute to school, because there are so many of them and there are so many needs. This memo was put in the agenda packet on Thursday, but most people on the council know that Coach Gittens suddenly and unexpectedly passed away Thursday night. Mayor Becker explained that things don't change, and he believed the memo was geared more to business sponsorships from a chamber mailing list. If the council is interested in personal contributions or anything they wanted to do they could say it was in honor of the coach. Mayor Becker stated he was an amazing man and only spent two years there and seemed to have changed everybody's life. Coach Gittens coached football, and he was a CTE teacher. Mayor Becker worked with Coach Gittens every week and when Mayor Becker saw Coach Gittens on the field, it did not matter how busy he was, his fact lit up to see Mayor Becker; he was so grateful for the work Mayor Becker was doing for the team. Coach Gittens had presented Mayor Becker with a plaque during one of the basketball games that he took pictures of.

Councilwoman Cureton noted she was collecting money and when she talked to the school, they were excited about it, because she did raise \$500 for the band and \$4,000 for their [Western Union] park. When Councilwoman Cureton saw this [passing of Coach Gittens], she called the school and asked if she could collect some money and they said she did not need to ask, she could just do it. Councilwoman Cureton stated she had four checks and if anyone would like to give her a donation, she would accept it. Councilwoman Cureton explained the money was to be turned in on June 15th, but she was going to turn hers in at the end of May.

Councilwoman Critz asked Ms. Brooks about the Ethics Class council members were going to do together. When is the deadline? Any idea when the council would try to schedule it?

Ms. Brooks responded she did not know if the class was offered online yet, but she did not believe the deadline was until November. The Ethics Class is required each time an elected official is re-elected or elected to office.

Councilwoman Critz mentioned it would be Councilwoman Krafft, Councilman Countryman, Councilman Muller, Mayor Becker, and herself that will need to take the class this year.

Mayor Becker mentioned the class is offered once live and then the council could get the taped webinar and they can do it when they want when it is available.

12. Adjournment – Action Item

At 8:18 p.m. Councilwoman Coffey motioned to adjourn the meeting and Councilman Muller seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Coffey, Critz, Cureton, and Muller. Nays: None.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mineral Springs Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by:



Vicky A. Brooks

Vicky A. Brooks, CMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk

Frederick Becker III

Frederick Becker III, Mayor