

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING
ASSEMBLY ROOM
APRIL 11, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Mayor Staton presided over the April 11, 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

Under *Old Business – Item #8, Budget* was deleted from the agenda. Council Member Jamerson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Vice Mayor Weedman. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Public Comments – Ms. Susan Gregory spoke about the clearing of a lot in Bonclarken that is adjacent to the thirteen-lot subdivision on Linda Ann Drive, the stacking of logs from the trees cut down at the site, the lot owner’s plan for the use of a portable saw mill on the lot for the processing of lumber and the storage of lumber in a temporary structure on the site for up to two years before it is use in the construction of a house on the site. She is aware that our land development ordinance does not prohibit such activities, and she urges that the council take a look at the ordinance for a possible amendment that would prevent this from happening in the future.

Mr. Ted Etherington spoke about existing NCDOT signs within Flat Rock that he feels are unnecessary and a nuisance, and asked Council Member Dockendorf again to contact an NCDOT representative to urge removal of signs. Council Member Dockendorf stated NCDOT has sent out their representative, removed some Greenville Highway signs, added one additional sign at the post office, and advised that all remaining signs are required by regulations and cannot be removed. Mr. Etherington remains unconvinced and wishes to see more signs removed.

Ms. Victoria Flanagan stated Historic Flat Rock, Inc. has announced a new program that will reward preservation efforts within the Flat Rock Historic District. In efforts to increase educational awareness as to what they do and who they are, Historic Flat Rock is instituting a “President’s Award” to a homeowner or business who exemplifies the meaning of preserving and protecting the historical character of Flat Rock. The honoree will be announced at the August Historic Flat Rock, Inc. membership meeting. This year’s award will be in honor of Alexander and Laurinda Schenck – the first president of Historic Flat Rock, Inc.

Ms. Flanagan asked that photographs evidencing restoration and preservation efforts be sent to her. Such photographs will be accepted April – July 2019. To submit a photograph to HFR, Inc., one must be the photographer or have permission to submit the photo. Submit high resolution photos that include contact information, property address, the name of the property owner, and the name of the photographer, by email to presidenthfrinc@gmail.com.

Richard Carter thanked Council for the unanimous vote to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

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

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

Special Reports

2. Administration – Village Administrator Christie

Administrator Christie reviewed the March 2019 zoning report dated April 8, 2019, and the Village Administrator report dated April 8, 2019 (see attached reports).

Mayor Staton talked about the “The Farm at Highland Lake Village” and a discrepancy between the number of units in the SUP application documentation (28 lots or “up to 28 lots”) and the number of units in the final site plan for the subdivision (27 lots). He would like to avoid the SUP amendment process, which would unnecessarily burden both the applicant and the village, to acknowledge that the subdivision will have one less lot than that contemplated by the SUP. Since there is no other change involved, he suggested that the zoning administrator be authorized to approve the final subdivision plat with 27 residential lots without any further requirement of the applicant. Council agreed.

3. Tax Report – Vice Mayor Weedman

Vice Mayor Weedman reported that, as of April 10, 2019, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 99.94 percent with \$947,690.58 total collected (see attached report dated April 10, 2019).

4. Park Update – Council Member Brown

Council Member Brown gave an update on the following:

Park Open Forums – On March 25, March 30 and April 3 our park ranger held three open forums to give park goers and others a chance to give feedback, ask questions, and find out the latest park news. Tracey Daniels from the Foundation attended as well and spoke. A total of 15 people attended the sessions. The meetings were positive, and attendees were appreciative of the park and all it offers. The Park Commission will review participants' comments and suggestions at its next meeting.

Wildflower Meadow – Our contractor is completing site preparation this week on the wildflower meadow and plans on seeding next week. He asked that we remind everyone there will not be any color this year from the flowers, except green. We will keep our fingers crossed for an explosion of color in 2020.

Nature Center Bench – The custom-made Nature Center bench is nearing completion and should be installed this month. The Foundation has scheduled a dedication ceremony for Saturday, June 8, 2019.

Bryan Playground and Tot Lot grading and drainage – Bids for the drainage and grading work on the Bryan Playground and Tot Lot sites are due today at 2pm.

PARTF Request - The Village has received the approval from PARTF to start our request for conversion of the property NCDOT will be taking for the improvements on Highland Lake Road. She has received a letter from Jonathan Woodard at NCDOT stating they will have information to us to proceed within two weeks. She told Mr. Woodard that the Village plans to schedule a 30-day public comment period for May, so the information is needed as soon as possible.

John Wilkerson gave an update on the following:

Car Break-In – A car was broken into at the park on Sunday afternoon, April 7, 2019. Two or more individuals parked next to the victim's car, broke the window and stole a wallet and purse. A deputy sheriff responded, and we were able to get the suspect's tag number from the video, a copy of which was provided to the deputy.

Owl Rescue – Two walkers found a sick, injured or staving great horned owl on the ground under a tree. A local naturalist, Mr. Burke, took it to his facility for rehabilitation.

5. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Council Member Gooch reported the Foundation had a board retreat at St. John in the Wilderness parish hall on April 8, 2019.

Mr. Dennis Flanagan presented and reviewed the Foundation's Statement of Financial Position as of March 31, 2019 (see attached report). In a discussion of funds to be transferred to the

village, he stated the maximum amount the foundation would transfer for the 2018-2019 fiscal year would be \$143,000.00.

He reported that on April 1, 2019, the Foundation and Pardee Hospital entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to provide health and wellness programming within the Park at Flat Rock. He also reported that the foundation's annual Feast & Frolic event will be held on August 3, 2019, at Kenmure Country Club.

6. Transportation Update – Council Member Dockendorf

Council Member Dockendorf gave an update on the following:

The traffic circle at Shephard Street and Erkwood Drive is progressing.

We are waiting for the final version of the Bike Pedestrian Plan.

Progress is continuing on the feasibility study for a proposed greenway trail from Carl Sandburg to the park. The next step is to talk with the affected landowners.

The Henderson County Greenways 30-year plan was approved unanimously by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners.

Council Member Dockendorf addressed Mr. Ted Etherington's sign issue stating NCDOT has already sent an official to investigate the signage issue, removed unnecessary signs, and installed or improved signage that was required by regulations. Mr. Dockendorf suggested that Mr. Etherington get other residents to complain in order to get results he felt are necessary.

Old Business

7. Comprehensive Land Use Plan – Planning Board's Implementation Plan
Recommendations – Council Member Posey and Planning Board Chairman Maloy

Chairman Maloy presented the Planning Board's recommendations for changes to the Implementation Plan and asked Council to review for discussion at a later date. He recommends that the plan be reviewed annually instead of every six months.

New Business

8. Equal Rights Amendment Resolution – Mayor Staton

Mayor Staton presented Resolution No. 213 – A Resolution Calling for Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by the State of North Carolina.

Council Member Gooch made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 213, seconded by Vice Mayor Weedman. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Resident Nancy Glowacki talked about advocating for the equal rights amendment and passing the bills introduced in both chambers of the North Carolina General Assembly and calling for the state's ratification of the constitutional amendment.

Other Business

9. Mayor – Council Reports

Council Member Posey mentioned the annual ice cream social will be held June 1, 2019, with no rain date, and asked for volunteers for the event. She will be meeting with the owners of Baabals Ice Cream today about providing the ice cream.

Council Member Brown mentioned Shred Day is scheduled for May 4, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. There will also be a prescription drug drop-off and the collection of canned goods and hygiene products for IAM at the event. She mentioned the recent and welcome presence of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office patrol cars on Little River Road.

Council Member Gooch mentioned he should receive a landscaping plan for the village hall grounds next week from TPS Landscaping.

Council Member Dockendorf mentioned Camp Pinnacle has recently been robbed, and that he was impressed with the timely investigative response by the sheriff's office.

Mayor Staton mentioned the sheriff's office has divided Henderson County into quadrants, each headed by a captain, and that Captain Brandon Staton is in charge of the Flat Rock quadrant. Captain Staton is well known to the village.

Public Comments –

Mr. Dennis Flanagan reported this year marks the 51st anniversary of Historic Flat Rock, Inc. A garden tour benefit will be held on June 21st and June 22nd at Hopewood, owned by Mr. & Mrs. Flanagan, with garden tours visiting Hill Stone Arboretum, Saluda Cottages, Elliott Place, and Lowndes House.

Deputy Fire Chief Jerry Hinson mentioned Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue held a CPR class at Kenmure and will start holding CPR classes on a quarterly basis. He mentioned they plan to be more active at the schools and also at the Park at Flat Rock.

Adjournment

With no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk

Robert V. Staton
Mayor