



MINERAL COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

July 6, 2026 at 6:30 PM

312 Mineral Avenue Mineral Virginia 23117

Phone: 540-894-5100 | townofmineral.net

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harlowe called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Council Member Michelle Covert
Council Member David Hempstead
Council Member Rebecca McGehee
Council Member Bob Spedden
Council Member Afton Von Tye
Mayor Pamela Harlowe

ABSENT

Vice Mayor Bernice Kube

STAFF PRESENT

Teri Burns - Town Clerk

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made to adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Covert, Seconded by Council Member McGehee.
Voting Yea: Council Member Covert, Council Member Hempstead, Council Member McGehee, Council Member Spedden, Council Member Von Tye

Motion Passed: 5-0-0

Council Member McGehee requested roll call voting to avoid confusion stemming from a prior meeting's record. The Mayor acknowledges the need to improve voting procedures. Roll call voting was used later for motions.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Blair Nipper raised concerns regarding recent employee complaints of payroll discrepancies, insurance deductions, tax withholdings, and not being able to obtain answers to basic questions regarding compensation. Blair respectfully requests the council to fully examine the payroll issues, ensure employees are treated with respect, strengthen safeguards for confidential information, comply with Virginia's transparency laws and take meaningful steps to restore public confidence.

Becky McGehee also raised concerns regarding employee welfare during recent events. Requesting the Personnel Committee to check in with employees to assess needs and concerns they may have.

Hunter Martin addressed concerns regarding well #4, stating it was down to approximately ninety feet. Previously it had been between one hundred and one hundred and eight feet. The drop occurred within the last week to ten days. He recommended implementing voluntary restrictions at a minimum, preferably mandatory restrictions, noting the water authority has implemented restrictions in other areas of the county served by groundwater.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Approve the FY27 Budget

Discussion of cemetery revenue line items for the marking of gravesites and headstones and proper accounting between cemetery funds and the town's general fund. The Council acknowledges the need to adjust records and clarify fund allocations.

Discussion of IT, internet and web service costs raised concerns that the cost exceeds the town's needs and ability to pay. Suggestions were made to renegotiate contracts, reduce redundant connections and explore right size services. Council recognizes that business licenses differ from consumer pricing. Council also acknowledges limited in house expertise and the need to consult outside parties.

Council Members discussed and agreed to inviting the Town Manager Candidates to the upcoming meeting on July 13, 2026.

Council Member McGehee stated she wants everyone to be compensated with a raise.

A motion was made that the Town Council approve a continuing appropriation resolution to extend the fiscal year twenty six budget into fiscal year twenty seven, effective July first, which has already passed and this action will authorize all departments, offices, agencies of the town to continue operating at the same expenditure levels and under the same appropriations policies and restrictions as adopted in the twenty six budget till such time as council adopts the twenty seven budget. This continuation shall remain in effect only for the minimum period necessary to finalize and adopt the twenty seven budget and shall not authorize any new programs, capital projects or expenditures beyond those previously approved in the twenty six budget unless separately authorized by the council. An extension period of sixty days shall be incorporated into the resolution.

Motion made by Council Member McGehee, Seconded by Council Member Covert.
Voting Yea: Council Member Covert, Council Member McGehee, Council Member Spedden
Voting Nay: Council Member Hempstead, Council Member Von Tye
Motion Passed: 3-2-0

G. ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Council Member Hempstead, Seconded by Council Member Covert
Voting Yea: Council Member Covert, Council Member Hempstead, Council Member McGehee, Council Member Spedden, Council Member Von Tye
Motion Passed: 5-0-0

Mayor Pamela Harlowe - Vice Mayor Bernice Kube
Council Members: Michelle Covert, Bob Spedden, Rebecca McGehee, Afton Von Tye, Dave Hempstead

Pamela Harlowe - Interim Town Manager/Clerk of Council, Teri Burns - Town Clerk, Vacant - Town Treasurer, Vacant - Town Attorney

Town Council meets for its regular session on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Persons wishing to be heard or having an item to be placed on the agenda should make their request to the Clerk of Council by the final Monday of the month preceding the meeting.