



MINERAL COUNCIL TOWN HALL MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM

312 Mineral Avenue Mineral Virginia 23117

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Members Present

Acting Mayor Ron Chapman

Michelle Covert

David Hempstead

Bernice Kube - appeared via Zoom due to medical reasons.

Olivia McCarthy

Rebecca McGehee

Others Present:

Nicole Washington, Town Manager

Stephanie Dorman, Town Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

TOWN HALL

Question: “ I want an answer to this tonight from Dave Hempstead: I think back in April, when he was first being looked at for counsel, he was asked 'what do you think a position on town counsel means?' He said 'I have no idea, I'm going to find out...' why citizens should grant him grace to 'find out' when he do not allow the same the other counsel members or others? At the same meeting he said 'I like projects that get to the end with everyone smiling' does he still feel this way? are you willing to move on and get things done? Thanks”

Response from Council Member Hempstead: He still feels the same way and still wants projects to end on a happy note. He adds that he will not give up or quit.

Response from Acting Mayor Chapman: He believes that the last meeting indicates a good step forward and working together for the Town.

This question was submitted anonymously with only the name Scott provided.

Question from Council Member McGehee to Council Member Hempstead: Why do you think we are ignorant and how are we going to work together when you call us stupid?

Response from Council Member Hempstead: He believes anyone who breaks the law is stupid and it is his opinion that Council has broken the law several times and provided examples of the 14 house development and the recent property purchase.

Question from Council Member McGehee to Council Member Hempstead: What is your plan to get rid of the 14 house development?

Response from Council Member Hempstead: Did not want to go into much detail about his plan, but did add that he believes that when the landowner committed a felony by not providing a legitimate plat.

Question from Council Member Hempstead to Council Member McGehee: Have you been to Miller's Market to see that it has changed ownership?

Multiple Council Members responded they heard it had changed ownership. Acting Mayor Chapman added that he previously asked if the CUP would also transfer and it does.

Question from Pam Harlowe: Why is Council Member Covert asking for a right of way when there are other roads that can be used?

Response from Council Member Covert: There are several options and she has not asked for anything specific yet.

Follow up from Pam Harlowe: Town Code states that if you are going to build on an undeveloped street you have to develop the street. If there are two other streets why would you want to close a street?

Response from Council Member Covert: It has been done previously in this Town.

Follow up from Pam Harlowe: Why would you want to close the road? Is it to make your access cheaper?

Response from Council Member Covert: There are a variety of reasons.

Response from Council Member Hempstead: This sounds like a discussion that is still ongoing.

Response from Acting Mayor Chapman: He believes that what happened at the Planning Commission the other night was just a presentation of information so the Planning Commission can make a recommendation to Council. It is a right of a citizen to submit an application and it will follow the normal process.

Question from Cathie Spedden: Can her neighborhood receive street lights?

Council discussed who pays for the electricity. The Town Manager responded that she will reach out to relevant parties and see if she can gather information on the process of installing new lights and report back.

Question from Council Member McGehee: Is Mr. Morgan in the process of cleaning the property?

Response from the Town Manager: He has been in contact with the office and is in the process of cleaning the property. Mrs. Washington added that he has until February to complete the clean up process.

Question from Council Member Hempstead: Is Mr. Morgan going to pay land taxes as he owes back taxes?

Council discussed that they like doing the Town Hall and hope to see more participation. They continued to discuss how they plan to respond to questions and the best way to allow citizens to communicate.

Remark from Tracy Hempstead: She believes that moving forward there should not be anonymous questions.

Council and residents discussed whether or not to allow anonymous questions and ultimately decided to address each on a case by case basis.

Council Member McGehee believes that it should be advertised that anyone can ask Council a meeting and it does not have to be limited to just Town residents.

Council Member Hempstead discussed how he talked to a business owner about the need for rental space.

Council Member Covert mentioned that Council should discuss the recycling plant and the potential economic benefits of renting out that space but that the related committee could present potential options to Council.

Council Member Covert added that Ms. Moon offered to sell her property to the Town. Council discussed the building structure and options for the building.

Council discussed the need to provide attention to businesses by Jen's Crafters.

Council would like to schedule another Town Hall meeting in either April or May and would like to promote it to anyone interested.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Hempstead and seconded by McGehee.

Council adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.

DRAFT