

**MINUTES
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING
ASSEMBLY ROOM
NOVEMBER 9, 2017**

Mayor Staton presided over the November 9, 2017, council meeting at 9:30 a.m. Those present in addition to Mayor Staton were Vice Mayor Weedman, Council Members Brown, Coletta, Dockendorf, Gooch and Jamerson, Village Clerk Parker and Administrator Boleman.

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

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

AGENDA/APPROVAL CHANGES

Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Coletta. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

FY 2016/2017 Audit Review – Carl E. Shaw, CPA

Mr. Carl Shaw presented Council with copies of the FY 2016/2017 audit report. He summarized stating the financial statements reflect that the Village has a very strong financial base. The Village is in compliance with general statutes pertaining to municipal budgets. Mr. Shaw reported there were no issues found in the financial statements. He commended council on the park.

Public Comments

The following residents made comments regarding the Highland Lake Road project:

- Mr. Joe Oppermann spoke in opposition to the project.
- Mr. Thomas Carpenter of Pinecrest Presbyterian Church talked about the adverse impact the current plan will have on the church's septic system, handicapped/bus entrance, handicapped parking, and the tree buffer between the church and Highland Lake Road.
- Mr. Bill Stanley, Dr. John Carson, and Reverend Rhett Carson of Pinecrest Presbyterian Church spoke in opposition to the project and asked Council not to accept the current plan.
- Eric and Dianna Dingamann spoke in opposition to the project.
- Mr. Rick Merrill spoke in opposition stating the current plan is too radical and is unnecessary. There is no need to widen the road.
- Mr. Mark Stewart of Highland Golf Villas talked about connecting the entrances to the subdivision and to the park, how the current entrance is unsafe, and the need for turn lanes on Highland Lake Road.
- Mr. Chris Battista, President of Historic Flat Rock stated the HFR board of directors recently voted to oppose the current plan, and asked Council to oppose the proposed project.

- Mr. Steve Jamerson stated he supports the project with some modifications. He stated we need walkways for pedestrians and bicyclists, and a new entrance due to large vehicles, including emergency vehicles, being unable to enter the park at the current entrance.
- Mr. Clyde Allen spoke in opposition to the project.
- Ms. Susan Rindall stated she embraced biking but not the proposed improvements to the road.
- Ms. Lynne Kennedy spoke in opposition by reading a letter regarding the lack of communication on the project.
- Mr. Wes Jensen spoke in opposition to the project.
- Victor Behoriam spoke in opposition to the project.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the following:

- August 30, 2017 – Council Special Meeting Minutes
- October 2, 2017 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
- October 12, 2017 – Council Meeting Minutes

Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coletta and carried on a unanimous vote.

Special Reports

2. Administration – Village Administrator Boleman

Village Administrator Boleman reviewed the October 2017 zoning report dated November 6, 2017, and the Village Administrator report dated November 9, 2017 (see attached reports).

3. Tax Report – Vice Mayor Weedman

Vice Mayor Weedman reported that, as of November 8, 2017, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 36%, with \$333,180.54 total collected (see attached report dated November 8, 2017).

4. Park Update – Council Member Brown

Council Member Brown reported surveying for Trace and Company's completion of the trails in the park is underway.

5. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Mr. Duncan Fraser reported the Foundation had a wonderful first quarter of the current fiscal year. The Feast & Frolic event was a success that helped raise and exceed the trails campaign target of

\$300,000.00, and the Foundation is prepared to meet the Village's expenditures as new trails are completed. The Foundation participated in the Ed Lastein trail dedication ceremony. The fall campaign will be kicked off in the upcoming Village Record newsletter. A check for \$46,000.00 was presented to Council, which represents the first quarter reimbursement to the Village for expenditures on park amenities with donor restricted and unrestricted funds.

Mr. Fraser reported the Board has replaced the retiring members with three new board members. They are Bill Hale, Eleanor Matthews, and Jim Olson.

6. Transportation Update – Council Member Dockendorf

Council Member Dockendorf reported he recently spoke with Sergeant Fairchild with the Highway Patrol, who monitors truck weight and traffic issues. Sergeant Fairchild stated that he would step up enforcement of illegally weighted trucks using the southern entrance to Flat Rock, Little River Road and Kanuga Road towards Brevard, rather than I-26 to Highway 280. He stated when he meets with Bryan Burch he will discuss the Village's options as a community for putting limitations on trucks in Flat Rock.

Council Member Dockendorf reported that, on November 16, 2017, Mr. Bill Lapsley, the County Commissioners' transportation representative, Mr. Steve Caraker, City of Hendersonville's transportation representative, and he will meet with Bryan Burch to discuss any modifications that may be made to the Kanuga Road plans.

Mr. Dockendorf reported NCDOT has received public comments on the Highland Lake Road project, and on November 15, 2017, Rick Merrill, Ginger Brown, Sheryl Jamerson, and he will meet with Bryan Burch to discuss options for the project.

Council Member Coletta spoke about the Highland Lake Road project, again explaining that she felt Council did not have all the information needed to really make a formal decision when on August 30 a majority voted against her motion to reject the project. She stated she is in favor of greenways and bikeways and keeping the character of Flat Rock, but it needs to be done correctly. She spoke in opposition to this plan for a number of reasons, but concluded a major reason for opposition is NCDOT's taking private property for the proposed project improvements.

There was discussion as to whether the Village Council has the power to stop the Highland Lake Road project completely. Mayor Staton explained that Council has never voted to approve the project. The only related motion to come before the council was made by Council Member Coletta when she moved that the Council reject the project altogether, which failed on a two to four vote. He explained that such vote by the four who opposed the motion was not an approval of the project. Instead, it was an indication that a majority of the Council agreed that they should continue to work with NCDOT in an effort to minimize the footprint of the project and its impact on the village.

Old Business - None

New Business – None

Other Business

7. None

Public Comments

The following residents make comments on the Highland Lake Road project:

- Ms. Darlene Miller read email in opposition to the project.
- Mr. Steve Collins read an email from Kerry Lindsey who supports the project.
- Mr. Ned Wright spoke in opposition to the project.
- Mr. Cecil Young spoke in opposition to the project.
- Ms. Stephanie Dunn and her husband Tom spoke in opposition, stating no need for bikeways.
- Mr. Ted Etherington spoke in opposition to the project entirely.
- Ms. Langdon Oppermann spoke in opposition to the project stating there are different ways of getting greenways and a new entrance without widening the road. She asked Council to vote against the project.

Adjournment

With no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk

Robert V. Staton
Mayor