

**Minutes of the
Mineral Springs Town Council
Public Hearing / Regular Meeting
June 13, 2024 – 7:30 p.m.**

The Town Council of the Town of Mineral Springs, North Carolina, met in Public Hearing / 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, June 13, 2024.

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

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Valerie Coffey.

Staff Present: Town Clerk/Zoning Administrator Vicky Brooks, Attorney Bobby Griffin, and Administrative Assistant/Deputy Town Clerk Sharelle Quick.

Visitors: Sheila Crunkleton.

1. Opening

With a quorum present at 7:30 p.m. on June 13, 2024, Mayor Becker called the regular meeting to order.

Councilwoman Critz delivered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Hearing – 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

Mayor Becker opened the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget Public Hearing at 7:31 p.m.

Mayor Becker closed the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget Public Hearing at 7:32 p.m.

3. Public Comments

Sheila Crunkleton – American Red Cross.

4. Consent Agenda – Action Item

Councilman Countryman motioned to approve the consent agenda containing the May 9, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, the April 2024 Union County Tax Report, and the April 2024 Finance Report as presented, and Councilwoman Cureton seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft, and Muller. Nays: None.

5. Consideration of the 2023-2024 Nonprofit Contributions – Action Item

Mayor Becker explained the council heard a brief report from Ms. Sheila Crunkleton from American Red Cross and he did provide the council with a memo. There were written summaries from three of the nonprofits (everyone except Turning Point). American Red Cross requested \$2,000, the Council on Aging asked for an increase; however, they got an increase last year and the town was pretty close to the ceiling on the four nonprofits that are funded. Mayor Becker recommended that the council stick with the level of last year, which brought the town in just \$500 under the maximum possible allocation. That would be \$2,500 for Catawba Lands Conservancy, \$3,500 for Council on Aging, \$2,000 for Red Cross, and \$2,500 for Turning Point for a total of \$10,500 out of the \$11,000 budget line item.

Councilman Muller asked if the council would hold Turning Point's funding until or unless they requested it.

Mayor Becker responded that was a council decision, but they were a regular partner, and the town did get updates throughout the year.

Councilman Countryman mentioned that their need was not going to go away.

Councilman Countryman motioned to fund at last year's levels for a total of \$10,500 and Councilman Muller seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft, and Muller. Nays: None.

5. Consideration of the FY2024-2025 Budget – Action Item

Mayor Becker noted that there had been no changes, and the council did not hear anything at the public hearing.

Councilman Muller motioned to adopt O-2023-09 as presented and Councilwoman Critz seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft, and Muller. Nays: None.

The ordinance is as follows:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
TOWN OF MINERAL SPRINGS

**AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
O-2023-09**

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

Section I. Appropriations. The following amounts are hereby approved in the General Fund for the operation of the Town government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/2024 and ending 6/30/2025, in accordance with a Chart of Accounts to be established for the Town:

ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL GOVERNMENT: \$366,679.00		
Advertising	\$1,200.00	
Attorney	\$7,200.00	
Audit	\$5,230.00	
Charities and Agencies	\$12,575.00	
Community Projects	\$24,488.00	
Contingency	\$3,000.00	
Employee Overhead	\$43,600.00	
Fire Protection	\$12,000.00	
Office and Administrative	\$196,638.00	
Planning and Zoning	\$50,448.00	
Street Lighting	\$1,900.00	
Tax Collection	\$1,800.00	
Training	\$3,000.00	
Travel	\$3,600.00	
CAPITAL:		\$62,296.00
Capital outlay	\$62,296.00	
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS:		\$428,975.00

Section II. Estimated Revenues. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the General Fund for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/2024 and ending 6/30/2025:

Property taxes	\$85,780.00
Interest	\$47,195.00
Other income	\$1,000.00
Sales taxes	\$280,850.00
Vehicle taxes	\$8,650.00
Zoning fees	\$5,500.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES: \$428,975.00

Section III. Property Tax Levy. A tax in the amount of \$0.021 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation is hereby levied on property within the Town of Mineral Springs which was listed for property taxes in Union County, North Carolina as of January 1, 2024.

ADOPTED this 13th day of June 2024. Witness my hand and official seal:

Frederick Becker III, Mayor

Attest:

Vicky A. Brooks, Clerk

6. Notification of a Landscaping Request for Proposal

Mayor Becker explained staff was planning on rebidding the landscape service, because they were trying to increase the focus on the shrubs/gardens to get a more comprehensive plan. The best way to do that was to draw up a new set of specifications with Matt Humphreys (who has been doing the consulting with Ms. Brooks on the work that has been done so far). Mayor Becker asked Ms. Brooks if the proposal was just to let the council know and to see if they had any questions. Staff will publicize the information with the current provider, and others that have come by over the past year or so, as well as posting it on the website. There will be a bid opening and hopefully the council can award a contract.

Councilman Countryman asked if this did not include the two signs.

Mayor Becker responded that they were not re-allocating that yet.

Ms. Brooks commented it was just for the town hall and the park.

Councilwoman Krafft asked if the town would be looking at doing that in the future.

Mayor Becker responded he thought the town could, but maybe if the town gets a new landscaper, they would be willing to do it as part of the package.

Councilwoman Critz mentioned that she had recently been contacted about the overgrowth at the Greenway parking lot that was interfering with pulling out. One of the signs had faded and was practically invisible. Would that be included in the maintenance part?

Mayor Becker responded that was not planned for now, but he was planning to redo some of the maintenance at the trailhead liked he used to do but couldn't because the town couldn't pay for him to do mowing work; "trimmers and things are legit."

Councilwoman Critz asked if that could be included with the signs.

Mayor Becker responded that he did not want to include it with the signs, because eventually the town may want to phase that out, because Ken himself retired and his son is doing it. Mayor Becker commented he didn't want the greenway parking area included with the signs, if the town was going to do that with anybody, it would be with the main contractor, but it could be pretty expensive.

Councilwoman Critz asked if that could be added to this bid, it would be considered a codicil to include the trailhead maintenance and could be bid on separately.

Mayor Becker commented that there had been some urgency to get this property bid, because summer is here, pruning and weeding was going to be required, so that is the focus.

The council agreed to handle the greenway trailhead separately.

7. Staff Updates

There were no staff updates.

8. Other Business

Councilman Countryman explained he had the opportunity to attend the WUMA (Western Union Municipal Alliance) meeting a couple weeks ago. There was a presentation given by the people that administer all of the Highway and Traffic projects (CRTPO). The whole discussion was to make communities aware of the difficulty in processing requests to get things done relative to the roadway system, traffic control, and sidewalks. Councilman Countryman mentioned there was a list of acronyms as long as your arm, but it was basically a system where somebody makes a request and it goes in the pot, then they all review the pot and prioritize the pot, out of that pot, they pick two or three things that are the most current and urgent and they put them in a different pot called the STIP. They review that pot for a while and eventually somebody will pull out two or three items that are critical in the STIP pot, and they will put them in the...

Mayor Becker clarified that the STIP became a funded project.

Councilman Countryman continued that it was a very detailed presentation, and the bottom line was getting projects funded was a slow process.

Councilwoman Critz mentioned that many municipalities in North Carolina were way behind in their audits, not for just this year, or last year, but many years behind. Councilwoman Critz commented that Mayor Becker and Ms. Brooks did a great job to make sure that the town audits are not only done but done on time and she wanted to thank them for that.

Councilwoman Cureton asked if there was anything about her street, because the traffic is still getting bad.

Mayor Becker responded, as he told Councilwoman Cureton yesterday, he would help her get a petition that she could take to her neighbors.

9. Adjournment – Action Item

At 7:50 p.m. Councilman Countryman motioned to adjourn the meeting and Councilwoman Krafft seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft, and Muller. Nays: None.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mineral Springs Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by:


Vicky A. Brooks, CMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk


Frederick Becker, Mayor

