



MINERAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

December 19, 2024 at 6:30 PM

312 Mineral Avenue Mineral Virginia 23117

Phone: 540-894-5100 | townclerk@townofmineral.net

Members Present

Mayor Edwin Jarvis
Vice Mayor Ronald Chapman
Michelle Covert
Bernice Kube
Olivia McCarthy
Rebecca McGehee

Others Present

Nicole Washington, Town Manager
Stephanie Dorman, Town Clerk
Robert Sproul, Esq., Town Attorney
One vacant seat

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council will go into a recess until the Town Attorney is able to join via Zoom as there needs to be a discussion regarding Mr. Hempstead and his seat. The Mayor suggested that Council read the handouts in the agenda packet in the meantime.

The Town Attorney joined the meeting and Mayor Jarvis advised him that the previously removed council member had taken his seat. The Mayor believes that the Council will need legal advice on the matter.

The Mayor asked if Mr. Hempstead should join and the Town Attorney advised he could if Council wanted him to hear the legal advice that would be provided.

Mr. Hempstead had questions for the attorney which were ultimately unanswered as the Town Attorney stated those are not questions for him to answer.

The Mayor would like to go into closed session and advised Mr. Hempstead he could sit in the audience.

The Clerk asked the Town Attorney for clarifying language to go into closed session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with §2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia: Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

Motion to go into closed session by Chapman and seconded by McCarthy.

Ron Chapman - yes
Bernice Kube - yes
Olivia McCarthy - yes
Michelle Covert – yes
Rebecca McGehee - yes

Motion passed 5-0-0.

While the Mayor was trying to clear the room for closed session, Mr. Hempstead refused to leave his seat.

The Council went into a recess.

The Clerk read a new motion for closed session.

In accordance with §2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia to consult with legal counsel related to probable litigation.

(A)(8): Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

Motion to go into closed session by Chapman and seconded by McCarthy.

Ron Chapman - yes

Bernice Kube - yes
Olivia McCarthy - yes
Michelle Covert – yes
Rebecca McGehee - yes

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Council went into closed session at 7:02 PM

BACK IN SESSION

All members certified the closed session and went back into session at 7:32 PM.

Vice Mayor Chapman made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to pursue criminal trespass charges against Mr. Hempstead and to have the paperwork delivered to the sheriff's office no later than the next business day. Counsel advised the motion should be to authorize and direct the Town Manager to issue a no trespassing notice.

The motion was seconded by McGehee.

Ron Chapman - yes
Bernice Kube - yes
Olivia McCarthy - yes
Michelle Covert – yes
Rebecca McGehee - yes

Motion passed 5-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Candidates

JoAnna Von Arb:

She likes that Mineral is a small town and hears the 'good' and the 'bad' about the town. The residents help each other. She would like to bring unity and friendliness to the Council. She has seen positive change in the past couple of months but knows there is still work to be done. She would like to be a part of committees. She would like to work with the businesses and get them more involved.

Vice Mayor Chapman asked what is one other aspect of being a good council member?

Her response: openness, willing to listen, and looking at different perspectives.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Chapman and seconded by Covert.

Council adjourned at 7:41 PM.

DRAFT