



## **SPECIAL MEETING MINERAL TOWN COUNCIL**

**October 7, 2024 at 6:30 PM**

**312 Mineral Avenue Mineral Virginia 23117**

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### **Members Present**

Mayor Edwin Jarvis

Vice Mayor Ronald Chapman

Bernice Kube

Dave Hempstead

Michelle Covert - arrived at 6:38

### **Others Present**

Nicole Washington, Town Manager

Stephanie Dorman, Town Clerk

Two vacant seats

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Becky McGehee, stated that there are three candidates and to choose wisely, picking someone who is going to work well with the other board members, not somebody who is going to be a pawn.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Discussion of Candidate Letters of Interest**

Becky McGehee asked Council members a question regarding the need for resumes to be attached to candidate's letters of interests.

After review of § 24.2-228.1(A), Council determined they are comfortable with accepting just the letter of intent from candidates. Council Member Hempstead mentioned that Mr. Spedden submitted his years of work experience in his letter of intent and Council Member Hempstead believes that can be considered a resume.

Motion to accept agenda package as is by Hempstead and seconded by Chapman.

Ronald Chapman - yes

Bernice Kube -yes

Dave Hempstead - yes

Michelle Covert - abstain

Motion passed 4-0-1

Backy McGehee advised she believed Council needs an attorney before moving forward.

Mayor Jarvis opened the floor to candidates if they wish to speak.

**JoAnn Von Arb:**

Ms. Von Arb moved to Mineral in 2017 and has a deep understanding of the unique challenges that the Town and residents face. While normally small town living is easier, however, recent issues on our Council have caused frustration among the people of Mineral She believes there's an opportunity for us to shift the focus back to the community in its needs. She is eager to contribute to such efforts. She has heard that several residents are considering leaving the Town because of the disorganization and conflicts within the local government. Ms. Von Arb has lived all over the world due to her military background and Mineral is the place she wants to call home. Ms. Von Arb would like harmony in the town. She believes she can contribute by listening to the needs of all, not just a few. Ms. Von Arb continued by stating there has been a lot of turnover for such a small town and there must be a root cause for it. The new development at the end of Town, residents were not provided with enough information, and she believed that was due to turnover and the Town not having the right guidance. Turning her attention, Ms. Von Arb mentions how when Council Member Hempstead joined the Council he was asked how he plans on working with a Council that can not get along, and that question infuriated her because that does not encourage people to participate. Ms. Von Arb believes with the right focus, the Town Council can work cohesively to address the community's real needs such as; infrastructure, responsible growth, and preserving the small town charm. She concluded by stating that her goal is to bring more collaboration to the table, listening to all perspectives and to work towards practical solutions for the entire community.

**Bob Spedden:**

Mr. Spedden began by touching on the issue of a resume. He was in the Air Force for 21 years and 42 years running his own business so he has never had the need for a resume. Mr. Spedden has traveled around the world when he was in the Air Force. He has worked in embassies, as well as with the DIA, CIA, and ambassadors. He believes he can get along with anybody. When he attended previous meetings there was a lot of arguing and he believes there has to be a better way to communicate and that is what he would like to assist with that.

The Mayor advised that Olivia McCarthy did not know candidates were going to be able to speak today but that Council did have her resume and interest letter. He asked the Council to review the documents submitted before the next meeting. During the upcoming meeting, the candidates will be able to speak to Council again and an appointment decision will be made.

Council Member Hempstead provided his opinion that Bob Spedden was not informed that he needed to register for the election. He continued by stating that he did some digging and was able to find a letter that the Town Attorney sent to the Judge asking for a writ of special election to fill Rebecca McGehee's position and to the best of his knowledge Council did not direct Counsel to do that. Council Member Hempstead stated that Mr. Spedden was advised that his seat would be up for election in the Fall of 2025. Council Member Hempstead provided the document that was sent to the Court, which had a CC to the Mayor, and asked why the Council was never made aware of this letter. Council Member Covert stated that this is a standing order. The Mayor stated he also went to the court house and got a copy of the documents submitted for the Town's own records. Council members continued to discuss the legal process of filling a vacated seat. Council Member Hempstead felt that Mr. Spedden should get special consideration.

A member of the audience asked Council Member Hempstead if this was the same situation that he and Mr. Runnett faced when he took the Chair. Council members discussed the prior appointment and timeline of other applicants' interests.

**ADJOURNED**

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Kube and seconded by Chapman.

Ronald Chapman - yes

Bernice Kube - yes

Dave Hempstead - yes

Michelle Covert - yes

Motion passed 4-0-0

Adjourned at 6:55 pm

DRAFT