

**MINUTES  
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING  
ASSEMBLY ROOM  
MARCH 12, 2020  
9:30 A.M.**

Mayor Weedman presided over the March 12, 2020, council meeting at 9:30 a.m. Those present in addition to Mayor Weedman were Vice Mayor Jamerson, Council Members Carpenter, Coletta, Dethero, Gooch and Posey, Village Clerk Parker, and Village Administrator Christie.

**MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Weedman led the group in a moment of silent meditation. He then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comments** – None

**AGENDA APPROVAL/CHANGES**

The following items were added to the agenda: Under *New Business, Item #9 – Highland Golf Villas, Item #11 – Ice Cream Social*. Council Member Gooch made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Council Member Coletta. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

**Consent Agenda**

1. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- February 3, 2020 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
- February 13, 2020 – Council Meeting Minutes

Council Member Dethero made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

**Special Reports**

2. Administration – Village Administrator Christie

Administrator Christie reviewed the February 2020 zoning report dated March 6, 2020, and the Village Administrator report dated March 6, 2020 (see attached reports).

3. Park Update – Council Member Carpenter

Council Member Carpenter reported the Park Commission met on February 27, 2020, and gave the following highlights;

- Nature walks will start at 10:00 a.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month starting March 21, 2020 – October 31, 2020.

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- Nature mindfulness walks will start at 9:00 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month starting May 23, 2020 – September 30, 2020.

- The cargo net for the Bryan Playground will be installed the last week in May 2020.

The next Park Commission meeting will be March 26, 2020.

#### 4. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Council Member Gooch invited Dennis Flanagan to give the update. Mr. Flanagan reported the Foundation is entering into the second year with Pardee UNC Health Care with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Pardee will introduce new programs in the park commencing in April: free yoga on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings, doctors and other practitioners in the park once a month for conversation opportunities, and a variety of children’s programs presented by the Hands On! Children’s Museum starting in May. The Foundation will hold two annual fundraising events at the park: Spring Fling on April 25, 2020, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and Fall Frolic later in the year. The Foundation Board met March 9, 2020, to discuss Foundation support of the park by authorizing the expenditure not to exceed the cost of \$14,000 for replacement of the cargo net in the Bryan playground. The Board also voted to provide funding over three years of \$400/year for the maintenance of the trail from the playground to the Nature Center for the Kids in Parks program.

#### 5. Transportation Update – Council Member Coletta

Council Member Coletta reported she met with Dennis Flanagan as representative of Historic Flat Rock to review and get an update on the Kanuga Road project, in making sure the portion of the project that is in the historic district is in NCDOT’s plans.

She reported at last month’s FBRMPO meeting the MPO is progressing to the next step with their spot 6.0, the next set of projects. Council had dealt with this previously—from a county-wide list of twenty-three potential projects, the Henderson County TAC narrowed the list to seven projects and the Council agreed to support those projects at the MPO. None of the projects are located in Flat Rock. At the meeting, MPO was ready to move to the next step but William Lapsley, Henderson County Commissioner and TAC member, wanted to make sure the HCTAC was still okay with those seven projects, so at the upcoming Wednesday TAC meeting, TAC members will review their approval of moving forward on the seven projects in Henderson County. Council Member Coletta will report that Flat Rock supports the seven projects.

Council Member Coletta reported she, Village Administrator Christie and Council Member Carpenter had a successful meeting with Roger Ayers, the NCDOT Henderson County head maintenance engineer, and Harold Clark, a maintenance supervisor who handles the Flat Rock area. Their schedule is complaint driven, with limited funding and short staff. They handle maintenance issues, but other departments take care of bridges, Greenville Highway, signals, and stop signs.

Council Member Coletta and Council Member Carpenter will be attending the MPO new member orientation on March 27, 2020. Council Member Coletta mentioned she attended the MPO public workshop last week. On March 9, 2020, the Steering Committee met with the consultants as a

final meeting for the feasibility study of connecting the Park at Flat Rock to Carl Sandburg to incorporate final comments into a draft report. The draft report will be sent to Council by March 20, 2020, and the final feasibility study report will be presented to Council at the March 30, 2020, agenda meeting. Council will take action on the final report at a later date.

Council Member Coletta, Mayor Weedman, and Council Member Carpenter met February 17, 2020, with Brian Burch, NCDOT Division 14 engineer, and other NCDOT representatives for

potential modifications on the North Highland Lake Road project. A handout was presented to Council (see attachment) of requested modifications with NCDOT's approval to reduce some impacts of the project on the environment.

Council Member Carpenter made the following motion:

*That the Flat Rock Village Council request that NCDOT make the following modifications to the N. Highland Lake Road project (U-5887) in order to mitigate the damage to our environment and our scenic entrance into the Village, the impact on private property owners, and incursion into the Park at Flat Rock due to this project:*

The motion was seconded by Council Member Coletta.

Discussion items:

Council Member Jamerson and Council Member Posey expressed dissatisfaction of council members not having adequate time to review these modifications before asking for a vote. They asked that, before taking a vote, Council give Ms. Barbara Coladarci on behalf of Highland Golf Villas the chance to speak on the subject.

There was discussion of whether or not trails could be crushed granite and still be ADA compliant. Mr. Steve Jamerson gave a history of the trails and the reasoning to install asphalt versus crushed granite.

There was also discussion on if the proposed entrance would be considered a separate project or be included in the North Highland Lake Road project (U-5887).

Mayor Weedman deferred the vote on the motion presented until after Ms. Coladarci spoke on the issue (*see Item #9, under Old Business*).

After Ms. Coladarci spoke, there was continued discussion on the motion presented. It was agreed to remove bullet #13 and to amend the motion to reflect the deletion of bullet #13. The issue of a new park entrance will be discussed at the next council meeting. The amended motion reads as follows;

That the Flat Rock Village Council request that NCDOT make the following modifications to the N. Highland Lake Road project (U-5887) in order to mitigate the damage to our environment and our scenic entrance into the Village, the impact on private property owners, and incursion into the Park at Flat Rock due to this project:

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- Beginning at Greenville Highway on north side (Pinecrest Church), construct berm to be maximum 5.5 feet wide going east on N. Highland Lake Road, to be widened to 9.5 feet wide (as required by NCDOT engineers) until just past Pinecrest Presbyterian Church parking lot entrance; to then become 10 foot wide berm along N. Highland Lake Road down to the Park at Flat Rock
- Berms west of the culvert extending to Greenville Highway (crossing over Village of Flat Rock and Pinecrest Church property) to remain unsurfaced
- Appearance of culvert across King Creek subject to NC State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) requirements as well as approval by the Flat Rock Village Council

- Once the pathway enters the park, construct berm along the road to be 4.5 feet wide the length of N. Highland Lake Road to Highland Golf Drive
- Guardrail to end at current location
- Any pathways inside the Park at Flat Rock to be similar surface as existing park paths (crushed granite fines)
- Where NCDOT needs to realign an existing path within the park, that path will be repaired with material and width to match existing surface and dimensions
- Inside the park, NCDOT path to connect to existing 10-foot wide path as per current plan
- When NCDOT path needs to deviate from an existing path within the park, NCDOT path to be 10-foot wide path of similar surface (crushed granite fines) as existing path
- Area on south side of N. Highland Lake Road between Highland Lake Drive and Highland Park Road to remain as is. Remove from NCDOT plans the sidewalk, including crosswalk, curb & gutter, and any other changes.
- Remove concrete islands from all left turn lanes (at Highland Lake Drive, Highland Park Road, and Highland Golf Drive), and replace with painted lines.
- NCDOT path to diverge from existing path in the park after crossing Dye Creek and to follow approximately the pathway outlined on Attachment A
- Depending on the railroad right-of-way, run the 10-foot wide path within the park (approximately as shown on Attachment A) behind the entrance of Highland Golf Drive to connect into a 5-foot sidewalk that then crosses the railroad tracks
- New path starting at the east side of the park entrance and going forward Spartanburg Highway to be 5 feet wide within Flat Rock borders and match the material used by Henderson County for their portion of the sidewalk

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- East of the railroad tracks, evaluate the necessity of adding an electronic warning sign with actuated flashers to alert drivers of Highland Golf Drive traffic, and provide the Flat Rock Village Council a cost estimate for installation

The vote on the amended motion was unanimous, and the motion carried.

With the passage of the motion on requested road project modifications, Council Member Coletta made the following motion:

*Given the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization Board's rejection of the Flat Rock Village Council's request that NCDOT abandon the N. Highland Lake Road project (U-5887), the use by NCDOT of eminent domain, and based on subsequent discussions between the Village and NCDOT to explore ways to mitigate the negative impact of this project on our village, the Flat Rock Village Council proposes that:*

- *Contingent on NCDOT agreement to implement these modifications, the Flat Rock Village Council will withdraw or rescind our January 9, 2020, motion that declined entering any agreement to sell or convey any village-owned property to NCDOT for the N. Highland Lake Road project; and*
- *Furthermore, contingent on NCDOT agreement to implement these modifications, the Village Council will agree to contribute the required 20% funding for those pathways/sidewalks constructed inside and to the east of the Park at Flat Rock.*

The vote was seconded by Council Member Posey. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

6. Tax Report – Mayor Weedman

Mayor Weedman reported that, as of March 11, 2020, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 98.8 percent with \$1,222,794.58 total collected (see attached report).

7. 2020 Census – Vice Mayor Jamerson

Vice Mayor Jamerson will prepare an article for the Village Record newsletter. For the 2010 census, 78% of the county residents filled in their census forms. The goal for the 2020 census is to get over 80% of the county residents to fill in their census forms. The Complete Count Committee of the 2020 Census of Henderson County includes stakeholders from all the municipalities as well as Henderson County, IAM, El Centro, and the League of Women Voters.

**Old Business**

8. Organization – Mayor Weedman

Mayor Weedman mentioned the organizational chart that was passed out in a previous meeting  
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and that needed more details. The chart has been corrected along with the council member oversight responsibility lists. Mayor Weedman made a motion to accept the organizational chart and council responsibility lists, seconded by Council Member Carpenter. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

**New Business**

9. Highland Golf Villas – Barbara Coladarci

Ms. Barbara Coladarci, a resident of Highland Golf Villas, spoke regarding the proposed new park entrance and the Highland Golf Villas entrance by giving a summary of park development since 2012 (see attachment).

10. Virus Update – Council Member Carpenter/Coletta

Council Member Coletta mentioned the Henderson County Department of Public Health has a webpage that reports statistics on the Coronavirus on national, regional, state and county levels. She is posting information on the coronavirus received from Henderson County on the Village's Facebook page, and links on the Village's website homepage from both Henderson County and the State.

Administrator Christie mentioned Pardee has offered to do a special program to be held at the Park at Flat Rock or the Village Hall with an infection preventionist to be available for a Q&A session. Tracey Daniels reported Pardee would like to hold this program in the next two weeks in the Pavilion if available.

Mayor Weedman mentioned that with the suggestion to limit large gatherings, we need to decide on a contingency plan for upcoming events, like the Ice Cream Social, Shred Day, and Spring Fling, on whether to be cancelled or delayed.

11. Ice Cream Social - None

### **Other Business**

12. Mayor – Council Reports

Council Member Dethero reported he received an email from John Connet, Hendersonville City Manager, with an update on the Halfway Tree Mobile Home Park sewer system. The pathway west of Hood Heights has been accepted for a new sewer line, and the City of Hendersonville has approved the use of eminent domain if necessary, although they will try to acquire easements from property owners.

Council Member Dethero reported the committee is progressing for the annual Ice Cream Social, and the committee will come up with a contingency plan.

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Council Member Posey reported the Planning Board met Tuesday, March 10, 2020, and have almost completed the amendments to the sign control ordinance. The amendments will then be forwarded to council and Sharon Alexander, Village Attorney, for review.

Council Member Gooch reported Land of the Sky Regional Council has hired Nathan Ramsey as their new executive director.

Vice Mayor Jamerson and Mayor Weedman will meet to determine council member's budget line item responsibilities.

Mayor Weedman stated the fire departments will keep the same rate for the fiscal year 2020/2021.

Council Member Carpenter expressed appreciation to Barbara Coladarci for her presentation on the early history of development of the park and the park entrance. Council Member Carpenter suggested that when the time comes to have town meetings, they be held in different Village neighborhoods to obtain smaller groups.

Vice Mayor Jamerson also thanked the residents from Highland Golf Villas for attending the meeting.

Council Member Coletta mentioned as liaison for computers, that Don McMahon, IT consultant, suggested the Village get on a regular replacement schedule for computers.

Council Member Coletta reported she had a request from a resident on Linda Ann Drive to discuss some concerns. She will meet with the resident and report back to council of those concerns.

**Public Comments** – Barbara Coladarci commented on the strain of parking at the park when events are held and the Flat Rock Park Foundation being a good source to find funding for amenities for the new entrance.

Ginger Brown asked for clarification from the list of proposed modifications regarding the southside of Highland Lake Road between Highland Park Road and Highland Lake Drive. Council Member Coletta stated the area will remain as it is currently. Ms. Brown expressed disappointment that there will be no crosswalk for Highland Lake residents to access the park across Highland Lake Road.

Stephanie Dunn commented on the residents not getting what Council promised with the park, and other various concerns dealing with the park.

Darlene Miller expressed concerns of residents crossing Highland Lake Road even with a crosswalk.

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Ted Etherington commented on the decision of no dog park from a previous survey taken years ago, park being overbuilt, and the cost of the cargo net for the Bryan playground.

### **Adjournment**

With no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

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Michelle Parker, CMC  
Village Clerk

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Nick Weedman  
Mayor