

**Minutes of the
Mineral Springs Town Council
Regular Meeting
July 13, 2023 – 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, July 13, 2023.

Present: Mayor Frederick Becker III, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Countryman, Councilwoman Lundeen Cureton, Councilwoman Bettylyn Krafft, and Councilman Jim Muller.

Absent: Town Clerk/Zoning Administrator Vicky Brooks, Councilwoman Valerie Coffey, and Councilwoman Janet Critz.

Staff Present: Administrative Assistant/Deputy Town Clerk Sharelle Quick and Attorney Bobby Griffin

Visitors: None.

1. Opening

With a quorum present at 7:30 p.m. on July 13, 2023, Mayor Becker called the meeting to order.

Councilman Countryman delivered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Consent Agenda – Action Item

Councilman Countryman motioned to approve the consent containing the June 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, the May 2023 Union County Tax Report, and the May 2023 Finance Report and Councilman Muller seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Countryman, Cureton, Krafft, and Muller. Nays: None.

4. Consideration of Amending the Illegal Drug/Alcohol Policy – Action Item

Mayor Becker reminded the council this was discussed last month and Ms. Brooks discussed it briefly with Attorney Bobby Griffin. This is a simple change of one sentence; it is specific to allow beer and wine to be provided by certain vendors at permitted special events. Mayor Becker mentioned that somebody was interested in being a sponsor of the festival and having wine tastings. This change will allow that to happen.

Councilman Countryman motioned to approve the illegal drug abuse and alcohol abuse policy as presented with the change providing vendor access and Councilwoman Krafft seconded. The motion passed. Ayes: Countryman, Krafft, and Muller. Nays: Cureton.

The amended policy is as follows:

TOWN OF MINERAL SPRINGS
ILLEGAL DRUG ABUSE/ALCOHOL ABUSE
POLICY

This policy is implemented because the Mineral Springs Governing Body believes that the impairment of any the Town of Mineral Springs employee due to his or her use of illegal drugs or due to alcohol abuse is likely to result in the risk of injury to other employees, the impaired employee, or to third parties, such as residents or office guests. Moreover, illegal drug abuse adversely affects employee morale and productivity.

"Impairment" or "being impaired" means that an employee's normal physical or mental abilities or faculties while at work have been detrimentally affected by the use of illegal drugs or alcohol.

The employee who begins work while impaired or who becomes impaired while at work is guilty of a major violation of town rules and is subject to severe disciplinary action. Severe disciplinary action can include suspension, dismissal, or any other penalty appropriate under the circumstances. Likewise the use, possession, transfer or sale of any illegal drugs (as defined in the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act, NC G. S. § 90-86 through 90-113.8) on the town office premises or in any the Town of Mineral Springs storage areas or job sites are prohibited. Employees who violate this rule are subject to severe disciplinary action. In all instances disciplinary action to be administered shall be at the sole discretion and determination of the Mineral Springs Town Council.

When an employee is involved in the use, possession, transfer, or sale of illegal drugs in violation of this policy, the town may notify appropriate authorities. Such notice will be given only after such an incident has been investigated and reviewed by the employee's supervisor. The Town of Mineral Springs is aware that illegal drug abuse is a complex health problem that has both physical impact and an emotional impact on the employee, his or her family, and social relationships. A drug abuser is a person who uses illegal drugs, as defined above, for nonmedical reasons, and this use affects job performance detrimentally or interferes with normal social intercourse at work. Illegal drug abuse is both a management and a medical problem.

A supervisor who suspects a drug or alcohol abuse case should discuss the situation immediately with the town administrator, who will advise the town council. Because each case is usually different, the handling and referral of the case must be coordinated with the supervisor.

Applicants who have a past history of substance abuse and who have demonstrated an ability to abstain from the substance, or who can provide medical assurance of acceptable control, may be considered for employment as long as they are otherwise qualified for the position for which they are applying.

The town has chosen to adopt an alcoholic beverage policy in keeping with the concern for and the risks associated with alcohol use. Alcoholic beverages shall not be served or used on the Town of Mineral Springs premises at any time, with the exception of a permitted festival or other special event in which a vendor or sponsor of such event has been approved by the event director to offer samples of beer or wine in order to make sales of their product.

The town is concerned with its employees' privacy, especially when matters regarding medical and personal information are involved. The town shall maintain employee medical and personal information in confidence and release this information only in accordance with North Carolina General Statute §160A-168.

Nothing contained in this policy shall eliminate or modify the town's right to terminate any employee at any time for any reason.

5. Consideration of the 2022-2023 Audit Contract – Action Item

Mayor Becker explained the audit contract quote from Kendra Gangel was \$5,230 (up from \$4,730), which is what she said she was going to move up to after four years.

Councilwoman Krafft motioned to approve the audit contract as presented and Councilman Countryman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Countryman, Cureton, Krafft, and Muller. Nays: None.

6. Staff Updates

There were no staff updates.

7. Other Business

Councilman Countryman updated the council on the WUMA meeting he attended nearly a month ago. Councilman Countryman stated that he had updated the group on what the town had been doing, passing the budget without much hesitation, discussing some capital planning processes, such as the refurbishment of the building [town hall] both externally and internally. The primary focus of the meeting was discussion of the water and sewer issues relating to Union County and the 12-mile creek water treatment facility. Essentially it was communicated that people could expect a 1.7% rate increase for Union County Water effective the first of August. The current and previous county commissioners had neglected to pursue any kind of rate increases in years past, which has put the county in a position of not having a lot of funding to build a new facility or add capacity, and the county commissioners finally came to the conclusion they had to do something about that. Councilman Countryman thought everyone was going to begin seeing rate increases over the next few years, so the county will begin to put away funds for a new facility, but more importantly to update the current facility by fixing things that need to be fixed and routine maintenance, because they have limited funds to do that now. Councilman Countryman added the one thing that all of the communities in attendance at the meeting appreciated was the fact that the commissioners had

concluded that assigning allocation to each community would be the best policy for beginning to open up access to the water treatment facility, because right now everything is restricted (no taps/hookups are being allowed). Councilman Countryman noted there was a developer that would love to be working at Potter and 75 developing the property he purchased, but he can't do anything right now. Councilman Countryman thought that in the near future the commissioners would begin to assign some allocation to the communities, so the municipality can then determine how it gets used locally rather than the county making the decision.

Councilwoman Cureton mentioned the Union County Weekly put the 100 most powerful women council members in their paper. The councilwomen mentioned for Mineral Springs were Valerie Coffey, Janet Critz, Lundeen Cureton, and Bettylyn Krafft.

Councilwoman Krafft asked for an update on the upcoming festival.

Mayor Becker responded that the vendors and sponsors are finally starting to build, and the newsletter helped with that.

Ms. Sharelle Quick added a craft vendor came in this week and there would also be an anonymous \$500 sponsor coming in.

Councilwoman Krafft asked if a flyer would be given to the school.

Mayor Becker responded that had yet to be determined, but he thought Ms. Brooks would be taking care of that when she returned. The town will want to promote it to Western Union Elementary and the Parkwood people will be here.

Ms. Quick mentioned that door prizes were still needed.

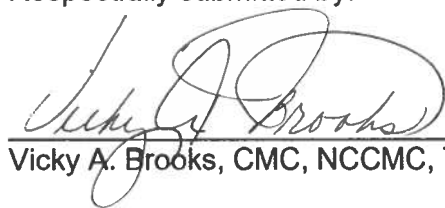
Councilwoman Krafft stated she spoke with Mineral Springs Fertilizer, they will be donating items, and she will be getting something from Stonebridge Golf Course.

8. Adjournment – Action Item

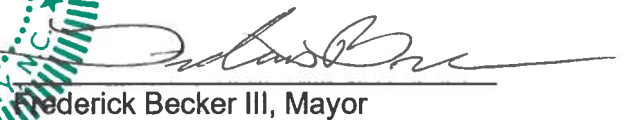
At 7:41 p.m. Councilwoman Cureton motioned to adjourn the meeting and Councilman Muller seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Countryman, Cureton, Krafft, and Muller. Nays: None.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, August 10, 2023 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