

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING
ASSEMBLY ROOM
MARCH 14, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Mayor Staton presided over the March 14, 2019, council meeting at 9:30 a.m. Those present in addition to Mayor Staton were Vice Mayor Weedman, Council Members Brown, Dockendorf, Gooch, Jamerson and Posey, Village Clerk Parker, and Village Administrator Christie.

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 presented, seconded by Council Member Jamerson. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Flat Rock Playhouse – The State Theater of North Carolina

Ms. Julia Hockenberry, Director of Development for the Flat Rock Playhouse, thanked Council for their support in the past, talked about the importance of having the Playhouse located within Flat Rock, and the importance of the Village's support. She asked Council to consider supporting the Playhouse in the upcoming budget with a \$50,000.00 contribution.

Pardee UNC Healthcare – Henderson County Health Assessment

Mr. Milton Butterworth of Pardee UNC Healthcare gave a power-point presentation showing statistical information on the 2018 health assessment prepared from demographics of a random 200 people. The assessment was driven by the Henderson County Health Department and Henderson County Partnership for Health. Pardee UNC Healthcare would like to conduct health education programs in the Park at Flat Rock on a continuing basis in the future. Discussions to that end are ongoing between Pardee UNC Healthcare representatives and representatives of the Flat Rock Park and Recreation Foundation.

Public Comments – None

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- February 4, 2019 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
- February 14, 2019 – Council Meeting Minutes

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

Special Reports

2. Administration – Village Administrator Christie

Administrator Christie reviewed the February 2019 zoning report dated March 7, 2019, and the Village Administrator report dated March 7, 2019 (see attached reports).

3. Tax Report – Vice Mayor Weedman

Vice Mayor Weedman reported that, as of March 13, 2019, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 99.9 percent with \$947,883.52 total collected (see attached report dated March 13, 2019).

Mr. Weedman mentioned we will be paying the fire departments at the end of March. He prepared and presented a Revenue Neutral Preliminary Calculation spreadsheet showing the projected fiscal year 2019-2020 property tax projections based on the property evaluation increase for Flat Rock. He stated by statute the revenue neutral tax rate is to be included in the proposed fiscal year 2019 – 2020 budget message.

4. Park Update – Council Member Brown

Council Member Brown reported that she, Council Member Jamerson, John Wilkerson, Don Farr, and Administrator Christie met with Judy Francis, of the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, and Jonathan Woodard, with NCDOT, about the conversion of some of the park property for a multiuse trail, a new entrance to the park, and other features included in plans for the improvement of North Highland Lake Road. The Village is required to submit to PARTF a letter asking permission to initiate the conversion process. That letter has been submitted. She mentioned there will be a 30-day public comment period, followed by a public meeting at which council will adopt a resolution allowing the property to be taken by NCDOT. The resolution will be sent to PARTF for review, and PARTF will make a decision whether to move forward with the conversion. The proposed timeline is to have the public comment period in May, complete the paperwork in June, and forward required documentation to PARTF in August.

Council Member Brown mentioned previously students that were taking the naturalist program offered by the NC Arboretum provided the information for the storyboards in the Nature Center. One student wants to do a project in the park, which would involve the distribution of pamphlets featuring birds in the park. The Park Foundation has authorized \$3,000.00 to cover the design and printing costs of the project.

John Wilkerson gave an update on the following:

Park Open Forums – To give park goers and others interested a chance to give feedback, ask questions, and find out the latest park news. We will be holding three open forums in the Rudnick Community Room on March 25th, March 30th, and April 3rd. Representatives from the Park Foundation will be in attendance.

Playground Shelter – Electrical and lighting work is complete. The last item is installation of the security cameras, which should begin next week.

Bryan Playground and Tot Lot grading and drainage – WGLA Engineering has completed the plans for the grading and drainage work for both the playground and tot lot. The estimated cost for the tot lot is within the existing budget and includes the plans for a knee wall around the area. We plan to have WGLA go out for bids for the work next week.

The grading and drainage work at the Bryan playground will correct problems we are currently experiencing. The ground is not draining well at all and the wood chips needed for playground safety are washing away, which requires more frequent maintenance and replacement. The work will involve digging out around the existing play structures and installing a series of drain pipes and gravel. Rocks will be placed at the base of the surrounding mound to slow down water coming off, and a small berm will be built to redirect water coming down the trail from the parking lot. WGLA's estimated cost for this work is \$41,614.00. The Bryan playground will have to be closed for 2-3 weeks while the work is being done.

5. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Council Member Gooch deferred to Tracey Daniels who mentioned the Foundation is working with Pardee UNC Healthcare on two initial programming ideas for the park: (1) Walk-N-Talk, and (2) accident and fall prevention, to take place possibly in late spring. She will present more information at the next Council meeting.

6. Transportation Update – Council Member Dockendorf

Council Member Dockendorf reported Greenville Highway will be closed Friday, March 15, 2019, between Erkwood Drive and Shepherd Street for utilities work related to round-about construction.

At the April 1, 2019, county commissioners meeting, the Henderson County Greenway Master Plan will be reviewed for possible approval by the commissioners.

He reported Lyuba Zuyeva will resign as Director of the French Broad River MPO, and Tristan Winkler will become the new director.

7. Budget – Council Member Jamerson

Council Member Jamerson reported the budget worksheets for the proposed FY 2019-2020 were not available for handout, but she will email the worksheets to Council to prepare figures for the proposed budget. She asked council members to figure out any big items they think may need to be addressed for next year, to include in their worksheets. Vice Mayor Weedman recommended having a budget workshop, which will be scheduled at a later date. She mentioned there are no new major projects planned for the park in the next fiscal year.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Other Business

8. Mayor – Council Reports

Council Member Posey mentioned that, for the annual ice cream social, there is an opportunity for Baabals Ice Cream in Fletcher to deliver the ice cream as needed, instead of our buying the ice cream and storing it in a freezer we would have to provide. She will meet with the owners and come back to council with the information.

Council Member Brown mentioned Shred Day is scheduled for May 4, 2019.

Vice Mayor Weedman mentioned Mr. Bob Demartini, a founding father of the Village of Flat Rock and chairman of the incorporation committee, has passed away at the age of 99. Mayor Staton will write an article about Mr. Demartini for the April 2019 newsletter.

Council Member Gooch mentioned Hunter Marks has declined the opportunity to prepare a landscaping plan for the village hall grounds. Mr. Gooch will meet with Al Falzone this afternoon to walk the property and to discuss a plan. He will also meet with Council Member Dockendorf's landscaper, then come back to council with information at the next council meeting.

Council Member Jamerson reported that there was no America in Bloom competition last year, and there will be none again this year. The local America in Bloom committee sponsors an ice-skating rink, proceeds from which go to the nonprofit organization. The committee intends to concentrate on what can be done at entrances to the community to plant and beautify Henderson County.

Mayor Staton reported he will be absent from the April 1, 2019, agenda meeting, and there is a possibility Vice Mayor Weedman may also be absent. He advised that a North Carolina statute

provides for the conduct of a council meeting in the absence of both the mayor and mayor pro tempore or vice mayor. The council members may select any member in attendance to serve as chairman of the meeting.

Mayor Staton discussed the history of Highland Lake, which began as Earle's mill pond in the late eighteenth century. Subsequent names for the impoundment were determined by ownership of the grist mill located at the dam, until the name Highland Lake came into use, probably near the end of the nineteenth century. When the lake and adjacent land were acquired by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh in 1955 for a diocesan retreat center and summer camp, the name was changed to Madonna Lake in honor of the Virgin Mary. Although in 1985 the diocese sold the property to Kerry Lindsey, who resumed use of the name Highland Lake, the impoundment's official name among the records of the U.S. Board of Geographic Names and on maps of the U. S. Geological Survey remains Madonna Lake.

Mayor Staton said he is looking into the process of changing the official name to Highland Lake in records of the U.S. board and will pursue that official name recognition if council does not object. Council concurred.

Public Comments –

Ranger Steven Kidd, of the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, reported a public meeting will be held at the Chamber of Commerce, on Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 5 – 7 p.m., to inform the public of upcoming events at the park site. He also advised that the new amphitheater has been completed, the old amphitheater has been removed and the site has been landscaped, and the auxiliary parking lot with 32 spaces is now open to the public.

Fire Chief Will Sheehan mentioned Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue has partnered with Pardee UNC Healthcare in program planning for the park.

Adjournment

With no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk

Robert V. Staton
Mayor