

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING
ASSEMBLY ROOM – VIA ZOOM
MAY 14, 2020
9:30 A.M.

Mayor Weedman presided over the May 14, 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 – Due to the meeting conducted via Zoom, Mayor Weedman read public comment emails from the following;

Darlene Miller commented on spending Village tax money and the NCDOT cost overruns recently in the press, she suggested that the project be totally cancelled.

Victor Behoriam commented on the overestimated population projection numbers in the 2018 Comprehensive Land Use Plan being used to make major decisions in overruling the voters of Flat Rock.

Richard Ehlers commented on looking at the Village's financial situation due to the coronavirus and limited revenue, either cutting hours or eliminating positions of the Village staff. Expenditures be put on hold for a new entrance, crosswalk, parking lot, and sidewalks.

Stephanie Dunn commented on the overestimated population numbers in the CLUP, and the sign ordinance not being completed, and the need to cut expenses.

Philip Green commented on the Council making budget cuts to the Park and Village Hall.

Mayor Weedman made the comment that Bruce Holliday and the Planning Board have been working on the revisions of the sign ordinance. Mayor Weedman and Bruce Holliday had a productive meeting with Attorney Sharon Alexander to review the Planning Board's revisions. The Planning Board did not have any significant changes.

AGENDA APPROVAL/CHANGES

The following item was added to the agenda: Under *Old Business, Item #7 – Review of new park entrance*. 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:

- March 2, 2020 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
- March 12, 2020 – Council Meeting Minutes
- March 12, 2020 – Park Workshop Minutes

There were no objections to the Consent Agenda, the minutes were approved.

Special Reports

2. Administration – Village Administrator Christie

Administrator Christie reviewed the April 2020 zoning report dated May 11, 2020, and the Village Administrator report dated May 11, 2020 (see attached reports).

Administrator Christie stated she has received a request to pass a resolution to adopt the Southern Mountains Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan by July 20, 2020. She will prepare the resolution to be adopted by Council.

3. Park Update – Council Member Carpenter

Council Member Carpenter reported Matt Toner has agreed to chair the Park Commission if Council agreed. Council Member Carpenter will invite Matt Toner to attend the next council meeting gathering to introduce himself.

Council Member Carpenter was asked to work with Attorney Sharon Alexander regarding the survey of Village land taken by NCDOT but has had no success in contacting her.

Council Member Carpenter gave an update on the following;

Reforestation Update – Chris Sharpton with the NC Forest Service visited the park on March 26th and examined the reforested areas. He had nothing but good things to say and was very pleased with the progress. Mr. Sharpton recommended a light pruning in the fall or winter but did not recommend removing any trees.

Streams Assessment – Administrator Christie and Park Ranger John Wilkerson invited Betsy Gerwig of the Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District to conduct a study of the state of the park's waterways. The comprehensive detailed report describes the condition of our streams as well as providing recommendations to improve flood tolerance, support of wildlife, and appearance. Mr. Wilkerson and the Park Commission will review the report over the next few weeks for possible action items.

Tot Lot – The area around the tot lot was sodded the week of March 30 and looks great.

Bryan Playground Cargo Net – The replacement cargo net for the playground is scheduled to be installed within the next 3-4 weeks.

4. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Council Member Gooch reviewed the Flat Rock Park & Recreation Foundation report dated 5/14/20 (see attached report).

Mr. Duncan Fraser commented that Council has approved the Kids in Parks program and the Foundation is waiting for completion of the Memorandum of Understanding. The budget of approximately \$8,000 for the program is to be paid by sponsors, not the Village.

5. Transportation Update – Council Member Coletta

Council Member Coletta reported the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) and French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) held no meetings in April but will be holding electronic meetings in May. After meeting with Roger Ayers with the Henderson County Maintenance Department on how road maintenance projects are handled in the county, Administrator Pat and Council Member Coletta have developed a procedure for any road maintenance complaints to be documented and forwarded to NCDOT. A transportation notebook with the requests received is on top of the file cabinet next to the supply closet in the village office.

Council Member Colletta will be attending the MPO orientation for new members electronic meeting on May 22, 2020.

Work is continuing on the bike pedestrian plan, and the feasibility study to connect Carl Sandburg to the Park at Flat Rock. The project consultants plan to present the final feasibility study to the Council in June.

Council Member Coletta mentioned the gutter along the granite curbs on West Blue Ridge Road needs some cleanup maintenance, and she had received an estimate of \$200 from FitzSimons. Council agreed to proceed.

Council Member Coletta has been working with NCDOT to finalize their agreement on the modifications Council approved on the North Highland Lake Road project. She will inform council when NCDOT has the agreement finalized.

6. Tax Report – Mayor Weedman

Mayor Weedman reported that, as of May 13, 2020, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 99.56 percent with \$1,231,895.26 total collected (see attached report).

Old Business

7. Review of Park Entrance – Council Member Coletta

Council Member Coletta reminded everyone that at the March council meeting Council passed a motion for suggested modifications on the Highland Lake Road project in hopes of NCDOT's approval. In the initial motion, the item on the new park entrance was removed so that the Council could consider it at the next council meeting.

Council Member Coletta presented and reviewed a drawing of the village's original master plan showing the original entrance placement and a drawing of NCDOT's re-configured proposed new entrance location. NCDOT suggests installing a curb cut that will be inexpensive. Council Member Coletta expressed concerns and recommended eliminating the curb cut and the new entrance from the current road project. Once the road project is completed, the Council and the community can see what the new traffic patterns will be, and that would be the appropriate time to consider a new entrance. Vice Mayor Jamerson stated she was in favor of doing the curb cut and was in favor of piggy backing for a new entrance while consultants were working on the project, because it would be more cost effective and convenient. Vice Mayor Jamerson mentioned in the more recent NCDOT plan, the entrance has been moved further west closer to Highland Park Road than Highland Golf Drive.

Vice Mayor Jamerson mentioned the new park entrance is not in the upcoming 2020/2021 budget but asked for a consensus from council members in honoring the commitment to Highland Golf Villa residents to do a new entrance at some point in the future when the Village can support the new entrance financially. Council Member Carpenter and Council Member Dethero stated they are opposed to a new entrance until the N. Highland Lake Road project is completed. By consensus, council agreed to honor the commitment to Highland Golf Villa residents.

Council Member Coletta made a motion that the Flat Rock Village Council request NCDOT eliminate the curb cut for a new Park at Flat Rock entrance from the current N. Highland Lake Road project plans (Project U-5887). The motion was seconded by Council Member Carpenter. The vote carried unanimously.

Council Members excused Council Member Posey from the meeting at 10:30 am.

New Business - None

Other Business

12. Mayor – Council Reports

Budget Officer Jamerson presented and reviewed the proposed fiscal year 2020 – 2021 budget worksheet. The proposed revenues totaling \$1,958,100.00 is less than the \$2,200,000.00 budgeted for the 2019/2020 budget.

The Village will provide a request for reimbursement of funds for completed projects from the Foundation for the current fiscal year. Duncan Fraser stated the Foundation has committed to transferring \$14,000.00 to the Village for the playground cargo net.

In the 2019/2020 budget, the Village supported the Foundation with \$108,000.00, Budget Officer Jamerson asked Mr. Duncan Fraser if, for the last quarter of this fiscal year, the Foundation could get by with \$18,000.00. Mr. Fraser agreed.

Council Members are continuing to work on their budgeting items.

A budget workshop meeting via zoom was scheduled for May 26, 2020, following the regular agenda meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Mayor Weedman suggested that council members be conservative in their numbers in preparing the proposed 2020/2021 budget due to the shortfall in revenue. He asked for a commitment from council members that the real property tax rate stays constant at 13 cents and there be no capital projects planned for the park in the upcoming budget. Council agreed.

Council Member Dethero gave an update on the City of Hendersonville providing sewer to the Half-Way Tree Mobile Home Park. The project has been modified several times to reduce the impact on the number of property owners. The number of affected property owners has dropped from eight to two. Eminent domain action will be taken in order to obtain the easement to extend sewer within unopened right of way.

Council Member Coletta reported she attends the Land of Sky Regional Council weekly updates on the COVID-19, and Governor Cooper's updates. The Henderson County Commissioners will give a COVID-19 update at the Commissioners meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

Council Member Carpenter commented from a report that air droplets from infected persons in small spaces can spread the virus.

Mayor Weedman mentioned there are no changes in policies for closure with the virus for the Village Hall nor the Park for the month of May. Mayor Weedman mentioned he is looking for a volunteer council liaison for the Kudzu Committee.

Public Comments – None

Adjournment

With no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk

Nick Weedman
Mayor