

**MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL ASSEMBLY ROOM
110 VILLAGE CENTER DRIVE
DECEMBER 09, 2021
9:30 A.M.**

Mayor Weedman presided over the December 9, 2021, council meeting at 9:30 a.m. Those present in addition to Mayor Weedman were Vice Mayor Coletta, Council Members Carpenter, Dethero, Gregory, Tiles, Village Clerk Parker, and Village Administrator Christie. Council Member Gooch was not present.

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

No changes to the agenda, approved as presented.

Consent Agenda

1. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:
 - November 1, 2021 - Agenda Workshop Minutes
 - November 12, 2021 – Council Meeting Minutes
 - Resolution No. 230 - Accepting the Results of the November 2, 2021, Municipal Election
 - 2021 Tax Release

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

Special Reports

2. Administration – Village Administrator Christie

Village Administrator Christie reviewed the November 2021 zoning report dated December 6, 2021, and the Village Administrator report dated December 6, 2021 (see attached reports).

3. Park Update – Council Member Carpenter

Council Member Carpenter mentioned there was no Park Commission meeting in November. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 16, 2021.

Council Member Carpenter mentioned Matt Toner will no longer be serving as Chair to the Park Commission as of today when he will join the Village Council. Mr. Carpenter thanked Matt Toner for all his hard work serving on the Park Commission.

4. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Tracey Daniels, Director of Development, gave the following update:

- The end-of-year "Ask" campaign raised \$12,000 since November 15, 2021.
- #GivingTuesday was November 30, 2021, and the Foundation raised \$2,800.
- At the January council meeting, the Foundation will be asking Village Council to appoint Sharon Nunnelee to the Foundation Board to replace Terry Stein.

Chairman Maurean Adams thanked Village Council for their support to the Park Foundation.

5. Transportation Update – Vice Mayor Coletta

Vice Mayor Coletta mentioned there will be no HCTAC or FBRMPO meetings in December.

Vice Mayor Coletta received a request from a resident on Boyd Drive about the possibility of having a traffic light installed at the intersection of Highway 225 and Boyd Drive across from the entrance to Bonclarken. She contacted the NCDOT Mills River office for District 14, and they reviewed the intersection. According to their data, the intersection does not meet their requirements/criteria for a traffic light.

Vice Mayor Coletta mentioned a large box of nails were dropped on Highway 225 at the Wrinkled Egg. She contacted the Henderson County DOT maintenance department who took care of removing the nails.

The relocation of utilities on the N. Highland Lake Road project is not complete.

Council Member Carpenter mentioned mail trucks speeding along West Blue Ridge Road. He suggested writing a letter to the Post Office reminding them of the speed limit.

6. Finance and Tax Report – Mayor Weedman & Paul de Chalain

Mayor Weedman reported that, as of December 08, 2021, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 65.2 percent with \$830,492.59 total collected (see attached report).

Mayor Weedman asked Fire Chief Will Sheehan of Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue to give an update on the status of the fire station adjacent to the Village Hall. Chief Sheehan thanked Village Council for their support. He mentioned the possible move in date will be January 8, 2022. The station will have personnel at the station 24/7.

Old Business

7. Speed limit signs – Vice Mayor Coletta

Vice Mayor Coletta mentioned the FRTAC looked at ways of controlling speed within Flat Rock with two options: speed/radar trailers and/or permanent speed/radar signs. The FRTAC recommends purchasing two speed/radar units, one for the north end and one for the south end of Highway 225. The Village should contact Mr. Steve Buchanan, NCDOT Traffic Engineer, to help with placement of the units. FRTAC is looking at going with the cost estimate from RadarSign of \$8,388.70 for the two units, and the Village will need to provide the installation. The other option that was looked at was purchasing speed/radar trailers. The Henderson County Sheriff's Office has only two speed/radar trailers located within the county, purchased from MPI Industries. Mayor Weedman suggested arranging a meeting with Sheriff Lowell Griffin and Captain Brandon Staton for their suggestions and input.

At 10:07 a.m., a short break was taken to enjoy refreshments brought in from the Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue Department.

When the meeting reconvened at 10:15 a.m., Mayor Weedman moved to Mayor-Council Reports.

Council Organization

8. Oath of Office of new Council Members

Mayor Weedman expressed appreciation to Council Member Tiles for her work while serving on Village Council. Mayor Weedman presented Council Member Tiles with an appreciation award.

Mayor Weedman administered the oath of office to Council Member Matt Toner for District 1, Susan Gregory for District 2, and Barbara Jeter for District 3.

9. Vice Mayor Appointment – Term: December 2021 – December 2022

Mayor Weedman made a motion to appoint Anne Coletta as Vice Mayor, seconded by Council Member Dethero. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

10. Council Appointments – Budget Officer, Finance Officer, Deputy Finance Officer

Mayor Weedman asked for any volunteers to serve as Budget Officer, but no one volunteered. Mayor Weedman will continue serving as Finance Officer and Deputy Finance Officer.

11. Oversight Responsibilities – Mayor Weedman

Mayor Weedman will send copies to council members to discuss at the January 3, 2022, Agenda meeting.

New Business

12. Resolution No. 228 – Establishing a January – December 2022 Schedule of Public Meetings and Holidays – Mayor Weedman

Vice Mayor Coletta made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 228, seconded by Council Member Carpenter. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

13. Resolution No. 229 – Waiving Compensation of the mayor and Council Members – Mayor Weedman

Council Member Carpenter made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 229, seconded by Council Member Gregory. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

14. Appointments to Park Commission – Council Member Carpenter

Council Member Carpenter made a motion to appoint Duncan Fraser as Chairman to the Park Commission for a three-year term, seconded by Council Member Toner. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Council Member Carpenter made a motion to appoint Roger Bass to the Park Commission to fill the seat vacated by Council Member Toner for a three-year term, seconded by Council Member Toner. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Other Business

15. Mayor – Council Reports

Vice Mayor Coletta mentioned a resident contacted her about having a fire hydrant on Glassy Mountain Road, and that she had contacted Chief Will Sheehan who stated fire hydrants are placed by the City of Hendersonville. The resident can petition the City of Hendersonville and pay for the hydrant if desired.

Council Member Tiles reported on the following:

Playhouse

As a reminder, on May 3, 2021, a motion was made and passed that the Village Council allocate \$25,000 in the budget for the Flat Rock Playhouse, with the knowledge to increase this to a total of \$40,000 if the Playhouse does not receive ARP funding from the Flat Rock Village Council.

Audit

Carl Shaw, CPA completed the yearly audit and presented his findings at the November 29, 2021, agenda meeting. There were no discrepancies to report and gave us a clean audit.

Public Health

North Carolina's level of community transmission is currently high. In the last 7 days there have been 279 confirmed new cases of covid, which is up 67 percent. There are currently no cases of the new variant, Omicron in North Carolina. 54.1 percent of Henderson County is fully vaccinated, and 68.2 percent have received one dose. As of November 29, 2021, the Henderson County Board of Education has made mask-wearing mandatory for pre-K through 6th grade students. Pardee's infusion clinic referrals have increased significantly, 30 – 40 percent since late October. The increase is attributed to indoor gatherings, travel and visiting family and friends over the holidays.

Council Member Dethero reported the Halfway Tree Mobile Home Park main sewer line has been connected, and work is currently ongoing on connecting all units within the park.

Council Member Gregory reported the Planning Board held a meeting with 75 people attending to receive public input on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. In January, the Planning Board will continue working on re-writing the CLUP.

Public Comments – Victoria Flanagan reported that Historic Flat Rock, Inc., was working on replacing the “Welcome to Flat Rock” Historic District signs, which have been knocked down and are in disrepair. On Giving Tuesday, HFR raised \$18,000 for replacement of these signs. Ms. Flanagan reported the cost for each sign ranges from \$2,000 - \$2,500 per sign.

Vice Mayor Coletta reminded everyone of the Council & Staff Luncheon, Friday, December 10, 2021, 12:00 p.m., at Hendersonville Country Club.

Council Member Gregory made an announcement that after the meeting, there will be refreshments served to honor Martha Orr on her retirement at the end of December 2021.

Adjournment

With no further discussions, Council Member Carpenter made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Gregory, and the meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk

Nick Weedman
Mayor