

Town of Mineral Springs
Town Hall
3506 S. Potter Road
Town Council
Regular Meeting
September 14, 2017~ 7:30 PM

Minutes

The Town Council of the Town of Mineral Springs, North Carolina, met in Public Hearing and Regular Session at the Mineral Springs Town Hall, Mineral Springs, North Carolina, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2017.

Present: Mayor Frederick Becker III, Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Neill, Councilwoman Valerie Coffey, Councilman Jerry Countryman, Councilwoman Janet Critz, Councilwoman Lundeen Cureton, Councilwoman Bettylyn Krafft, Town Clerk/Zoning Administrator Vicky Brooks and Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Janet Ridings.

Absent: Attorney Bobby Griffin.

Visitors: Donna Cox, Gene Childers, Crystal Ellis and Rachel Kennerly.

With a quorum present Mayor Frederick Becker called the Regular Town Council Meeting of July 14, 2016 to order at 7:32 p.m.

1. **Opening**

- Councilwoman Critz delivered the invocation.
- Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Public Hearing – Proposed Text Amendments**

- Mayor Becker opened the Public Hearing on the proposed text amendments at 7:33 p.m.
- Planning Director Vicky Brooks explained there were several text amendments the council was looking at tonight. Ms. Brooks explained several months back the council discussed commercial real estate signs and how they thought they should be allowed to be a little bigger, so the planning board worked on it and came up with allowing them to be up to twelve (12) square feet (just for commercial, residential will stay the same). Ms. Brooks pointed out the amendment to Section 8.3 (d) was to add “residential”, just for clarification between residential and commercial. The other proposed text amendment was to start allowing temporary special event signs to be put up fourteen (14) days before an event as opposed to ten (10) days. The text amendments to Article 12 are necessary, because the [General] Statutes have changed. Those will become effective on October 1st, should the council pass them, which Ms. Brooks suggested. The amendment to 12.1.10 was just a typographical error that is being corrected. Ms. Brooks referred back to Article 8 and pointed out there was a change in the numbering system.

- Having no one signed up or wishing to speak, Mayor Becker closed the Public Hearing on the proposed text amendments at 7:34 p.m.

3. **Consideration of the Proposed Text Amendments**

- Mayor Becker opened the deliberations on the text amendments and asked the council if they had any questions; the text amendments seem pretty straight forward. Ms. Brooks mentioned that the Public Hearing had been advertised as required by law and pointed out the agenda packet contained the recommendation from the planning board and how that vote resulted. There is a written Consistency Statement in the agenda packet for the council to adopt.
- **Councilwoman Critz** made a **motion** that we accept the written Consistency Statement, Zoning Ordinance Article 8 concerning “Signs” in reference to the proposed text amendment in Article 8, Sections 8.3 of the Mineral Springs Zoning Ordinance and the proposed text amendments and **Councilman Countryman** seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill
Nays: None

- The Consistency Statement is as follows:

TOWN OF MINERAL SPRINGS
WRITTEN
CONSISTENCY STATEMENT
Zoning Ordinance – Article 8 – Signs

In reference to the proposed text amendment to Article 8, Section 8.3 of the Mineral Springs Zoning Ordinance.

The Town of Mineral Springs Town Council hereby declares that the proposed text amendment is “**consistent**” with the Mineral Springs Land Use Plan and the Vision Plan contained therein as adopted by the Town Council on October 12, 2006. It invites a new standard for businesses to advertise; it clarifies the difference between commercial and residential; and the “action” under “Community Image” of the Town’s Land Use Plan is to establish a system for periodic review of Town ordinances to be sure that they are as up-to-date and effective as possible.

ADOPTED this the 14th day of September, 2017.

Frederick Becker III, Mayor

Attest:

Vicky A. Brooks, CZO

- The text amendments are as follows:

Section 8.3 Signs Permitted Without Permit

The following signs shall not require a permit:

- a) Signs required to be posted by law. Signs established by governmental agencies. "Warning" signs and "No" Trespassing" signs. Historical markers placed by a governmental agency or a recognized historical society. Private unofficial traffic signs indicating directions, entrances, or exits.
- b) One (1) sign, including a professional name plate, per dwelling unit, denoting the name of the occupant not to exceed one and one half (1-1/2) square feet in area.

- c) Political signs advocating for political action during the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of “one-stop” early voting and ending on the 10th day after the primary or election day. Political signs may be placed in the right-of-way of the State highway system. Permission must be granted by any property owner of a residence, business, or religious institution fronting the right-of-way where a sign would be erected. Signs shall not be closer than three (3) feet from the edge of the road pavement, obscure motorist visibility at an intersection, be higher than forty-two (42) inches above the edge of road pavement, be larger than eight hundred sixty-four (864) square inches or obscure/replace another sign.
- d) One (1) sign advertising residential real estate “for sale”, “for rent”, or “for lease”, not greater than six (6) square feet in area located upon property so advertised, and shall be no higher than four (4) feet from grade level. Such signs shall not obstruct visibility for motorists. Such signs shall be removed within seven (7) days after the property has been sold, (upon closing) rented or leased. Any signs erected pursuant to this provision must not violate Section 8.3 4(f) of this Ordinance. Any signs advertising real estate subdivisions shall be limited to one (1) sign, no greater than six (6) square feet in area, located at the entrance of the subdivision.
- e) One (1) sign advertising commercial real estate on properties zoned for business (B-2, B-4, LI, or MUD) “for sale”, “for rent”, or “for lease”, not greater than twelve (12) square feet in area located upon property so advertised, and shall be no higher than four (4) feet from grade level. Such signs shall be removed within seven (7) days after the property has been sold, (upon closing) rented or leased. Any signs erected pursuant to this provision must not violate Section 8.4(f) of this Ordinance. This provision shall not be used in combination with Section 8.3 (d).
- ef) One (1) sign advertising the sale of produce out of a home garden on the premises where the produce is being sold shall be permitted with no more than sixteen (16) square feet in area and no higher than four (4) feet above grade level.
- fg) Churches may have two (2) free standing directional signs only. The signs shall be no larger than two (2) square feet in area and placed off the right-of-way.
- gh) One (1) sign per dwelling unit advertising a yard sale, or for the sale of up to two (2) vehicles, or small pets, or the like for no more than ten (10) days’ total duration. All yard sales’ signs shall be removed twenty-four (24) hours after the yard sale has been terminated. No such sign shall be greater than four (4) square feet in area. All such signs shall be located off the street right-of-way.
- hi) Temporary directional signs for yard sales’ are limited to three (3) in number and may be placed forty-eight (48) hours before the sale, and must be removed twenty-four (24) hours after termination.
- ij) Temporary special event signs, banners, streamers for non-profit agencies are allowed ~~ten (10)~~ fourteen (14) days before the special event and must be taken down two (2) days after the special event. The size shall be no larger than twenty-four (24) square feet and must be located off the street right-of-way, unless otherwise specified by the Department of Transportation.
- jk) Flags of the United States of America, the State of North Carolina, Union County, the Town of Mineral Springs, or any flag adopted or sanctioned by an elected legislative body of competent jurisdiction, as well as flags bearing a logo of corporate, non-profit, or religious origin. Such flags shall not be flown from a pole the top of which is more than 35 feet in height.
- kl) Window signs placed or painted on the interior or exterior of glass windows or door provided that such signs cover no more than thirty (30) percent of the glass area of the entire storefront. Window signs that cover more than thirty (30) percent of the glass shall be considered as wall signs and shall meet requirements for painted wall signs within the appropriate zoning district.
- lm) Neon tube signs or LED signs visible from outside of a building shall be limited to two (2) per business and located on the inside of a window such that no more than ten (10) percent of the window area is covered by the sign area.

Any sign in the Town of Mineral Springs that is found to be in need of repair shall be renovated or removed within thirty (30) days by the owner upon receipt of written notification, or said sign may then be removed by the Zoning Administrator, and the reasonable cost of such removal shall be the owner’s responsibility.

- ***Councilwoman Coffey made a motion that we adopt the zoning ordinance changes for 12.1.6 effective October 1, 2017 in alignment with the state changes and that the written Consistency Statement referencing Zoning Ordinance Article 12 amendment is applicable, 12.1.10 – the typo and effect be recognized and Councilwoman Cureton seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:***

*Ayes: Coffey, Countryman, Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill
Nays: None*

- The written Consistency Statement is as follows:

TOWN OF MINERAL SPRINGS

**WRITTEN
CONSISTENCY STATEMENT**

Zoning Ordinance – Article 12 – Amendment

In reference to the proposed text amendment to Article 12, Section 12.1.6 of the Mineral Springs Zoning Ordinance.

The Town of Mineral Springs Town Council hereby declares that the proposed text amendment is “**consistent**” with the Mineral Springs Land Use Plan and the Vision Plan contained therein as adopted by the Town Council on October 12, 2006. The General Assembly amended G.S. 160A-383 making these new requirements applicable to all zoning amendment applications filed on or after October 1, 2017; and the “action” under “Community Image” of the Town’s Land Use Plan is to establish a system for periodic review of Town ordinances to be sure that they are as up-to-date and effective as possible.

ADOPTED this the 14th day of September, 2017 to become effective on October 1, 2017.

Frederick Becker III, Mayor

Attest:

Vicky A. Brooks, CZO

- The text amendments are as follows:

12.1.6 If the petition is to amend the text of this Ordinance, the Planning Board may make one of the following recommendations to the Town Council.

- a) ~~Adopt the proposed amendment as written, or~~ **A statement approving the proposed zoning amendment and describing its consistency with the plan;**
- b) ~~Adopt the amendment as revised by the Planning Board, or~~ **A statement rejecting the proposed zoning amendment and describing its inconsistency with the plan; or**
- c) ~~Reject the amendment.~~ **A statement approving the proposed amendment and declaring that this also amends the plan, along with an explanation of the change in conditions to meet the development needs of the community that were taken into account in the zoning amendment.**

The Zoning Administrator shall transmit any decision of the Planning Board to the Town Council.

12.1.10 Prior to adopting or rejecting any zoning amendment, the Town Council shall adopt a statement describing whether its action is consistent with ~~and~~ **an** adopted comprehensive plan and explaining why the Town Council considers the action taken to be reasonable and in the public interest.

4. Public Comments

- Crystal Ellis – 4420 Richardson Drive, Monroe, NC
- Donna Cox – 6605 Forest Green Drive, Waxhaw, NC
- Rachel Kennerly – 6607 Forest Green Drive, Waxhaw, NC
- Gene Childers – 6607 Forest Green Drive, Waxhaw, NC

5. Consent Agenda

- ***Councilwoman Neill*** made a ***motion*** to approve the consent agenda as presented containing the following:
 - A. *August 10, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes*
 - B. *July 2017 Tax Collector’s Report*
 - C. *July 2017 Finance Report*

and **Councilwoman Coffey** seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

Ayes: Coffey, Critz, Countryman, Cureton, Krafft and Neill
Nays: None

6. **Proclamation for Constitution Week**

- Mayor Becker explained there were three proclamations for the month of September, which he would like to present to the council (as they always do). We have been recognizing Constitution Week every September for years now. This year September 17th through the 23rd is designated as Constitution Week. The Daughters of the American Revolutions sponsor this.
- **Councilwoman Critz** made a **motion** to approve the proclamation and **Councilman Countryman** seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

Ayes: Coffey, Critz, Countryman, Cureton, Krafft and Neill
Nays: None

- The proclamation is as follows:

**Town of Mineral Springs
Proclamation**

**Constitution Week
September 17th – 23rd, 2017**

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, 2017, marks the two hundred thirtieth anniversary of the drafting 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, 2017 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 14th day of September of the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.

Frederick Becker III, Mayor
Town of Mineral Springs

ATTEST:

Vicky A Brooks, CMC, Town Clerk

7. **Proclamation for Alzheimer's Disease Awareness**

- Mayor Becker explained the second proclamation is effective tomorrow and he thought they first approved this last year at the request of Home Instead, a senior advocacy organization. This is to proclaim September 15th as Alzheimer's Awareness Day; we are aware of the devastating effects of Alzheimer's.
- **Councilman Countryman made a motion to approve that proclamation declaring September 15th Alzheimer's Awareness Day and Councilwoman Krafft seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:**

*Ayes: Coffey, Critz, Countryman, Cureton, Krafft and Neill
Nays: None*

- The proclamation is as follows:

Proclamation
Town of Mineral Springs

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive degenerative disease of the brain causing deterioration in memory and thinking, as well as judgment and reasoning ability; it also affects behavior, emotions and the ability to perform self-care; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death for older adults; and

WHEREAS, according to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Alzheimer's is the 5th leading cause of death of citizens 65 and older; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 5 million people in the United States are living with Alzheimer's; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia; and

WHEREAS, according to the Alzheimer's Reading Room, 1,232 Americans are diagnosed daily and 8,634 Americans are diagnosed weekly with Alzheimer's disease, and by 2050 over 13 million Americans could have the disease; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease costs the United States \$100 billion per year in diagnosis, extended care, family caregiver illness and lost wages according to the National Institute on Aging; and

WHEREAS, neither Medicare nor most private health insurance covers the long-term services and support most people with dementia need; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Mineral Springs recognizes individuals, families, friends and caregivers dealing with the devastating effects of Alzheimer's disease, the researchers who are seeking a cause or causes and cure, and the educational programs and support services provided by North Carolina Alzheimer's organizations;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Frederick Becker III, Mayor of the Town of Mineral Springs, North Carolina, and the town council, do hereby proclaim September 15, 2017 as "ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS day" in Mineral Springs and encourage its observance to all citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this Seal of The Town of Mineral Springs to be affixed this the 14th day of September, 2017

Frederick Becker III, Mayor

Attest:

Vicky A. Brooks, CMC, Town Clerk

8. **Proclamation for National Suicide Prevention Week**

- Mayor Becker explained the last one is a very important one; this is the first time that it has been brought forward as a proclamation suggestion that he recalls. We are in the midst of the designated week right now; it's asking us to designate September 10th through the 16th as National Suicide Prevention Week. Mayor

Becker believed this was an established program and it was an important thing to recognize.

- **Councilman Countryman** made a **motion** to declare September 10th through 16th Suicide Prevention Week and **Councilwoman Krafft** seconded. Councilwoman Critz reminded everyone even though the week is being declared, there is also a walk to fight suicide in October, which they haven't missed. *The aforementioned motion by Councilman Countryman passed unanimously as follows:*

*Ayes: Coffey, Critz, Countryman, Cureton, Krafft and Neill
Nays: None*

- The proclamation is as follows:

Proclamation
Town of Mineral Springs

WHEREAS, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the 2nd leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 to 34; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, one person completes suicide every 12.3 minutes, resulting in more than 44,000 suicides each year (Centers for Disease Control; 2015 data); and

WHEREAS, suicide is the only leading cause of death in the United States that has increased every year for the past decade; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are over 1.1 million suicide attempts each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, North Carolina experienced 1,406 deaths by suicide; and

WHEREAS, over 90% of the people who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable mental health condition, although often that condition is not recognized or treated; and

WHEREAS, suicide results in an estimated \$51 billion in combined medical and work loss costs nationally (Centers for Disease Control; 2015 data); and

WHEREAS, suicide results in an estimated \$1.39 billion in combined medical and work loss costs in North Carolina annually (Centers for Disease Control; 2015 data); and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide loss and people with lived experience of suicide; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention envision a world without suicide, and are dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide, through research, education, advocacy and resources:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Frederick Becker, do hereby proclaim September 10-16, 2017, as

"NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK"

In the Town of Mineral Springs, North Carolina and commend its observance to all citizens.

WITNESS MY HAND and the official Seal

Frederick Becker, III Mayor

9. **Consideration of Approving the Town Hall Landscaping Agreement with Taylor and Sons for Fiscal Year 2017-2018**

- Mayor Becker explained this one was fairly self-explanatory, Ms. Brooks had been in contact with Ms. Taylor and Derrick Taylor of Taylor & Sons to renew our annual

contract for landscaping services. Mayor Becker noted the price remains \$365 and the terms are identical; the same contract with different starting and ending dates.

- **Councilwoman Coffey** made a **motion** to approve the landscaping contract with Taylor & Sons and **Councilwoman Cureton** seconded. Councilwoman Krafft mentioned that she had read the landscaping thing and noted it said in there about pulling the weeds and stuff like that, which seemed to be a big thing right before the fall festival; “does this cover what is needed to be done or does it need to be modified, changed, increased, what needs to be done, because everybody seemed to be in a “fluster” right before the fall festival about the weeds”? Mayor Becker responded if you look at Exhibit A, they are not talking about (in the contract) weeding those gardens. Councilwoman Coffey commented that would be a separate contract. Mayor Becker continued they have done some [weeding] as part of the contract when they had time; there are a couple of issues that we want to address with Derrick just to make sure that they are adhering to some details of the contract. Councilwoman Coffey explained she knew it would definitely be at an extra cost, because she researched it last year; it is very costly to have the place hand weeded as they had discussed and would definitely not be included in this contract. Councilwoman Krafft asked if the contract needed to be modified to include [weeding]. Councilwoman Coffey responded, “no, they may not want to do that scope of work” and they didn’t seem to be open for that scope in her opinion. Councilwoman Krafft responded, “yeah, by whoever and it needs to be addressed”. Mayor Becker agreed. Councilwoman Krafft commented this contract looks fine, except for right before the fall festival there was all this “hullabaloo” about getting it done. Councilwoman Critz commented she was hearing that it’s a separate issue and they need a separate contract to address it that way. Councilwoman Coffey commented it may even be a different company. Ms. Brooks noted they tried to address it last year before the festival. Mayor Becker commented, “we did get help from Taylor & Sons and we may be able to, if we meet with Derrick and they were doing that above and beyond their contract, they weren’t doing a perfect”... Councilman Countryman mentioned his wife spent three days doing it. Councilwoman Coffey responded she was going to say, Ms. Countryman did more or as much as they did. Mayor Becker commented, “volunteers are better, Ms. Countryman did it, I did it, Ms. Brooks has done it, so that’s a very important point Councilwoman Krafft, either see if we can get them to do more at various times during the year or”..... Councilwoman Coffey responded they didn’t seem to be interested, so we might as well look for another and she had talked to a couple of people and tried to get some. Mayor Becker commented it was very high. Councilwoman Critz stated she thought they needed a contract to get it done and then if they need extra for something like the festival then that’s appropriate for volunteers, but to have volunteers come in to do the job from ground up.... Councilwoman Coffey commented she didn’t agree, she thought they need to have a contract to have it done. Councilwoman Critz responded that was what she was saying, it’s one thing to maintenance and then come in to do a little extra for something special and another thing to start from ground zero. Councilwoman Coffey responded she thought they were at ground zero and a contract throughout a 100%, then we’re aren’t looking for anyone to come by to do anything, we are paying to have it done and that’s what they need – a contract. Councilman Countryman commented he was not sure that there’s anyone out there from the landscaping side of the equation that will do this, but one of the thoughts he would

have is that somebody like Manpower, where they have people that do all sorts of tasks, might be an opportunity to consider two or three times a year to have a contract with Manpower or somebody like that where they would send a crew to do that activity. Is that something that might be a possibility? Mayor Becker responded it's a possibility. Councilwoman Coffey responded she didn't think from Manpower, she was just saying they need a firm company that will do it; big landscaping companies aren't looking to do it, but they could look for some other avenues, such as some of the agricultural programs in the school system. Councilwoman Coffey thought they would like that, because they are looking to raise funds. Mayor Becker responded that was certainly something he could look at for a separate thing, since he has a contact with the staff at our high school. Normally when you have perennial gardens like we have, often the maintenance is done in-house and because it is time consuming. The City of Monroe has their Parks and Rec staff that does it. The City of Charlotte has their people that do it, they are not usually hiring contractors, because it requires different amounts of work at different times of the year. This is something the council really hasn't fully addressed yet, it's been a year and a half since we opened it. Mayor Becker noted there was a motion and a second on the floor to approve this contract for the mowing and some weeding. *The aforementioned motion by Councilwoman Coffey to approve the landscaping contract with Taylor & Sons passed unanimously as follows:*

Ayes: Coffey, Critz, Countryman, Cureton, Krafft and Neill

Nays: None

10. **Staff Reports**

- Ms. Brooks thanked all of the festival volunteers, without them, the festival would not have been as successful as it was. Ms. Brooks thanked Deputy Clerk Janet Ridings for going out there, "pounding the pavement", to get all of the prizes that we had to give away; it was a huge undertaking and she did an awesome job. The other volunteers (in no particular order) were Jim Muller, Richard Helms, Donna Sherrin, Barbara Lopez, Gabby Rink, Lawson Rink, Kandyce Rink, Jeff Krafft, Jordan Krafft, Don Gaddy, Sedona Simpson, Shelby Brady, Keely Brady, Will Brady, Elijah Gemes, Amy Brooks and Bettylyn Krafft. Ms. Brooks stated Bettylyn Krafft did a phenomenal job with the children's area. Councilwoman Krafft responded she served somewhere around 500 kids. Ms. Brooks stated she would personally like to thank each and every one of them; this year she was truly in awe of the people who stepped up to volunteer and the amount of work that they all put in. A full festival report will follow next month. Councilwoman Coffey referred to Ms. Brooks and thanked her for all of her hard work; without her, it wouldn't be. "Thank you, great job, we are honored to be a part of this". Councilwoman Cureton mentioned one of her neighbors brought her grandkids to the youth (over there) and one of them got sick and they didn't want to go home; said they had a good time and they were all so nice.

11. **Other Business**

- Councilwoman Krafft began by saying her passion was working in printing and with students and stuff. Councilwoman Krafft runs a competition that happens each year with college students, this year they have to work with a nonprofit or small

business to re-brand them. Councilwoman Krafft tossed it out to the kids about re-branding Mineral Springs, if this is something that people would like. When Councilwoman Krafft says “re-brand”, it’s more about working with graphics, because what the town currently uses is kind of mixed and it is not reproducible in all print formats. There are some things that could be done to improve it. If this is something the kids can do at no charge, they could work with Ms. Brooks and come up with a game plan. They would have to produce something at school and then over the period of time from start to finish they will document what they’ve done and they will document their conversation, they will document their colors, how they ran the press and how they controlled everything and then they will do a presentation; this year they are in St. Louis; they will give a presentation in front of seven individuals about what they’ve accomplished. Councilwoman Krafft explained she had given them three different possibilities and if the council says it is okay she will tell them that they can still consider this idea. Councilwoman Coffey responded she thought it was awesome and she looked forward to what they came up with. Councilwoman Krafft explained these kids are from Central Piedmont Community College and Keely Brady was part of that team and she was one of the festival volunteers (at the youth thing). Councilwoman Krafft thought Ms. Brady’s mind was thinking they could do something also for the fall festival.

- Councilwoman Critz stated she was in the “hot seat” here where you [members of the audience] are concerned. Councilwoman Critz was the one that (our council as a whole) backed away from the Nuisance Ordinance for very legitimate reasons. Councilwoman Critz stated that she did sort of lead that charge, so she was going to take personal responsibility here. (Councilwoman Critz kept all copies of the things the audience members shared tonight). Councilwoman Critz explained she had contacted the Institute of Government immediately when the town ran into problems and it was her goal to have already been at the Institute of Government; however, the young woman she needed to speak with at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill was out on vacation and would not return until the second week of August. On August 11th, Councilwoman Critz’s husband almost cut off his right hand with a power saw and had emergency surgery and is in recovery for that, so she should have already been to Chapel Hill and met with Kara and had this process. Councilwoman Critz explained what we needed to do, responsibly for people like yourself [audience members], who legitimately need help and also to protect people who could possibly be abused by someone that wanted to use it harmfully, which is sort of what “snowballed” on us and in addition to that we also have to understand the responsibility financially on the town and it sort of (honestly) “blew up in our face”. Councilwoman Critz explained she had multiple personal conversations with the town attorney and he said, “if you try and band-aid this, you are going to cause more problems than you can get yourself out of” and “the only way to really do it right is to tear it down and start over”. Councilwoman Critz stated it greaves her deeply for you [audience members] situation, but she would just like to point out she listened carefully and looked over this and wanted to point out just a couple of things right off the bat. “I will be following through with this, we are not going to let this go, but we are going to try and perfect it and we are going to work with the Institute of Government out of Chapel Hill to do so, when it comes to situations like the car issues where they are speeding and dog issues and the children issues and the loud music (that I wrote down as you were speaking), even the best Nuisance Ordinance that we could

come up with, it will not address those issues. When it comes to this, it will and so I don't want to promise you a rose garden here. I want you to realize that whenever this Nuisance Ordinance is perfected and it will be, I promise you that I will follow through with this, it is never going to involve these other issues, because these are issues of the Sheriff's Department and of Social Services and these areas and we cannot, it's just not a place that we have any authority to go, but when it comes to this, we do and just let me assure you that every single person up here cares, but we stepped into a situation that I don't even know how we could of possibly imagined, how it could be misused and misconstrued until it actually happened, because it was not in our intent and was used outside of the intent of the ordinance, as well as logistical things according to our attorney. So, all that to say, that is why we did what we did and the ordinance would not be back in place at this moment and even if I had gotten to Chapel Hill on time, we'd still be working at it, but I am getting to Chapel Hill later than originally intended, but I will be going and this will not be laid to rest and in the meantime, I would encourage you to call the Sheriff's Department if there is anything you can continue to do. Ask for Sheriff Cathey specifically, tell him you have been here, we have partnered with him on several issues, he's friends with our town, he's friend with our council, ask for him personally. Tell him we asked you to ask for him personally and also talk to the county. There are some environmental issues there that I think possibly go above and beyond a Nuisance Ordinance and which the county possibly has the responsibility to step in. I would definitely go there. Now I hate to say this, but I have found in many situations that it requires a lot asking and life shouldn't be that way, unfortunately, but it is, so you may need to call and call and call again", Councilwoman Critz said. Councilwoman Coffey explained she was going to be honest with them [audience members], environmental health is not going to pick that up, she has dealt with that, there are some situations that she has personally dealt with and taken before them and nobody is willing to step up. Councilwoman Critz asked that they [audience members] stay in touch with the town, because this is not going to go away, it is delayed, we are going to re-address it.

- Mayor Becker explained he needed a little guidance on the Spelling Bee; he believed the town was committed to the \$300. Last year, Mineral Springs couldn't do our Mineral Springs team, because it was on town council meeting night; this year it is at Siler Church on a Thursday after the November town council meeting, so we can have the "Mineral Stings" again and we would leave the Parkwood team high and dry. Mayor Becker would contact Matt Riggins to see if he wants to do it and do his own fundraising and they could be a competitor. Mayor Becker asked the council if they wanted to attempt to field our own team with their sponsorship or do they want to just hand it off to Parkwood and not have the "Mineral Stings" team or did it matter. Councilwoman Coffey responded she would leave that up to the rest of the council, it's all about helping the Literacy Council, it's not about us; therefore, the most important thing is the funds that are being raised for the Literacy Council. Mayor Becker responded the council has promised \$300 and he will report back to the council after contacting the Parkwood team captain to see if they still want to do it. Councilwoman Critz commented she thought it would be nice to have a team again. Mayor Becker responded he would like to have our team and he'd like them [Parkwood] to fundraise on their own the second year. Mayor Becker thought since they were very popular teachers, they would win the

spirit award. Mayor Becker explained the Literacy Council of Union County has an annual adult spelling bee (18 and over), which generally has about 15 three-member teams; this year it will be at Siler Church, which is in Wesley Chapel. Mayor Becker volunteered to be the captain of the “Mineral Stings” and will give more details next month.

11. **Adjournment**

- **Councilwoman Coffey** made a **motion** to adjourn and **Councilwoman Critz** seconded. *The motion passed unanimously as follows:*

Ayes: Coffey, Critz, Countryman, Cureton, Krafft and Neill

Nays: None

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, October 12, 2017 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