

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING
ASSEMBLY ROOM
OCTOBER 10, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Vice Mayor Weedman presided over the October 10, 2019, council meeting at 9:30 a.m. Those present in addition to Vice Mayor Weedman were Council Members Brown, Gooch, Jamerson and Posey, Village Clerk Parker, and Village Administrator Christie. Mayor Staton and Council Member Dockendorf were not present.

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Weedman led the group in a moment of silent meditation. He then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL/CHANGES

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

Vice Mayor Weedman introduced Sheriff Lowell Griffin, Henderson County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Griffin expressed his appreciation for the support from the Village of Flat Rock and addressed two issues; 1) animal control - working on currently revising internal policies, in addition to having to meet county ordinances, state laws, and the need to finalize internal issues in the unincorporated areas before moving to other areas of the county. He mentioned the sheriff's department receives numerous calls about stray, sick and rabid animals. Animal enforcement personnel are busy dealing with the sick/rabid animals before the stray animals. There is a limited number of personnel that are inoculated and trained and he is continuing to work with the county commissioners to get increased funding to help with this issue, and 2) traffic enforcement – he explained in the past, every patrol car was equipped with speed radar devices and there was a state funded traffic team at the sheriff's office. Over the past couple of years, these no longer exists, the radar devices were pulled from the patrol cars, and the Sheriff's Office chose not to participate with the grant funding with the State, therefore, those positions were eliminated. Sheriff is working on putting together a skeleton team that is trained to patrol Flat Rock but does not have the resources. He asked that residents give him time with only being in office less than a year, traffic enforcement is a work in progress.

Captain Brandon Staton mentioned Deputy Crystal Riley is currently training in Pennsylvania for sixteen weeks with dog named Odepei, that the Village of Flat Rock help purchase.

Polly Angelakis, Superintendent of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, introduced Mr. John McDade, Cultural Resource Manager of the Blue Ridge Parkway, who is on a temporary

assignment with Carl Sandburg Home as the Temporary Chief of Resources & Facilities. Ms. Angelakis gave two updates, Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 4:00pm – 6:00pm, in the new amphitheater showing Dillon at Connemara, and in celebration of Carl Sandburg Home's 51st Anniversary, Saturday, October 19, 2019, will be a community reading of Carl Sandburg's complete poems in the new amphitheater.

Public Comments

Mr. Ronald Alsobrook asked if the county or any political entities have any policies in place dealing with homeless people. Vice Mayor Weedman called on Sheriff Griffin to address the question. Sheriff Griffin answered stating in large part the issue is handled by the county, city, town government. He mentioned in the county the sheriff's department has not had any problems except with what has occurred on private property, none on business property. If the issue becomes a problem at the park, the village would need to consult with their attorney and write a policy, the sheriff's department cannot write any laws or policies. Captain Staton suggested preparing a ban list if the problem occurs.

Mr. Tom Carpenter spoke about an incident that previously occurred at Pinecrest Presbyterian Church with a rabid animal. He highly recommended the NC Sheriff's Association, an organization set up to help our sheriff's provide training, equipment, and any resources needed.

Consent Agenda

1. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:
 - September 3, 2019 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
 - September 12, 2019 – Council Meeting Minutes

Vice Mayor Weedman asked that the minutes be deferred until the next council meeting.

Special Reports

2. Administration – Village Administrator Christie

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

3. Park Update – Council Member Brown

Council Member Brown gave an update on the following:

Tot Lot – The tot lot is complete. The ribbon cutting will be held Saturday, October 12, 2019 at

the park for the Fall Frolic fundraiser event by Flat Rock Park Foundation. There will be activities from 10:00am – 1:00pm, and a pumpkin sale 10:00am – 2:00pm.

PARTF conversion process – Council Member Brown is continuing to work with PARTF to answer their questions from the report and should be receiving a response from PARTF soon.

N. Highland Lake Road Project – Council Member Brown and Council Member Dockendorf walked with the appraiser from NCDOT last week, who reviewed the property and will give the results to NCDOT. The appraiser has asked us for costs for some engineering work that we hired WGLA Engineering regarding drainage mitigation. We are still awaiting the final appraisal from the appraiser hired by the Village.

Council Member Brown reported the bird brochure is complete and located in the Nature Center, Welcome Center and the two kiosks at the park.

Council Member Brown reported Shred Day is scheduled for October 12, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The collection of unwanted and outdated prescription drugs will be collected, as will the collection of canned goods and toiletries for IAM.

4. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Council Member Gooch invited Dennis Flanagan to give the update. Mr. Flanagan presented the audited financials for the Park Foundation for the period ending June 30, 2019, which were accepted by the Foundation Board on October 7, 2019.

As an entity related to the Village, the asset of the Park Foundation included in this report are also reported in the Village’s audit for 2018-2019. As in all past years a “clean opinion” was issued by the audit firm of Carl Shaw, CPA, with no management recommendations.

In the past fiscal year, the Foundation generated \$150,429 in gifts and grants to support the Park at Flat Rock and transferred \$144,721 for completed park projects. In the past fiscal year, the Foundation generated for completed Park projects, total amount raised by the Foundation is \$1,284,965, and \$933,325 has been given to the Village in total.

Mr. Flanagan reported as the Board looked at the role of the Foundation, the mission had been initially focused on amenities buildout, the Board has adopted a new mission statement for the Foundation. The Flat Rock Park and Recreation Foundation’s mission is to provide resources for sustainability, enhancements and educational program for the Park at Flat Rock and the communities. He reported the Foundation’s website has been updated with donation systems to donate to the Flat Rock Park Foundation. The Fall Frolic will be held annually in October with a pumpkin sale and sponsorship opportunities for sustainability in the park. At the end of March, early April, a Spring Frolic will be held. For the upcoming Fall Frolic, overflow parking will be

available at Pinecrest Presbyterian Church and East Henderson High School.

5. Transportation Update – Council Member Dockendorf

No report was given.

6. Tax Report – Vice Mayor Weedman

Vice Mayor Weedman reported that, as of October 10, 2019, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 29 percent with \$356,000 total collected. No official report was presented.

Old Business - None

New Business – None

Other Business

7. Mayor – Council Reports

Budget Officer Jamerson mentioned Vice Mayor Weedman’s handout for the public explaining the tax increase for 2019. She presented an alternate explanation for the tax increase comparing the 2018-2019 budget figures to the 2019-2020 budget. She disagrees with Vice Mayor Weedman’s explanation and while no agreement was reached, Vice Mayor Weedman stated he would present a graph showing park operating and maintenance expenses by year at the next meeting.

Council Member Posey reported the Planning Board wants council’s direction on short-term rentals. After discussions, Council will continue to investigate and for the Planning Board to move forward.

Public Comments

Mr. Ronald Alsobrook made a comment on the problems in dealing with short-term rental issues.

Adjournment

With no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk

Nick Weedman
Vice Mayor