

**MINUTES**  
**VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING**  
**ASSEMBLY ROOM**  
**APRIL 14, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Staton presided over the council meeting of April 14, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., in the Assembly Room of the Village Hall. Those present in addition to Mayor Staton were Vice Mayor Weedman and Council Members Brown, Gooch, and Jamerson, Village Clerk Parker and Village Administrator Boleman. Council Member Coletta 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**

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

**Public Comments**

It was recently brought to the attention of the Village Council, Historic Flat Rock, and residents of Flat Rock Forest and Trenholm Woods that the bridge across Memminger Creek on Boyd Drive is to be replaced by NCDOT.

Ms. Valerie Penn, a resident of Flat Rock Forest, expressed concerns that the natural landscape, including many large trees and rhododendrons, in the area of the bridge will be destroyed in the process of expanding the right of way around the bridge. She also expressed concern about an increase in the volume of traffic a new bridge would bring to Boyd Drive. Mayor Staton explained that Council has no jurisdiction over public roads and bridges, but it may have some involvement in the planning of the bridge.

Council Member Dockendorf advised that he has discussed the issue with Mr. Josh Dayton, an engineer with NCDOT, who confirmed plans to replace the bridge and reported a contract for the bridge replacement is scheduled to be let in August 2018, construction is to start in January 2019, and work is to be completed in April 2019. Mr. Dayton told Mr. Dockendorf that NCDOT usually does not hold public hearings on bridge replacements, but if there is an interest in a public hearing in this case, one could be scheduled possibly two months out. The residents expressed an interest in the public hearing, and Mr. Dockendorf will so advise Mr. Dayton. If NCDOT does not replace the bridge, it would be good for perhaps five to six years, then it would be condemned and Boyd Drive would be closed at the bridge. Closing of the road, which would

require resolutions of support from the Village Council and the Henderson County Board of Commissioners, would leave residents with fewer points of ingress and egress.

Mr. Chris Battista, on behalf of Historic Flat Rock, Inc., discussed the conservation easement the owner of Saluda Cottages put on the property and how the proposed bridge right of way would impact the property. He would like to see the impact minimized.

Ms. Anne Ettinger expressed concerns of the proposed bridge replacement's right of way impact on the neighborhood. Ms. Nichole Oursler, a new resident of the community, commended the residents for their joining together to protect their community. Her daughter, Ella, read aloud the poem *Trees* by Joyce Kilmer.

The discussion ended with Mr. Dockendorf's indication he would report the residents' desire for a public hearing to NCDOT, and his suggestion to the residents that they discuss among themselves how they wish to proceed with the matter and present a unified position at the public hearing.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- February 29, 2016 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
- March 10, 2016 – Council Meeting Minutes
- Appointment of Dane Whitlock to the Henderson Tourism Development Authority for a five year term beginning July 1, 2016.

Vice Mayor Weedman asked that the March 10, 2016, Council meeting minutes be pulled for a correction. Council Member Gooch then made a motion to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weedman and carried on a unanimous vote.

Following a discussion of the March 10, 2016 Council meeting minutes, Council Member Jamerson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Weedman. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

### **Special Reports**

2. Administration – Village Administrator Boleman

Ms. Boleman reviewed the March 2016 zoning report dated April 7, 2016, and Village Administrator report dated April 14, 2016 (see attached reports).

Ms. Boleman advised the Council that the Flat Rock Merchants Association wants to keep the tailgate market at its current location and wants better signage. Ms. Boleman also advised she will meet with Mop Head Cleaning Service to discuss a renewal of the contract for cleaning services at the village hall and the park.

3. Tax Report – Vice Mayor Weedman

Vice Mayor Weedman reported that, as of April 13, 2016, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 99.95%, with \$928,078.66 total collected (see attached report dated April 13, 2016).

4. Park Update – Council Member Brown

Council Member Brown reported the grading and paving is complete at the pavilion, and the next task is the installation of sod in front of the building.

Before obtaining a certificate of occupancy, Summey Plumbing is currently installing a hand hydrant by the garage door of the pavilion, to be completed by end of the day. Summey is donating time and materials.

Following a discussion of fishing in the park, now prohibited by park rules, by consensus it was agreed to allow fishing on a catch and release basis unless and until it becomes a problem.

At the last Council meeting the contract for FitzSimons was approved with an annual cost increase of \$9,000.00. Approval was subject to any increase resulting from FitzSimons' determining whether or not the addition of pavilion maintenance requirements would cause an increase in price. Mayor Staton reported there would not be an increase for such additional work.

5. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Mr. Duncan Fraser distributed and reviewed a financial statement as of April 14, 2016, showing donations and pledges received by the Foundation. There were discussions of assets the Village has purchased and for which the Park Foundation should reimburse the Village by June 30, 2016. Identification of such assets and the amount to be transferred are to be determined.

**Old Business**

6. FY 2016/2017 Budget

Council Member Jamerson distributed and reviewed the Budget Calendar and Annual Budget Estimate worksheets for FY 2016/2017. The worksheets are to be given to Council Member Jamerson by May 12, 2016.

**New Business**

7. Kanuga Road Improvements

Council Member Dockendorf stated NCDOT wants a resolution from Village Council with respect to proposed improvements to Kanuga Road. The matter will be discussed at the next council meeting.

**Other Business**

8. Mayor – Council Reports

Council Member Brown reported the pollinator garden has been planted and when installed will become part of the official master plan.

**Public Comments**

Ms. Nichole Oursler commended Council for the park and discussed how much her family enjoys the playground.

**Adjournment**

At 11:05 a.m., with no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned.

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Michelle Parker, CMC  
Village Clerk

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Robert V. Staton  
Mayor