

**MINUTES
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING
ASSEMBLY ROOM
DECEMBER 14, 2017**

Mayor Staton presided over the December 14, 2017, council meeting at 9:30 a.m. Those present in addition to Mayor Staton were Vice Mayor Weedman, Council Members Brown, Coletta, Dockendorf, Gooch and Jamerson, Village Clerk Parker and Administrator Boleman.

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

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 approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the following:

- October 30, 2017 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
- November 9, 2017 – Council Meeting Minutes
- Resolution No. 209 – Accepting the Results of the November 7, 2017, Municipal Election
- 2017 Discoveries and Releases

Council Member Coletta made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Weedman and carried on a unanimous vote.

Council Organization

2. Oath of Office for Council Members – Tommy Thompson, Vice Chairman, Henderson County Board of Commissioners

Mayor Staton welcomed Mr. Tommy Thompson, Vice Chairman of the Henderson County Board of Commissioners, and thanked him for attending to administer oaths of office to recently elected council members. Mr. Thompson administered the oaths of office to reelected Council Members Albert Gooch and Sheryl Jamerson, and to newly elected Council Member Paige Posey.

3. Vice Mayor Appointment – Term: December 2017 – December 2018

Council Member Gooch made a motion to appoint Council Member Nick Weedman as Vice Mayor, seconded by Council Member Brown. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

4. Council appointments – Budget Officer, Finance Officer, Deputy Finance Officer

Council Member Gooch made a motion to appoint Council Member Jamerson as Budget Officer, and Deputy Finance Officer, and Vice Mayor Weedman as Finance Officer. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brown and carried on a unanimous vote.

5. Oversight Responsibilities – Mayor Staton

Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion to approve the council oversight responsibilities as of January 2018, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

6. Appointments to Historic Landmarks Commission – Mayor Staton

Mayor Staton advised that, pursuant to the provisions of the Historic Landmarks Ordinance, he has appointed Council Member Posey as a member of the Historic Landmarks Commission for a term not to exceed four years, and Council Member Jamerson as Chairman of the Historic Landmarks Commission.

7. Resolution No. 210, Establishing a January – December 2018 Schedule of Public Meetings and Holidays – Mayor Staton

Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion to approve Resolution No. 210, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The vote was unanimous, motion carried. (See attached copy of Resolution No. 210.)

8. Resolution No. 211, Waiving Compensation of the Mayor and Council Members – Mayor Staton

Council Member Gooch made a motion to approve Resolution No. 211, seconded by Council Member Jamerson. The vote was unanimous, motion carried. (See attached copy of Resolution No. 211).

Special Reports

9. Administration – Village Administrator Boleman

Village Administrator Boleman reviewed the November 2017 zoning report dated December 12,

2017, and the Village Administrator report dated December 14, 2017 (see attached reports).

10. Tax Report – Vice Mayor Weedman

Vice Mayor Weedman reported that, as of December 13, 2017, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 69.1%, with \$647,979.53 total collected (see attached report dated December 13, 2017).

11. Park Update – Council Member Brown

Council Member Brown reported FitzSimons will not plow the parking lot at the park when it snows, but will plow to the gate on Highland Golf Drive. She reported that work on the trails has been started. In long term planning for the park, Council needs to consider at the January park workshop and prioritize amenities to be added to the park in the future

12. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Council Member Gooch turned it over to Maureen Adams who reported that the Foundation has had a very successful fundraising year.

13. Transportation Update – Council Member Dockendorf

Council Member Dockendorf commented that NCDOT did a great job plowing the roads within Flat Rock during the recent snow storm, and that comment included N. Highland Lake Road, which in the past has been a low-priority road for snow removal and treatment.

French Broad River MPO is administering the grant for the potential greenway from Carl Sandburg and Village Hall to the Park.

The Bike-Pedestrian Plan is in final draft form. Kanuga and Highland Lake road projects are back on the drawing board.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

**PUBLIC HEARING – Rezoning and Zoning Districts Map Amendment
Blue Ridge Fire and Rescue, Inc.**

Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion to open the public meeting, seconded by Council Member Jamerson. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Administrator Boleman stated all the necessary notices required by law were met by publication in the local newspapers and by mailing to adjoining property owners.

Administrator Boleman explained the Blue Ridge Fire and Rescue property located at 61 Village Center Drive, Station #2, is currently zoned R-20 Residential and is a non-conforming use. The fire department has future plans to expand the current fire station and has requested that the property's zoning classification be changed to Government, Civic, and Public Service (GCPS), and that the zoning map be amended to reflect such change.

The Planning Board has reviewed the rezoning application and recommends approval indicating the rezoning would be consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Fire Chief Brent Mendenhall and Deputy Fire Chief Will Sheehan talked about future plans for the property, which include construction of a new fire station to be manned 24/7, and the addition of emergency medical service capabilities. The current structure would be moved to another location as a third facility within the area of Blue Ridge's jurisdiction.

With no further discussions, Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion to close the public meeting, seconded by Council Member Jamerson. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Council Member Gooch made a motion to reopen the meeting for public comment, seconded by Council Member Dockendorf. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

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

With no further discussions, Council Member Jamerson made the following motion: that (1) the council approve Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue's application to rezone its property located at 61 Village Center Drive, in Flat Rock, North Carolina, from R-20 (Low Density Residential District) to GCPS (Government, Civic, Public Service District); (2) the zoning districts map be changed to reflect such rezoning of the property; and (3) the council find that this action is consistent with the village's Comprehensive Land Use Plan; it is reasonable because it will eliminate a nonconforming use and reflect the current use of the property; and it is in the public interest because a planned future improvement of the site with a modern fire station and the inclusion of emergency medical services will enhance the safety and general welfare of the community.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Dockendorf and carried on a unanimous vote.

Other Business – Mayor – Council Reports

Council Member Posey reported the annual Ice Cream Social is scheduled for June 2, 2018.

Vice Mayor Weedman stated the memorial service for the late former mayor Terry Hicks was a very nice service and was well-attended, notwithstanding the surprise heavy snowfall the day before.

Mayor Staton regretfully reported that Village Administrator Boleman will be retiring June 30, 2018. While all wish her well in her retirement, no one looks forward to her leaving. Council Member Gooch will chair a search committee for her replacement, and Council Member Brown and Vice Mayor Weedman will serve on the committee.

Public Comments

Mr. Jim Hart presented a handout to Council regarding conservation easements and pointed out an exception for recreational uses, including bike paths and walkways.

Mr. Chris Battista of Historic Flat Rock stated the two properties before the dam on Highland Lake Road across from Pinecrest Presbyterian Church have historic preservation easements. He asked for Council to consider establishing a deadline to vote on the Highland Lake Road project.

Adjournment

With no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk

Robert V. Staton
Mayor