

**Minutes of the
Mineral Springs Town Council
Regular Meeting via ZOOM
February 11, 2021 – 7:30 p.m.**

The Town Council of the Town of Mineral Springs, North Carolina, met in Regular Session in a virtual meeting via ZOOM, Mineral Springs, North Carolina, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2021.

Present: Mayor Frederick Becker III, Mayor Pro Tem Valerie Coffey, Councilwoman Janet Critz, Councilwoman Lundeen Cureton, Councilwoman Bettylyn Krafft, and Councilwoman Peggy Neill.

Absent: Councilman Jerry Countryman.

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

Visitors: Paula Brown, Carrington Price, and William Price.

1. Opening

With a quorum present at 7:32 p.m. on February 11, 2021, Mayor Frederick Becker called the Regular Town Council Meeting to order.

Town Clerk Vicky Brooks did the roll call of those present [as shown above].

2. Public Comments

Paula Brown – 3813 Plaxico Road.

3. Consent Agenda – Action Item

Councilwoman Neill motioned to approve the consent agenda containing the January 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes, the December 2020 Tax Collector's Report, and the December 2020 Finance Report and Councilwoman Krafft seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of a Donation to the Queen's Cup Steeplechase – Action Item

MEMO

To: Mineral Springs Town Council
From: Rick Becker
Date: February 3, 2021
Subject: Consideration of contribution to 2021 Queen's Cup

As you know, due to Covid-19 the 2020 Queen's Cup steeplechase event was cancelled. For this year, the Queen's Cup Board of Directors has voted to hold the horse races on April 24, 2021 but have no in-person attendees. This decision has been made in an effort to support the horses, owners, trainers, and jockeys, who have had virtually no opportunities for racing for nearly two years, as well as to continue to provide some support for the charitable mission of steeplechase racing as a sport. The Queen's Cup has been providing financial support to the Alzheimer's Association for the past several years. This year's effort will cost quite a bit for race purses, overhead, and the Alzheimer's Association contribution with support coming only from sponsorships and contributions.

Mr. and Mrs. William Price contacted me last month about the 2021 event and the possibility of financial support from the town of Mineral Springs. The Queen's Cup's parent organization, the Charlotte Steeplechase Foundation, is a chartered 501(c)(3) charitable organization like our other nonprofit partners such as the Catawba Lands Conservancy, the Council on Aging, the Red Cross, and Turning Point, so it could be considered for funding within the town's "Charities and Non-profits" budget department.

When the town reorganized its non-profit contribution strategy several years ago, it established a "hard cap" on charitable donations based on 3% of the previous fiscal year's gross budget. The "non-profit" budget line item funds may only be used for contributions to non-profit organizations, and the town council is responsible for determining whether an organization's direct benefit to the Town of Mineral Springs or its residents justifies providing financial support for the organization.

The amount available in the "non-profit" budget department for FY2020-21 is \$10,825. Council has been very consistent over the past few years, allocating \$2,500 to the Catawba Lands Conservancy and \$2,000 each to the Council on Aging, the Red Cross, and Turning Point for a total of \$8,500. If council keeps these same allocations for this fiscal year, there would be \$2,375 remaining in the budget department, of which all, some, or none could be allocated to other organizations.

One additional consideration is that the Town has long been paying \$300 per year for an advertisement in the Race Program. With no Race Program in 2020 and 2021, that payment has not been made. Although that expenditure comes out of a different budgetary "pot of money" – "advertising" – it is \$600 that the Town has not provided to the Queen's Cup for last year and this year.

The Town of Mineral Springs promotes itself as the "Home of the Queen's Cup", and there is arguably a benefit accruing to the town's "brand" from that association.

Mr. Price explained that he and Mrs. Price were co-chairs and co-founders of the Queen's Cup Steeplechase. Mr. Price thanked Mayor Becker for allowing them to speak on behalf of the Charlotte Steeplechase Foundation, which is the nonprofit organization that produces the Queen's Cup Steeplechase races on an annual basis.

Mr. Price told a story about when he first met Mayor Becker on a September day in 1997 when he came riding up on his bike. The Prices had just bought the Robert B. Howey Farm and Mayor Becker came up and introduced himself and then went into a conversation of "we need your help". Mr. Price said to Mayor Becker "you may recall the needing of help was to, you all were incorporating Mineral Springs and you needed the 260 acres that we had just bought to be put into it, to incorporate a larger part of the town, so that it could become a town." Mr. Price stated "so, today, we actually need your help and we have never come to the council to ask for help other than, I think, when we made a presentation about the Queen's Cup to the town initially back in 1999."

Mr. Price explained that last year they were forced to cancel what was going to be their 25th Anniversary of the Queen's Cup Steeplechase. Back then, everyone assumed it was going to be a "one off" and as it turns out, it's not a "one off" and now they are going into the 2nd year with having made a very tough decision by the board to put on a race with no audience and they are doing that for no reason particularly that fits the benefits the Charlotte Steeplechase Foundation, but it is really to help the sport, which is "on the ropes." Last year there were 28 race meets that were scheduled, seven ran and of the seven, five ran without an audience. Those five are threatening to say, "we don't have enough money if this pandemic goes on, we don't have enough money to run in 2021." Mr. Price, his wife Carrington, and many people in the sport think this may be a pivotal year, which is why the Prices decided in the best interest of the sport to run the races this year for them, but without an audience for the pure benefit of being safe. The governor still has fairly significant restrictions on mass gatherings of anything over 10,000 even in an outdoor venue like this.

One of the other things that is important about this sport is they are a sport that has a heart; they not only run as a sport, but also, they run for the benefit of others. For the past eight years, they have been running for the benefit of the Alzheimer's Association, which is also struggling.

The Prices felt like at this point they were at a pivot and they need to do something, so they approached all of their major sponsors to ask for their support; many customers rolled over their 2020 tailgate sponsorship to whatever it happened to be. One of the major sponsors happens to be a company that Mr. & Mrs. Price are shareholders in, along with Wylie Fox and they have put their money where their mouth is and have put a lot of money into making this happen. Another organization named Brown Advisory has kicked in some additional money; however, it is not going to be enough. "We will run at a deficit as of right now and what we hope is that we can minimize the deficit by coming to good folks like you all and asking for help and here I will say are tax holders or taxpayers, not only of Union County, but Mineral Springs. We don't ask for anything in Mineral

Springs at all. We pay for fire service, we pay for first responders from the fire service, and we also pay for the sheriff to be out here on race day”, Mr. Price said.

Mr. Price continued that it is probably a little bit of an inconvenience, but in reality, they are a one-day inconvenience, and they are exactly what they promised the town when they met back in 1999. This year they desperately need help. Mineral Springs has been helpful in the past by taking out an ad in the race program. Mr. Price wanted to let the council know that money does not benefit the Charlotte Steeplechase Foundation, that money passes directly through to the Alzheimer’s Association. Mr. Price thanked the town for doing that; every penny helps.

Mr. Price explained they were coming to the town with “hand and hat” to ask for the town’s help knowing the town does give a certain amount of money out every year and this is the first time they are really asking for help, so they can survive 2021 and hopefully they will all be better for it in 2022.

Councilwoman Critz mentioned when the town partnered with UNC Charlotte and the Urban Institute in 2004/2005/2006 to create our conservation zoning, one of the first things they realized (in 2004) was that our little community of Mineral Springs had more land in conservation than any other area of the entire county thanks to the Steeplechase. That is not true today, because people have come onboard and there is more land in easements. It was noted the town’s efforts for conservation zoning and the branding of the community was to grab onto the conservation land and the Queen’s Cup Steeplechase was a large part of the town’s identity and a large part of what motivated the town as a community to be conservation-minded. As the council is mulling this request over, narrow qualifications for how the money is distributed have been made, and this is unusual. Last year was unusual, it could not have been foreseen that the Steeplechase would be needing this, but this is not just a citizen coming forward who pays their taxes, they are part of the branding of our community as a whole and putting Mineral Springs on the map; they were definitely the springboard that allowed the town to solidify our conservation zoning. Councilwoman Critz explained the council can differentiate between an average citizen and their needs and an asset to the community as a whole.

Mrs. Price noted they added more land to the conservation easement; out of the 301 acres, 249 of it is in the conservation easement. In addition, the Steeplechase brings about 15,000 people to the community for that one day and it is not just people from Charlotte; these people are from all over the world (England, Scotland, Spain, west coast, all over), and it is really a showcase for our community. Mrs. Price stated she thought it attracted people to the area, because of what they have to offer, and it is a good selling point, not only for Union County, but they always try to use local vendors. Mostly Union County vendors, because there are not too many in Mineral Springs, but they are a big customer of Mineral Springs Fertilizer and the gas station on race day. Mrs. Price stated they do try to support the community in a broader way, but they are a proud part of the community and they hope they can continue to have this event and continue to be that way, but they do ask for the town’s help this year, because they do not know what the future will bring if they cannot have the Queen’s Cup.

Mr. Price noted the Charlotte Steeplechase Foundation is a nonprofit organization, but they are self-funded; they do not get any money from any municipality. It is all done by selling sponsorships and tailgates. When you go two years in a row with zero income, it is everything they can do and then they have to maintain the land. When you put your land in conservation, you are not turning that over to anybody other than you are giving away your development, but in this case, they have to continue to maintain the land under the conservation easement. They cannot just let things grow up and them be as they are, so there is a significant cost, not only leading up to this April 24th race day to run for 150 people on premise; it will be live streamed thanks to the National Steeplechase. The second piece to that is immediately after the race, Bill and Nacho are out there cutting grass, trimming hedges, and everything else; it never ends. Mr. Price pointed out they have never come

to the town in that past, because they have always been in a situation that they have been self-funded, but this is the time when they have got to get all the "oars in the ship" and get this thing moving forward.

Mrs. Price explained starting Saturday night they will have on their website a raffle and tickets will go on sale, and people can buy tickets up until race day; the grand prize is \$5,000. Part of that will go to the Alzheimer's and part of it will go to help support race day this year. Mrs. Price asked everyone spread the word and get their friends to buy their raffle tickets; the drawing will be on race day in the afternoon.

Mayor Becker explained the town had a very narrowly focused pot of money (that can be used for 501(c)(3) nonprofit contributions) in the budget, which is all the council can use without amending the budget. The council revised the way they do these contributions several years ago, so this is very focused. Mayor Becker noted he had explained how it was broken down, what the amount was that the town had to spend all year and if it was not spent then it rolls back into the general fund for next year, but they can only spend that money on efforts like this, unless the budget is amended. The council still intends to spend some on Red Cross, Turning Point, Catawba Lands Conservancy, and Council on Aging, because those are our partner charities. Mayor Becker noted he wanted to reiterate that so the council understood what the town's obligations were to that particular budget line item and what the source of the funding would be.

Councilwoman Critz commented the number one thing the council has held so tightly to decide whether they were going to participate with a nonprofit organization was what they gave back to the community and it has been very clear over the past 22 years that the Queen's Cup has done a lot for the community and gives back; not in the same way as the Red Cross or Council on Aging, but certainly to the branding of the community and bringing people into the community. There is revenue that we are losing as a community with even the minimal amount of vendors and retail, but hopefully one day that will be increased.

Councilwoman Krafft asked the Prices if they were doing online advertising.

Mr. Price responded there will be advertising. The National Steeplechase sanctioning body that owns that live stream is giving the Queen's Cup so much, which they can give to their race sponsors to get some recognition.

Councilwoman Krafft explained she runs a nonprofit and they have the same issue, but it was suggested to her that they do sponsorship to the average advertising to their Facebook page, along with on their website for their different events. This might be an option of a revenue stream. Video ads do not have to be done, you can just have logos up and sponsored "by" things on both your Facebook and website, so depending on what size [the ad is], it gives you a different revenue stream.

Councilwoman Critz asked Attorney Griffin if he had any input on this issue.

Attorney Griffin responded he was not really understanding what the issue was. It is whether you allocate money out of your proposed budget to the Steeplechase? Attorney Griffin explained he thought it went back to what the council has talked about in the past. The council can make decisions about funding various projects that benefit the community as a whole. Attorney Griffin advised the council to be careful about singling out a particular person or entity to "help that entity or person." The town can fund projects which benefit the citizens for services that they ordinarily would try to render.

Councilwoman Critz commented, "this is really service."

Attorney Griffin responded that was a decision for the council to make, whether or not they are making a contribution, whether it is to Turning Point, does that benefit the citizens for what you serve for those efforts or you would want to engage as a municipal body or are you singling out someone for profit and benefit from it singularly.

Councilwoman Critz commented she did not think this would fall anywhere close to that, because it would be not singularly, but to help, which is advantageous to the town as a community to make sure the town can do anything they can do to help them survive.

Attorney Griffin responded he thought that criteria that underlie any decision that the council should make giving away taxpayer's dollars: "Does it benefit your community and the citizens?" The council reports to or represents in whatever that endeavor is.

Councilwoman Coffey suggested the council give this some deep thought and try to limit their response this evening and have this discussion at their next meeting. The council really needs to delve into this and make some heart-wrench decisions in reference to this and it cannot be something that they decide tonight.

Councilwomen Critz expressed she was not sure there was much more she could do to understand it any differently.

Councilwoman Neill commented she personally did not need more time, but she respected Councilwoman Coffey's request to have more time. In addition, there was a council member missing tonight and he may like to weigh in.

It was noted during further discussions, the Prices could use a decision as soon as possible, because every penny counts; the money donated would not be going toward putting on a lavish event, and the Steeplechase has played an important role in the town's conservation zoning/branding, which is a benefit to the community as a whole.

Mrs. Price requested the council defer action on this tonight and put it on the agenda for next month.

Councilwoman Critz motioned to defer action on this agenda item tonight and put it back on the agenda for March and Councilwoman Krafft seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Urban Archery Season – Action Item

Mayor Becker mentioned Councilman Countryman usually gives the council a rundown of the benefits of Urban Archery Season and why it is.

Councilwoman Coffey motioned to approve the Urban Archery Season from January 15th – February 20, 2022 and Councilwoman Critz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Proposed Landscaping at the Copper Run Subdivision – Action Item

MEMO

To: Mineral Springs Town Council
From: Rick Becker
Date: February 3, 2021
Subject: License of Property to the Copper Run homeowners' Association for Landscaping

In December 2020, I presented a draft of a license agreement between the Town and the Copper Run Homeowners' Association to allow the HOA to plant some trees and/or shrubs on some strips of town-owned property along Crofton Drive that is subject to a State of North Carolina conservation easement.

The HOA had agreed to the language of the license, but prior to the December 10, 2020 meeting, the Catawba Lands Conservancy and the NC Land and Water Fund (the agency that replaced the Clean Water Management Trust Fund that holds the conservation easement) expressed concerns that the license as written would not adequately protect the property from inappropriate plants.

I have drafted a simplified license agreement that names the NC Land and Water Fund specifically, states only that "native plants and/or trees" must be used, and-most importantly-requires that ANY proposed landscape plan MUST list all proposed plants, including their scientific Latin names, and be submitted to the Fund and the Conservancy for review. No work or disturbance is permitted until the Fund approves the proposal in writing.

I have discussed this new license with the HOA representative, and he believes that it will not present any problems for them. They have modified their plans and are contemplating planting only Flowering Dogwood and Eastern Redbud trees on the property. Those two native tree species are very compatible with and appropriate for that location. I believe –and both Andy Kane from the Conservancy and Marissa Hartzler from the Fund have stated so, at least verbally –that the Fund would be in favor of planting those tree species at that location on the edge of the woods.

If the Town and the HOA execute this license, the HOA can move forward with getting the necessary approval from the NC Land and Water Fund and hopefully get trees planted before spring is upon us.

Mayor Becker explained agenda item number six had the potential of not being easy and it has gotten more complicated; this is the license with the Copper Run Homeowner's Association to plant some trees on town property along Crofton Road at the edge of the town's conservation property (the state holds the conservation easement).

Since the agenda packet went out, Mayor Becker mentioned there was a new draft [of the license], which Ms. Brooks had on the screen that he would be going through. Mayor Becker noted he had dropped off the new version to Councilwomen Coffey and Cureton, because they did not participate by video.

Mayor Becker explained the differences were not substantive, except in a couple of areas, but after it got run through the Attorney for the Catawba Lands Conservancy, she had a number of things; some were just technical and a couple of them were substantive in their way.

Page one:

Change the title from "license contract" to "license agreement".

Legal terminology: Party of the first part and party of the second part. There is no need to say that if you are talking about licensee or licensor; it becomes redundant. The attorney recommended striking that.

Not calling it "licensor/grantor" just call it "licensor", because that is what it is. That term has been simplified throughout the agreement.

Under the "witnesseth": the new agreement says, "licensor is the sole owner and fee simple of property" instead of just the "owner of property". That is a legal term which has a place in contracts, and the attorney felt that was a better description to refer to the fee simple ownership of the property.

In the second paragraph "subject property" should be "property".

Page two:

Take out "acknowledged by grantor/licensor the Town of Mineral Springs" and just say "acknowledged". It was redundant.

Item #1: Deleted "at the discretion of Copper Run Homeowner's Association". It was not a worthwhile clause to have in there, because they have little discretion; the discretion lies with the State of North Carolina.

Item #2: Simplification of the address at the request of Marissa Hartzler from the North Carolina Land and Water Fund. Ms. Hartzler said just use the post office box, the mail center address, and take out the street address. Change "Land and Water Fund" to "Fund". The new paragraph eight is a standard insurance clause. Mayor Becker explained the town has one of these required insurance clauses with the town named as insured in all of our contracts with anybody who has done work for the town.

Item #9: Specifies what the insurance is going to cover, indemnifying the town, and holding the town harmless for any losses that they cause. As a result of that, item #8 (in the agenda packet) referring to when the license is terminated or expires at the end of 20 years and does not get renewed; what will happen to the plants, would they be obligated to remove them? The paragraph was eliminated; the plants become part of the landscape/conservation property.

On the signature page, there is an addition of the "date" and the "municipal clerk attest" line, with the elimination of the notary page, which was on the original contract. This document is not being recorded, so the notary page was an unnecessary complication.

Mayor Becker explained those changes were not substantive from what was in the agenda packet, but the big change was from the one the town considered in December where there was way too much leeway and the state just "came down on us" and said "no, no, no, you can't just plant that, it's got to be native plants and it's got to be run by us and in writing before."

Mayor Becker asked if there were any questions about the new revision or if the council could motion to approve the license with the Copper Run Homeowners Association.

Attorney Griffin referred to paragraph two, after the word "fund", it says "its heirs", which should be taken out, because a fund does not have "heirs", humans have heirs.

Mayor Becker noted he would remove "heirs" in two locations in paragraph two.

Councilwoman Neill motioned to approve the draft of the license agreement between the town and the Copper Run Homeowners Association and Councilwoman Cureton seconded.

Councilwoman Critz asked if the council should specify the approval with the changes that have been mentioned.

Mayor Becker suggested a friendly amendment of adding "updated version" to the motion made by Councilwoman Neill.

Councilwoman Neill agreed to the friendly amendment of adding "updated version" to her motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Becker stated he would let them know they could plant their trees. As Mayor Becker mentioned in his memo, they are down to 35 flowering dogwoods and redbuds, which are not just native, but they are so appropriate for that woodland fringe property. The Catawba Lands Conservancy was thrilled when the Association decided to go back to something like that rather than these ornamental landscape things that were not really native. Landscapers and Homeowners Associations love to plant ornamentals, but conservation organizations frown on it. Mayor Becker

noted it was going to be a beautiful project and it would all be at their [Copper Run Homeowners' Association] expense to beautify the town property for the benefit of their neighborhood, which is also benefiting the conservation value of the property.

7. Discussion and Consideration of the 2022 Annual Festival – Action Item

MEMO

To: Town Council
From: Vicky Brooks
Date: February 4, 2021
Re: Agenda Item # 7 – Discussion and Consideration of the 2022 Annual Festival

It is that time of the year to start planning for the annual festival. We are still in the middle of a pandemic and it is hard to say if things will have leveled out by September. However, if the town is going to attempt to hold the festival this year, we need to get to planning it now.

As you may recall, last year a band was secured with a non-refundable deposit. Should the council decide to move forward with planning the festival, this should be taken into consideration, because the same thing could happen to us again this year if it turns out the festival must be cancelled.

Mayor Becker is on the Parks and Recreation group that has monthly ZOOM meetings, so he will be able to share with you what other towns are doing now to plan for future events.

Ms. Brooks asked the council how they wanted to handle (or not handle) the festival this year, since we still do not know what is going to happen throughout the year.

Councilwoman Critz responded that was sort of a "Catch 22", because we do not know what will happen, but we do know that the abundance of things that have been cancelled and/or altered have definitely had a negative impact on a lot of people's emotional state and it is hard to feel normal again. Councilwoman Critz asked if Ms. Brooks and Ms. Ridings, who do all of the organization work, what kind of organization time it would require doing some preplanning so they would not be sitting on zero if it looked like the town could do it. This could be a really positive thing to the community to get back into something that is "normal", but we will not know that until closer to that time.

Councilwoman Krafft informed the council the Kraffts and her personally (who runs the children's thing) will not be here at that time this year; they are leaving the day before for two weeks.

Mayor Becker mentioned the larger jurisdictions were basically not doing any of their big stuff through the end of this fiscal year; they are talking July 1st at the earliest and they are still antsy about it. Mayor Becker explained if the town were to try to book a band (for example) we would have to give them a 50% deposit as we did last year and then if the festival is cancelled there is no way not to forfeit that. Nobody is going to make a contribution when they get nothing. Mayor Becker stated he knows the bigger organizations are being very cautious, trying to look forward to past July and not really seeing much; it is a cloudy crystal ball.

Ms. Brooks commented it would be hard to go out and find sponsors for a festival at this time or to get craft vendors when you have to say, "we may or may not have it." Ms. Brooks further commented, "it's like we are either going to have it and we start planning for it or we put it off another year." It is already February and typically Ms. Brooks has already put the wheels in motion at this time of the year. Waiting another month or two will make it harder. In addition, with Councilwoman Krafft not being available for the children's activities, Ms. Brooks explained she could not personally run the children's activities and the town does not have volunteers that could possibly do that. Ms. Brooks stated she was grateful for Councilwoman Krafft for what she does in the children's area.

Councilwoman Critz clarified Ms. Brooks was saying in a very general sense and specific to some of the other organizational necessities that she was fundamentally thinking it is not the best plan for this year.

Ms. Brooks responded no she did not think so, because everything is up in the air and we lost Councilwoman Krafft.

Mayor Becker mentioned he did not even know if the marching band was going to be playing in September of 2021. Mayor Becker asked Councilwoman Coffey if she knew anything about UCPS.

Councilwoman Coffey responded at this time the schools are still limited in what they can do. It is very limited. The board was having a meeting tonight to make some new directives, but she was not able to listen because she was still at work.

Mayor Becker commented he did not know the answer on whether that is even yet another feature that they cannot guarantee and may not be able to have. It just seems that is so much up in the air and Mayor Becker had never even thought about that until Ms. Brooks asked. That is another factor.

Ms. Brooks noted the town could hire a band and let people come listen to the band socially distanced, but that was about it. Ms. Brooks asked if the council had other ideas of what the town could do.

Councilwoman Critz mentioned that band Ms. Brooks scheduled that the town had to cancel and asked if Ms. Brooks had been in contact with them about availability on their part. People could bring picnics, social distance, and listen to music.

Councilwoman Neill responded it was either that or not have anything.

Councilwoman Coffey responded in light of where we are, she believed it would not be in our interest to move forward with this. There is too much uncertainty still, there is another strain of the COVID that is even worse that is migrating into our country that has already integrated into all 50 states. Councilwoman Coffey explained personally "we're avoiding people", yes, she is going to work, but she has control over that aspect, but as far as the general population, she is not doing anything as far as getting in crowds. Councilwoman Coffey does her grocery shopping and things like that, but as far as malls and that stuff, it is not happening.

Councilwoman Cureton agreed, and explained she was not bowling, and she would love to bowl, but she was not getting in that crowd.

Councilwoman Critz motioned the council cancel any plans for a festival for 2021 and consider possibly doing it over in 2022 and will discuss that later and Councilwoman Coffey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Becker commented it was sad, but he thought the council was making a wise decision, because there is too much uncertainty. Mineral Springs is not the kind of town that has the size staff and the resources to bounce back and could handle a lot of uncertainty and to move. Some of the other towns, Indian Trail and Waxhaw can find alternatives, but Mineral Springs does not have a lot of ability to do that.

Councilwoman Krafft pointed out the agenda packet states "2022" and she wanted to confirm they were talking about this year 2021.

Ms. Brooks confirmed it was 2021.

8. Staff Updates

There were no staff reports.

9. Other Business

Councilwoman Cureton thanked everybody who gave her a donation for Mr. Brown and mentioned *some of them might have received letters, but she wanted to thank town council members and the lawyer.* Councilwoman Cureton asked that anybody who got the letter contact them and let them know if they would be attending the program. Councilwoman Cureton noted that she raised over \$1,300 (with her class of seven who all donated \$100 each); the total raised was over \$12,000. The program for Mr. Brown is February 27th.

Councilwoman Critz asked if the town had heard back from the county commissioners concerning the high-density Courtyards of the Howey Farms development.

Mayor Becker responded the public hearing was conducted on February 1st. Amanda Fuller (acting mayor of Wesley Chapel) and one of the council members spoke against it mentioning the towns of Weddington, Mineral Springs, and Marvin had also adopted resolutions. The county commissioners will probably be voting on it on next week.

Councilwoman Critz asked if there was a strong presence for or "against that high-density" on that.

Mayor Becker responded yes, and Commissioner Williams did respond to him after he resent the resolution to him saying he had given the project a lot of consideration and expected to be voting against it.

10. Adjournment – Action Item

At 8:55 p.m. Councilwoman Krafft motioned to adjourn the meeting and Councilwoman Neill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted by:


 Vicky A. Brooks, CMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk


 Frederick Becker III, Mayor

