

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING
ASSEMBLY ROOM
OCTOBER 11, 2018
9:30 A.M.

Mayor Staton presided over the October 11, 2018, council meeting at 9:30 a.m. Those present in addition to Mayor Staton were Vice Mayor Weedman, Council Members Brown, Dockendorf, Gooch, and Jamerson, Village Clerk Parker, and Village Administrator Christie. Council Member Posey was not present.

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

AGENDA APPROVAL/CHANGES

Under New Business – Item #8, Appointment to Henderson Tourism Development Authority Nomination of Representative; Item #9 – Zoning Districts Map Amendment – Set date for public hearing; and Item #10 – Even-year Municipal Elections – Discussion; were added to the agenda. Council Member Dockendorf made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Vice Mayor Weedman. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Public Comments – None

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- September 4, 2018 – Council Meeting Minutes

Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Special Reports

2. Administration – Village Administrator Christie

Administrator Christie reviewed the September 2018 zoning report dated October 8, 2018, and the Village Administrator report dated October 8, 2018 (see attached reports).

3. Park Update – Council Member Brown

Council Member Brown gave an update on the following:

Egolf Bridge – the bridge is complete and will be stained once the wood has dried and weather permits.

Drinking fountains and pollinator garden hydrant – Donor funds have been received for a second drinking fountain. Summey Plumbing began installation of two drinking fountains and a hydrant for the pollinator garden late last week. They should be complete within the next few days.

Tot Lot - Beanstalk has been asked to develop more definitive plans for the tot lot structure for cost estimation purposes. A more detailed plan is expected in about a week.

Wildflower Meadow – Work is proceeding with the meadow. The area was disked on September 24 and we will do one more check for weeds this week. Weather permitting, seeding will be done on October 25. Otherwise, seeding will be done in the spring.

Nature Center bench – We are working with a metal fabricator on a design for a bench to go in the middle of the Nature Center. The Park Commission will review the options later today.

“You are here” signs – Five new signs have been installed around the park. The metal frames were installed this week and the maps should be ready for installation in a week or so.

Playground Shelter – Installation is to begin the week after Thanksgiving, and work is to be completed by mid-January or February.

Council Member Brown mentioned Park Ranger Wilkerson will attend a playground safety class in November.

4. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Council Member Gooch turned the discussion over to Duncan Fraser, Chairman, who reported the 2018 Feast & Frolic gala was a success and netted over \$40,000.00. The fall campaign *Play, Learn, Grow* to benefit the tot lot and playground shelter is underway. He stated funds in excess of \$325,000.00 now in the bank are to be transferred to the Village for amenities that have been completed. The Village support of foundation operating expenses continues to be a reasonable Village expenditure, with a multiple of such investment being realized on the dollars advanced. Mr. Fraser presented and reviewed the Foundation's Statement of Financial Position dated September 30, 2018 (see attached report). The statement of Cash (Pledges) Donations Received Three Months Ended September 30, 2018, presented to Council is attached.

The Flat Rock Park and Recreation Foundation audit for FY 2017/2018 has been completed.

The Foundation is holding a pumpkin sale at the park on Saturday, October 13, 2018, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The pumpkins were donated by a board member to benefit the Foundation.

Myra Grant mentioned on October 19, 2018, the Foundation will be making a presentation to the Community Foundation Grants Committee for the tot lot playground for a potential grant of \$25,000.00. As a part of the tot lot playground campaign, there is a second rendition of the Burma Shave project. She presented examples of the five signs to be in the park in the next couple of weeks. Myra and Maureen are working on contacting elite donors that are called “8x8” to contribute \$8,000.00 each for the tot lot project, with plans to have the campaign completed by December 31, 2018.

5. Transportation Update – Council Member Dockendorf

Council Member Dockendorf mentioned on October 30, 2018, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., at the City Operations Center on Williams Street, NCDOT will present the significantly revised plans for the Kanuga Road project.

Mr. Dockendorf commented the Greenways Study Committee is moving in the direction of reinvigorating historic trails, not widening trailways along roads.

6. Tax Report – Vice Mayor Weedman

Vice Mayor Weedman reported that, as of October 10, 2018, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 31.7 percent with \$300,525.91 total collected (see attached report dated October 10, 2018).

Old Business – None

New Business

7. Sign Control Ordinance Amendments – Mayor Staton

Mayor Staton mentioned there are draft amendments that are pending his and Sharon Alexander’s continuing review prior to distribution to Council. The Planning Board has considered the amendments and has endorsed and will recommend adoption of some of the amendments. Others are awaiting revisions and final review. He stated he will have the amendments finalized and circulated for review by the next agenda meeting.

Mayor Staton mentioned Pinecrest Presbyterian Church wishes to install an illuminated sign to replace the existing freestanding sign. The proposed sign is not permitted under the Sign Control ordinance.

The Planning Board considered the issue at a previous meeting, did not approve the application and recommended that Council not amend the ordinance to permit the proposed sign. Mr. Hart who attended the meeting was dissatisfied with the Planning Board’s decision and wrote a letter appealing that decision to Council.

Mayor Staton read the following insert from the Sign Control Ordinance – Article III, Purpose:

“It is the intent and policy of the Village Council to preserve the unique character of Historic Flat Rock. It is the intent of this ordinance to govern the use, approval, construction, change, location and maintenance of signs and related informational tools, as well as their illumination, within the Village limits. This ordinance is intended to preserve the natural beauty of the area, protect property values, and protect public safety.”

He stated directly illuminated signs are not permitted under the sign control ordinance, because they are deemed not to be in keeping with the purpose for which the ordinance was enacted. Examples of such signs may be seen in a number of places in Hendersonville, the most notable of which are the large, distracting WHKP sign along Four Seasons Boulevard, with its flashing, changing messages; and the flashing, changing time and temperature signs in other places. The village council was of the opinion that those signs would be out of place in Flat Rock and should be prohibited throughout the village.

Section 606 of the ordinance, provides for identification and information signs for churches and places of worship, which may be freestanding or attached. In either case, such sign may be non-illuminated or indirectly illuminated. Further in said section Nonprofit entities, the term nonprofit entity includes “any place of worship,” and provides that signs for a nonprofit entity may be non-illuminated or indirectly illuminated. So it is clear that the council intended the prohibition of directly illuminated signs to apply to churches as well as commercial entities.

Vice Mayor Weedman stated he wants to review all information before Council takes a vote.

Mayor Staton commented the proposed amendments are incomplete and do not include Sharon Alexander’s comments. When the amendments are finalized, he will forward them to Council.

8. Appointment to Henderson Tourism Development Authority – Nomination of Representative

Mayor Staton reported the Flat Rock representative on the Henderson Tourism Development Authority, Mr. Dane Whitlock, is leaving the Flat Rock Playhouse and moving to New York, and he has resigned from the TDA.

Mayor Staton reported we have received from Suzane Ball an indication of interest is serving as Flat Rock’s representative on the TDA. The nomination would be given to the Henderson County Board of Commissioners for appointment to the TDA. Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion to nominate Suzanne Ball for appointment to the Henderson Tourism Development Authority, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

9. Zoning Districts Map Amendment

Mayor Staton reported we have a category in our Land Development Ordinance, Motel Lodging District), with no such designation on our zoning districts map. The only property in this category is Mill House Lodge. There has never been a Hotel District, Hotel/Motel District, or Hotel Lodging District in our ordinance. The zoning map has changed several times to designate that district first as Hotel District, secondly Hotel/Motel District, and finally Hotel Lodging District. He stated we need to coordinate and have the same designation on the map as in the ordinance. We need a technical map amendment to change the Hotel Lodging District to Motel Lodging District to conform the map to the ordinance. The technical amendment has to be reviewed by the Planning Board at the next meeting. A public hearing on the map amendment was scheduled for November 8, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.

10. Even-year Municipal Elections – Discussion

Mayor Staton stated this matter was brought up the first year Chuck Edwards was in the North Carolina Senate that we move municipal elections from odd years to even years to be held the same time county, state, and federal elections are held. He stated Laurel Park and the City of Hendersonville have expressed concerns with losing identity. All municipalities will discuss the matter internally, and the issue will be on the agenda for discussion at the LGCCA meeting October 16, 2018. Mayor Staton asked Council for their input either way. After discussions, of the five council members in attendance, three members were opposed to the change, and two members were neutral.

Other Business

11. Mayor – Council Reports

Council Member Brown mentioned Shred Day is scheduled for October 13, 2018, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. The collection of unwanted and outdated prescription drugs will again be included, as will the collection of canned goods and toiletries for IAM.

Vice Mayor Weedman brought up the issue of the proposed drug facility across from Mud Creek Baptist Church. There were discussions that there is a need for such a facility in Henderson County, but not sure if that is the correct location. Discussions that since the location is not within Flat Rock's jurisdiction, Council has no vote in the matter. Residents of Flat Rock have concerns with the zoning of the property.

Council Member Jamerson stated Administrator Christie has expressed concerns with spending for items that have not been budgeted. Council Member Jamerson passed out a budget adjustment notice for council members to fill out for any unbudgeted items for which payment is sought.

Council Member Jamerson mentioned America in Bloom owns a bigger skating rink this year, and more events are planned for which more volunteers are needed.

Public Comments

Mr. Ted Etherington expressed concerns with various illuminated/flashing DOT signs within Flat Rock, particularly on Greenville Highway.

Mr. Duncan Fraser mentioned Maurean Adams, Director of Development for the Flat Rock Park and Recreation Foundation, will leave that position at the end of the year.

Adjournment

With no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk

Robert V. Staton
Mayor