

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING
ASSEMBLY ROOM
AUGUST 8, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Mayor Staton presided over the August 8, 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 *Special Reports - Item #6, Tax Report*, Under *Old Business - Item #7 – Citizen Survey, Item #8 – Implementation Plan*, Under *New Business - Item #9 – Appointments to Board of Adjustment* were added to the agenda. Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Public Comments – Mr. Ted Etherington mentioned the implications of the transportation changes listed on the NCDOT projects prepared by the Transportation Advisory Committee affecting West Blue Ridge Road and Erkwood Drive. He expressed disapproval that council would allow outside interests to control the roads in our community and allow bicycles to use roads in Flat Rock.

Consent Agenda

1. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- July 1, 2019 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
- July 11, 2019 – Council Meeting Minutes

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

Special Reports

2. Administration – Village Administrator Christie

Administrator Christie reviewed the July 2019 zoning report dated August 5, 2019, and the Village Administrator report dated August 5, 2019 (see attached reports).

3. Park Update – Council Member Brown

Council Member Brown gave an update on the following:

Tot Lot grading and drainage – Most of the grading and drainage work is on the tot lot site has been completed. Construction of the knee wall around the play area will begin next week. Once it's complete, Trace and Company will do the final grading. Beanstalk is scheduled to begin installation of the play elements on September 2. The bottom line is we hope the tot lot will open to parents and children by the end of September.

Bryan Playground grading and drainage – The grading and drainage on the Bryan Playground is almost complete as well. The stone steps leading to the upper level will be replaced with wooden one's next week. Then fresh wood chips will be put down and the playground reopened.

National Honey Bee Day – To commemorate National Honey Bee Day, the park's beekeeper, Will Garvey, will hold a honey tasting at the park on Saturday, August 17 at 9:00 a.m. He will have honey from several different areas including some from the park's own hive. He will also give a short talk on honey harvesting and processing.

Pavilion reservation policy – Currently the Staton Pavilion may be reserved from April to October on weekdays and on the second and fourth weekends. During the most recent Park Commission meeting, it was proposed to open the Pavilion to reservations year-round, including all weekends. This policy is in line with other area parks and would generate additional revenue to support the park. Pat and John support the proposal. I am informing you that we plan to try this going forward and will monitor how it goes.

New Welcome Center sign – Many park goers don't know who owns and maintains the park. To help alleviate this, John proposes to add a new sign on the front of the Welcome Center. The design includes the Village seal and highlights the partnership between the Village and Park Foundation. The estimated cost of \$950 would be covered within the current budget. The Foundation has also offered to help pay for it.

Council Member Brown mentioned the incorrect information printed on the most recent mailer sent out by the Cultural Landscape Group on the North Highland Lake Road improvement project stating Council does not know the cost of the Village's portion of the multiuse trail, nor the amount the Village will be receiving from the state.

Ms. Brown reported it has been known since April and has been discussed in previous meetings. For the record, she reported the total cost for the Village's share of the sidewalk from the railroad tracks down to Highway 225 is \$33,992.00, which represents the Village's 20 percent cost share. That cost is based on a concrete sidewalk, not asphalt, which may be less expensive.

The money we receive from the state is based on rough estimates from NCDOT or Vaughn & Melton. We will be going into negotiations and are still waiting for appraisals on the land. The Village can expect about \$35,000.00 for right of way acquisitions, and \$55,000.00 for impact to the park, i.e., tree removal, moving trails and any other physical disruption that the project imposes. Of the \$35,000.00 for the land, we are required to give 41 percent to PARTF, because they helped in buying the land for the park.

4. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Council Member Gooch invited Dennis Flanagan to give the update. Mr. Flanagan reported that, as we move forward to complete the infrastructure of the park, the Foundation is funding some elements of park infrastructure. The Foundation's focus will now shift from capital improvements to sustaining park operations. News will be coming out in upcoming weeks as they find vehicles for creating sustainability, such as endowment grants, to support the park. The Foundation continues to be aware of issues within the park and how the Foundation might be able to contribute as part of its sustainability efforts. He encouraged the Council as well as the Park Commission to look at the reconfiguration of the park due to the NHLRd project for other opportunities for gifting and giving. There will be elements the Foundation will be suggesting that will need Park Commission and Council's approval.

Mr. Flanagan mentioned the Foundation has hired a part-time assistant, Wendy Reedy, who will work 10 – 15 hours a week.

5. Transportation Update – Council Member Dockendorf

Council Member Dockendorf reported that work continues on the Flat Rock bike-pedestrian plan, which has gone back to the consultant for implementation of a Historic Flat Rock recommendation. The consultant has returned it and Historic Flat Rock is currently reviewing. The goal is to come up with a plan that is acceptable to the people of Flat Rock. In the next month or so Council Member Dockendorf will ask the council to take action on the plan.

Council Member Dockendorf spoke about the study in building a trail from Carl Sandburg to the Park at Flat Rock. The emphasis is to build a trail, not a multiuse path along the highway. Committee members are in the process of reaching out to landowners to determine if they would be willing to put an easement on their properties to build the trail.

He asked for comments of other council members on the road improvements or upgrades that appear on the Henderson County TAC's list. Council Member Posey stated she endorses the Hendersonville projects, including North Main Street intersection, Duncan Hill Road, Thompson Street at Signal Hill Road intersection, and Berkley Road from N. Main to Asheville Highway. She does not endorse or feel the need for the proposed Flat Rock projects, which are West Blue

Ridge Road to Roper Road or Erkwood Drive above some of the more important and needed improvement projects on the list.

Council Member Brown agreed with Council Member Posey on the projects mentioned above. She also endorses the intersection of State Street & Hebron Road. She feels these are more important than the Flat Rock projects at this time.

Vice Mayor Weedman feels there is insufficient detail on the projects that impact Flat Rock, i.e. Erkwood Drive, bridge on West Blue Ridge by Mill House Lodge, bridge behind St. John in the Wilderness Church. He stated if NCDOT could get more specific information, he might be in favor of the Flat Rock projects. He feels there are more important projects in the county than what remain that might potentially impact Flat Rock.

Council Member Gooch agrees there are more important projects in the city and county than the Flat Rock projects.

Council expressed concerns with various traffic areas within Hendersonville.

Village Council is not endorsing any modernization of Erkwood Drive or West Blue Ridge Road.

6. Tax Report – Vice Mayor Weedman

Vice Mayor Weedman reported we have received the tax scroll from Henderson County. Before mailing the tax statements, council is required to adopt a tax charge giving the Tax Collector authorization to bill and collect taxes for the current tax year.

Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion that the tax charge presented be approved, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Old Business

7. Citizen Survey – Council Member Posey

Council Member Posey mentioned the Planning Board has been working hard with Mary Roderick of Land of Sky Regional Council to prepare the citizen survey. She turned the discussion over to Dennis Maloy, Planning Board Chairman.

Mr. Maloy presented the citizen survey for council's consideration. He mentioned he would like approval from council in time for the survey to be included in the Village Record newsletter later this month, as well as available on the village's website.

Mr. Maloy introduced Dr. Mary Roderick, Regional Planner with Land of Sky Regional Council, who has helped the Planning Board prepare the survey. Dr. Roderick reviewed the survey with council members. After review, Council made suggestions of changes to be made. The Planning Board will make the changes.

8. Implementation Plan – Council Member Posey

Mr. Maloy mentioned the revised/recommended implementation plan was presented to Council in a previous meeting for review. Council Member Jamerson expressed concerns and commented on various sections of the plan. The Planning Board will address her comments and make appropriate changes in the plan.

New Business

9. Appointments to Board of Adjustment - Council Member Posey

Mayor Staton reported that the terms of five members or alternative members of the board of adjustment will end on August 13, 2019. Four of the five have agreed to be reappointed and serve another three years. Council Member Posey made a motion to reappoint L.C. Boyd, Jr., Jim Kisner, and Jimmy Chandler as members of the board of adjustment, and Carolyn Maloy as an alternate member of the board of adjustment, each for a three-year term beginning August 13, 2019, and ending August 13, 2022. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Weedman and carried on a unanimous vote.

Other Business

10. Mayor – Council Reports

Vice Mayor Weedman commended Mayor Staton for generating a letter to the NC Department of Environmental Quality about the overflowing septic systems at Halfway Tree Mobile Home Park. NCDEQ has now levied a substantial fine on the owner of the mobile home park.

Mayor Staton mentioned council has been invited to participate in the opening ceremonies of the Apple Festival on Friday, August 30, 2019, and the parade on Labor Day, Monday, September 2, 2019.

Public Comments

Anne Coletta commented on the purpose and language of the mailer sent out by the Cultural Landscape Group about transportation issues in Flat Rock and the North Highland Lake Road improvement project.

Adjournment

With no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk

Robert V. Staton
Mayor