

**MINUTES**  
**VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING**  
**ASSEMBLY ROOM**  
**DECEMBER 13, 2018**  
**9:30 A.M.**

Mayor Staton presided over the December 13, 2018, council meeting at 9:30 a.m. Those present in addition to Mayor Staton were Vice Mayor Weedman, Council Members Brown, Gooch, Jamerson and Posey, Village Clerk Parker, and Village Administrator Christie. Council Member Dockendorf 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**

The *October 29, 2018 – Agenda Workshop Minutes*, and *November 8, 2018 – Council Meeting Minutes* were removed from the *Consent Agenda*. Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Council Member Jamerson. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

**Public Hearing – Amended Sign Control Ordinance (Ordinance No. 102)**

Council Member Gooch made a motion to open the public hearing, seconded by Council Member Jamerson. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Mayor Staton stated the public hearing was advertised as required by law in the November 30, 2018, edition of the Times-News. He then gave a summary of the proposed amendments as follows;

**2018 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

1. Definition of political sign: Amended to include, in addition to matters upon which the public may vote, issues or propositions upon which members of a public legislative body may vote. (p. 3)
  
2. Size and number of political signs; time for removal of political signs: Reduces the maximum size of political signs from sixteen square feet to four square feet and limits the number of signs to one per candidate, issue or proposition per lot or parcel of land (amendment proposed by Planning Board). Adds a paragraph providing for removal of signs relating to an issue or proposition upon which members of a public body may vote within three days following such vote. (§603, pp. 8 & 9)

3. Appointment of Sign Enforcement Officer: Changes references to *zoning administrator* to *village administrator* in several places. (Position of village administrator was established after drafting of the ordinance). [§900, p. 18; (D), p. 20; §1000, p. 22]
4. Notice of violation: Elimination of requirement that notices of violation be delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested (as was done in the Land Development Ordinance). Elimination of requirement that a copy of a notice of violation be attached to an offending sign. Adds requirement for affidavit of service by Sign Enforcement Officer (moved from subsequent paragraph). (§900, p. 18)
5. Remedies for failure to comply: Adds a paragraph providing that the replacement of a removed sign with the same or a similar sign within two years of an initial notice of violation will be considered a continuation of the initial violation (similar to treatment of repeat violations under the LDO). [§900, (B) (2), p. 19]
6. Removal of signs in the public right of way: Adds language to expand right of way deemed, for purposes of the ordinance, to be a strip of land ten feet in width along each side of the traveled way, to a wider area where the placement of government signs indicates the public right of way is beyond ten feet. (§900, p. 21)

Public Comments: Ms. Stephanie Dunn of the Cultural Landscape Group: flat Rock opined that the proposed language is unconstitutional.

There being no further public comments, Council Member Gooch made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Council Member Jamerson. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

#### **Action – Amended Sign Control Ordinance (Ordinance No. 102)**

Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 102, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

**Public Comments – None**

#### **Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- Resolution No. 212 – Establishing a January – December 2019 Schedule of Public Meetings and Holidays
- 2018/2019 Discoveries and Releases

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

### **Council Organization**

2. Vice Mayor Appointment – Term: December 2018- December 2019 - Mayor Staton

Mayor Staton advised that Vice Mayor Weedman has agreed to serve another term as vice mayor. Council Member Posey made a motion to appoint Nick Weedman as Vice Mayor for a term of one year, seconded by Council Member Jamerson. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

### **Special Reports**

3. Administration – Village Administrator Christie

Administrator Christie reviewed the November 2018 zoning report dated December 6, 2018, and the Village Administrator report dated December 6, 2018 (see attached reports).

4. Tax Report – Vice Mayor Weedman

Vice Mayor Weedman reported that, as of December 12, 2018, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 64 percent with \$604,855.35 total collected (see attached report dated December 12, 2018).

Council congratulated Will Sheehan for his appointment as Fire Chief for Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue.

5. Park Update – Council Member Brown

Council Member Brown gave an update on the following:

**Snow** – Due to the snow the park parking lot and Welcome Center have been closed since Sunday. We hope to reopen today or tomorrow.

**Playground Safety** – John Wilkerson, Park Ranger, attended a two-day playground safety course last month and successfully passed the safety certification exam. His review of our existing playground found it to be well built and safe. He identified a couple of minor issues that he will correct as soon as possible.

**Drinking fountains** – The two drinking fountains have finally arrived from the manufacturer, so Summey Plumbing will install them as soon as good weather permits. One will go in the grassy area between the playground and parking lot and the other near the pollinator garden. They will have dog watering bowls and water bottle fillers.

***Playground Shade Structure*** – Our contractor, Mill Creek, had an equipment failure that forced us to delay installation until after January 2, 2019.

***Tot Lot*** – Work on grading and drainage for the tot lot site will begin after the first of the year. It is still our goal to have this new playground for children age 2 – 5 installed by the spring. We'll be working with WGLA Engineering on this as well as working with them to improve drainage on the existing playground and trails.

***Nature Center Bench*** – The artist/metalworker has ordered the materials for this unique bench and plans to have it complete in late February.

Mayor Staton reported we have three construction contracts for the playground shelter. The first is a general contract for assembly of the Mill Creek structure and other work required, in which the contractor is John F. McDaniel and the contract amount is \$32,740.00. The second contract is for electrical work to be performed by D.R. Walters Electric, for the contract amount of \$12,410.00. The third contract is for the security system installation by McCall Technology Inc., for the contract amount of \$3,094.68. Mayor Staton verified that the funds are included in the current budget and asked for authorization to execute the three contracts. Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion giving Mayor Staton authorization to execute the contracts as presented, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Mayor Staton also has a contract with Beanstalk Builders for construction of the playground structure for the amount of \$43,000.00, which amount is included in the current budget. He asked for authorization to execute this contract. Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion giving Mayor Staton authorization to execute this contract, seconded by Council Member Jamerson. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

6. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Council Member Gooch turned the meeting over to Maureen Adams. Maureen reported the Foundation has exceeded the \$125,000.00 goal for the tot lot campaign. The campaign will continue until December 31, 2018. She reported the Foundation has six WTZQ radio advertisements soliciting contributions to the park, and an insert will be included in the December Village Record newsletter. Maureen reported on the general campaign (not specific), in which the Foundation has raised \$30,000.00 towards the \$60,000.00 goal.

Maureen Adams introduced Tracey Daniels, who is her replacement as Director of Development for the Foundation. She has 25 years' experience in marketing and public relations, runs her own business, and will be working 20 hours a week. Council welcomed Ms. Daniels.

Council commended Maureen Adams on her job with the Foundation, wished her well in her retirement, and indicated she will be missed by all.

7. Transportation Update – In Council Member Dockendorf’s absence, no report was given.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** - None

**Other Business**

8. Mayor – Council Reports

Council Member Gooch reported the Flat Rock Strategic Planning program should wrap up by the spring.

Council Member Jamerson distributed a preliminary November budget report, and asked council members to review and complete budget amendment sheets for any overages in their assigned accounts, and give the sheets to her by the January 2019 agenda meeting.

**Public Comments**

Polly Angelakis, Superintendent of the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, gave an update on activities at the home. She stated the park is open as of 9 a.m. today after the recent snow storm. Christmas at Connemara was a success, approximately 300 people attended and enjoyed house tours, concerts and storytelling, crafts, and cider and cookies. The various 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary events in October were well attended. The house is fully furnished again, all that remains is the unpacking of books that are still in boxes throughout the house. The first Storytelling Slam is scheduled for January 6, 2019, 2 – 4 p.m., at Blue Ridge Community College.

**Adjournment**

With no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

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Michelle Parker, CMC  
Village Clerk

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Robert V. Staton  
Mayor