

**MINUTES
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING
ASSEMBLY ROOM
JANUARY 14, 2016
9:30 AM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Staton presided over the council meeting of January 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, Coletta, Dockendorf, Gooch and Jamerson, Village Clerk Parker and Village Administrator Boleman.

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

Public Comments – Mary Cervini expressed concerns for the lack of animal control services within the Village. She asked Council to reconsider contracting with the Sheriff's Department for animal services in the upcoming budget cycle.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following:

- November 30, 2015 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
- December 10, 2015 – Council Meeting Minutes

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

Special Reports

2. Administration – Village Administrator Boleman

Ms. Boleman reviewed the December 2015 zoning report dated January 11, 2016, and Village Administrator report dated January 14, 2016 (see attached reports).

3. Tax Report – Vice Mayor Weedman

Vice Mayor Weedman reported that, as of January 13, 2016, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 97.04%, with \$900,187.52 total collected (see attached report dated January 13, 2016).

4. Park Update – Council Member Brown

Council Member Brown reported the Foundation's receipt of a donation for a utility vehicle to be used for maintenance purposes in the park. She presented a brochure with a photograph and specifications of a recommended John Deere electric vehicle. By consensus, Council agreed to accept the donation and to purchase the John Deere utility vehicle.

Ms. Brown met with Ed Lastein, Don Farr, and Dunkin FitzSimons to review and identify areas on the trails that are in need of maintenance and repair of damages from erosion and washouts. Mr. FitzSimons will seek two quotes, the first to make local repairs, and the second for repairs of the entire trail where needed.

Mr. Lastein received a quote of \$6,500.00 from an engineering firm for drainage of the perimeter trail. He feels this quote is too high, and he will go back to the firm to discuss an hourly basis for payment for the work, which he thinks will be much less. Council Member Brown stated Mr. Lastein would like Council's approval for the engineering firm to start the preliminary work on the project. However, there are concerns that a proposed widening of Highland Lake Road will have an impact on the perimeter trail and the engineer's plans. Mayor Staton feels that, until we know more about plans for Highland Lake Road, we should not invest village funds on an extension of the perimeter trail that may have to be relocated or incorporated in the road improvement plan as a multiuse path for pedestrians and bicyclists. NCDOT will hold a meeting on January 19, 2016, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., at 100 N. King Street, to discuss and receive local input on the Highland Lake Road project. Ms. Brown will advise Mr. Lastein to hold off on starting the preliminary work on the perimeter trail extension until after the NCDOT meeting.

The roof is being installed on the pavilion, and should be completed in a couple of weeks. Roof decking is near completion. Framing of the storage area has started and the garage door has been ordered. The main storage structure should be completed in approximately three weeks. All that remains to be done at the pavilion is to select and apply a wood finish, and to order and install garage and storage doors.

Duncan FitzSimons is continuing to battle the geese. After an incident with a bench, the benches are in the process of being secured.

Ms. Brown mentioned that, for the past year, a group of residents/volunteers has worked on cataloging the flora and fauna at the park. The group has completed its work and has turned over its data to the ad hoc flora and fauna committee formed by Council Member Coletta to review the information. After review the committee came up with two immediate projects: (1) identification and eradication of invasive plant species, and (2) development of an educational program.

Council Member Dockendorf reported the playground is progressing nicely. He met with the major playground donor – the Bryan family – and they are very excited about the project. He then gave the following update on the playground:

Grading that was to have been completed in October, but was delayed by weather conditions, remains underway and may be completed by Trace & Company by the end of the week. Currently being done is grading phase II for the tiny tot area, or whatever the area is to become in the future.

Handicap ramp to the top of the berm has been installed. Tube and climbing wall have been built.

The contract with BeanStalk for construction of the playground structure has been signed. Weather permitting, the posts should be installed before the end of the year with a completion date of May 1, 2016, or possibly sooner.

5. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Duncan Fraser presented and reviewed a handout showing the financial position of the Foundation as of December 31, 2015, a statement of activities, and a breakdown of new donations and pledges received October - December 2015.

Vice Mayor Weedman raised a question about the Foundation's transferring funds to the Village for a specific project. Mr. Fraser explained that, if the Foundation has raised money for a specific project and that project has been completed, those funds will be transferred to the Village.

Maureen Adams reported that in December 2,900 cards seeking donations had been mailed to residents, as a result of which approximately \$8,000.00 has been received, mostly as unrestricted funds. An exclusive event is planned for February at Highland Lake Inn for approximately seventy people, a combination of our major donors and people that may soon become major donors.

Myra Grant distributed and explained a report summarizing reasons for the Foundation's denial of the latest PARTF grant.

Old Business – None

New Business

6. Ordinance No. 95, Creating the Flat Rock Park and Recreation Commission – Discussion/Action; Appointments - Mayor Staton

Council Member Gooch made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 95, Creating the Flat Rock Park and Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coletta. Following discussion, in which Vice Mayor Weedman expressed a concern of organizational clarity as to who will have responsibility for education, the motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Council Member Brown made a motion to appoint the following to the Flat Rock Park and Recreation Commission for terms ending January 31 as indicated:

3 year terms (2019): Don Farr, Christine Hicks, Fred Roane

2 year terms (2018): Linda Grup, Chris McDonnell

1 year terms (2017): Dave Bucher, Steve Jamerson

The motion included the appointment of Don Farr as chairman for the term February 1, 2016 – January 31, 2017.

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

Chairman Farr plans to establish a number of ad hoc committees to handle ideas/issues involving the park (e.g., placing art in the park, installing signs identifying flora and fauna, native and non-native plants control program, geese control, and lighting the flag. He mentioned Maureen Adams has been offered donations for amenities that are not on the current master plan. He plans to develop a comprehensive list of all amenities planned for the park.

Other Business

7. Mayor – Council Reports

Council Member Coletta advised that the flora and fauna committee has prepared a list of invasive and non-invasive plants in the park. She met with the ad hoc flora and fauna committee members and informed them that their committee would be a committee of the newly established Commission. She stated Fred Roane has developed a preliminary plan to use the information gathered by the committee for educational purposes.

Council Member Gooch inquired as to the Council's wishes for the frequency – every year or every other year – of volunteer appreciation dinners. Council agreed to have the dinner every other year.

Council Member Dockendorf mentioned an opportunity through Land Of Sky for a \$25,000.00 grant for installation of an electric vehicle charging station at the Village Hall. After a discussion of the costs to the village for installation, operation and maintenance, Council took no action except to seek additional information.

Mr. Dockendorf reported that Clement Riddle has asked that Council revisit the restoration of Dye Creek at the park. Council will revisit the issue at a later date.

Mr. Dockendorf mentioned an idea from Anna Hicks for Flat Rock to connect to younger people, to establish a junior village council.

Council Member Jamerson reported she met with Ms. Boleman and Ms. Coletta to review the fee schedule for any changes, and there were none. She mentioned the Village would be participating in America in Bloom again this year.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:10 a.m., with no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned.

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk

Robert V. Staton
Mayor