

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL ASSEMBLY ROOM
110 VILLAGE CENTER DRIVE
NOVEMBER 12, 2021
9:30 A.M.

Mayor Weedman presided over the November 12, 2021, council meeting at 9:30 a.m. Those present in addition to Mayor Weedman were Vice Mayor Coletta, Council Members Carpenter, Dethero, Gooch, Gregory, Tiles, 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 – None

Public Hearing - Historic Landmarks Commission – Saluda Cottages Designation

Council Member Carpenter made a motion to go into public hearing, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Dethero thanked everyone for their hard work in the long designation process.

Council Member Dethero turned the meeting over to Victoria Flanagan, Vice-Chair of the Historic Landmarks Commission. Victoria Flanagan gave an overview of the Saluda Cottages designation (see attached document, along with copies of Resolution No. 4, Ordinance No. 119, with Addendum and Attachment C).

No comments were made from the public.

Mayor Weedman thanked Victoria Flanagan and Mr. & Mrs. Harrison (owners of Saluda Cottages).

Council Member Gregory made a motion to go out of public hearing, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Dethero made a motion to accept Ordinance No. 119, including the Addendum with Attachment C, designating Saluda Cottages as the third historic landmark for Flat Rock, seconded by Council Member Carpenter. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Agenda Approval/Changes

Under *Old Business* – *Item #8, Review Engineering Appointment for Dye Creek*, was added to the agenda. Council Member Gooch made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Vice Mayor Coletta. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- October 4, 2021 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
- October 14, 2021 – Council Meeting Minutes

The Consent Agenda was approved.

Special Reports

2. Administration – Village Administrator Christie

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

3. Park Update – Council Member Carpenter

Council Member Carpenter mentioned the Park Commission and Park Workshop meetings were held October 28, 2021. Council Member Carpenter will be making a recommendation at the December 9, 2021, council meeting to appoint Duncan Fraser as Chairman to the Park Commission and Roger Bass as a member of the Park Commission.

4. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

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

- Next Foundation Board meeting will be held in-person at Village Hall Assembly Room on Monday, December 6, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.
- During November, Foundation Board members are directly reaching out to thank the Foundation's Charter Friends members via phone outreach.
- Preparing for #GivingTuesday, November 30th. This is an online and social media campaign.
- Also, preparing for the end-of-year "Ask" campaign. Materials should be going out before Thanksgiving; there have been some delays due to material shortages, but the Foundation is on track for pre-holiday mailing.
- The Foundation has discussed plans for a new, fun Valentine's outreach for 2022. Details to come soon.

5. Transportation Update – Vice Mayor Coletta

Vice Mayor Coletta mentioned that the Flat Rock Transportation Advisory Committee (FRTAC) met on October 27, 2021, via Zoom with Renee Gledhill-Earley from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), who made a presentation on what SHPO is and how they work with NCDOT.

Vice Mayor Coletta reported the request for the crosswalk to be repainted on West Blue Ridge Road between Robert E. Lee Drive and Assembly Drive has been completed.

Vice Mayor Coletta asked council members if they wished to have FRTAC investigate if a street light is needed at the intersection of Boyd Drive and Bonclarken on Highway 225. Council requested that issue be investigated.

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

Mayor Weedman reported that, as of October 14, 2021, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 41.4 percent with \$527,187.76 total collected (see attached report).

Mayor Weedman mentioned that with Martha Orr, Tax Collector, retiring at the end of December 2021, he had concerns on how tax collections would be handled if the Village could not find a suitable replacement candidate. Mayor Weedman met with Henderson County Tax Collector Darlene Burgess. The County currently collects taxes for the City of Hendersonville and Town of Laurel Park. Ms. Burgess stated that Flat Rock taxes could be added to the county billing. In collecting delinquent taxes, the county begins garnishing accounts and wages on February 1st. The county uses the Debt Setoff program, which allows the State Treasurer to withhold funds from income tax refunds, and also Accurant. The cost for the county to collect the Village's taxes is ½ of 1 percent total collected (\$6,300.00). Mayor Weedman feels this would be cost effective, and a decision needs to be made by July 1, 2022.

Old Business

7. Flat Rock Playhouse donation – Council Member Tiles

There were discussions of the amount that the Village budgeted to the Playhouse for fiscal year 2020/2021. The Playhouse received a large sum of PPP funds for payroll. There is still a question on whether or not the Village will be able to use American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to help the Playhouse. Mayor Weedman stated he would like for the Village to pay the 87K – 90K for the new HVAC system with ARP funding. Mayor Weedman suggested discussing this subject if the final Federal guidelines have been received by the December 14, 2021, ARP meeting.

8. Review Engineering Appointment for Dye Creek – Vice Mayor Coletta

Vice Mayor Coletta mentioned that at an earlier agenda meeting, there was discussion about requesting bids from three different companies on an RFP for an engineering study for the Dye Creek project. In the summer, Village Council had asked Village Administrator Christie to contact Andrew Bick asking if he would be interested in preparing the study, and he indicated that he was interested. Vice Mayor Coletta felt that it would be best to use Andrew Bick for the

engineering study, and when the time comes for getting the construction bids, then the Village should send out RFPs for three bids. The estimated cost for the engineering study would be under \$50,000, which includes the permitting.

Vice Mayor Coletta made a motion that Council authorize Mayor Weedman to execute a contract to hire Andrew Bick to prepare an engineering study for the Dye Creek project. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carpenter. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

New Business

9. Speeding Control – FRTAC – Ed Tiles

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. Mr. Ed Tiles presented quotes from four companies price ranging from \$3,000 - \$5,500 per unit. The committee suggests purchasing two units, one for the north end and one for the south end of Highway 225.

Vice Mayor Coletta contacted the Sheriff's Office, which only has two trailers located within the County. Vice Mayor Coletta presented a document showing cost estimates of \$8,500 for a large trailer, and \$4,738 for a small trailer from MPH Industries, the company the Sheriff's Office uses.

Mayor Weedman suggests the FRTAC look at both options and come back to council with a recommendation at the December council meeting.

10. Park Staffing - Council Member Carpenter

Council Member Carpenter mentioned that at the Park Workshop meeting, two concepts for hiring staff at the Park were discussed; 1) a part-time ranger 24-32 hours/week or 2) interns. It is Council's opinion to invest in proceeding finding a volunteer coordinator and volunteers. After discussions, Mayor Weedman felt hiring a summer intern was a great idea and should be pursued. Council Member Carpenter will speak with Park Commission Member Don Luy about the intern option.

Other Business

11. Mayor – Council Reports

Council Member Gregory mentioned the Planning Board will be having a public meeting to receive public input on the CLUP (Comprehensive Land Use Plan) on November 18, 2021, at Pinecrest Church, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Council Member Carpenter reported the Park Commission will not be meeting in November, and the next meeting will be held December 16, 2021.

Other Business

Council Member Tiles gave an update on the following:

Audit – Auditor, Carl Shaw plans to present the fiscal year 2020/2021 financial audit report at the November 30, 2021, agenda meeting.

Flat Rock Playhouse – Mayor Weedman sent council members the Playhouse report from Kim Hinkelman outlining the current needs. It will be helpful information moving forward as ARP as a funding source is explored.

Public Health – Children 5 to 11 years of age, and their families are now eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. Appointments can be scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Blue Ridge Mall from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. As of November 15th, the mask mandate for Henderson County schools will end. In the last 14 days, there have been 225 confirmed COVID cases and 54 percent of Henderson County residents are fully vaccinated.

Census – The census link was sent to council members. If any large discrepancies are present, a free challenge can be made. From the census webinars Council Member Tiles has attended, it is highly unlikely that challengeable discrepancies are present. On November 4th, vote maps were passed for congressional districts. Henderson County will now be in the 14th Congressional district, which will cover 15 Western counties.

Park Commission – Council Member Tiles met with Park Ranger Dages regarding the Park volunteers. In the past, a volunteer coordinator organized informational meetings and solicited volunteers for specific tasks. Park Ranger Dages and Council Member Tiles discussed the possibility of looking to recruit a coordinator. He is willing to compile a list of volunteer opportunities that would be most helpful. Council Member Tiles suggested that at the next Park Commission meeting this be placed on the agenda to be discussed.

Vice Mayor Coletta will put on the Village's website that the office needs office volunteers.

Public Comments – Jim Hart mentioned the possibility of speed cameras being installed to help control speeding within Flat Rock.

Mr. Alsobrook asked if Village Park volunteers sign a liability waiver, and Village Administrator Christie responded that the volunteers do sign a waiver. Mr. Alsobrook mentioned installing speed strips as a possibility to control speeding. Vice Mayor Coletta mentioned NCDOT's policy is that the strips must be removal.

Victoria Flanagan mentioned the entering Historic District signs that have been knocked down, and that Historic Flat Rock is raising funds to replace the signs.

Mayor Weedman mentioned he will be out of town November 14, 2021 - December 3, 2021.

Adjournment

With no further discussions, Council Member Carpenter made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Gooch, and the meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk

Nick Weedman
Mayor