

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL ASSEMBLY ROOM
110 VILLAGE CENTER DRIVE
OCTOBER 14, 2021
9:30 A.M.

Mayor Weedman presided over the October 14, 2021, council meeting at 9:30 a.m. Those present in addition to Mayor Weedman were Vice Mayor Coletta, Council Members Carpenter, Dethero, Gooch, Gregory, Tiles, Village Clerk Parker, and Village Administrator Christie.

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Public Comments – None

Agenda Approval/Changes

Under *New Business* – *Item #9, Christmas Luncheon, Item #10 – Feedback on Town Hall Meetings, and Item #11, Purchasing adjacent land to the Park*, were added to the agenda. Council Member Tiles made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The vote carried by unanimous vote.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- August 30, 2021 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
- September 9, 2021 – Council Meeting Minutes

Council Member Carpenter mentioned a correction to be made to the September 9, 2021, Council Minutes, Page Seven – Under *Public Comments*. Council Member Carpenter made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, seconded by Council Member Gooch. The vote carried by unanimous vote.

Special Reports

2. Administration – Village Administrator Christie

Village Administrator Christie reviewed the September 2021 zoning report dated October 6, 2021, and the Village Administrator report dated October 6, 2021 (see attached reports).

3. Park Update – Council Member Carpenter

Council Member Carpenter mentioned that at the Park Commission meeting on September 23, 2021, the following items were discussed:

Park Use applications: Park Commission reviewed two applications: 1) No Taste Like Home, an organization who picks, cooks, and then eats vegetation, i.e., dandelions, sassafras, etc., was denied approval; and 2) Muddy Sneakers, with no specified times or dates, were approved but requested to give the Village a two-day notice to handle parking any buses.

Path around the Nature Center: Vice Mayor Coletta, Council Member Carpenter, Park Commission Chair Matt Toner, and Park Ranger Dages met with Hunter Marks on Friday, September 10, 2021, who has prepared a design proposal and cost estimate which will be discussed under New Business. The Park Commission voted unanimously to recommend to Council to accept the proposal.

Park Budget: Park Ranger Dages reported the park budget is currently 32 percent under budget for year-to-date through August 2021.

Park at Flat Rock Master Plan: Based on the decision of Village Council, the Park Commission will start reviewing the master plan.

Park Commission Candidate Openings: At the agenda meeting, it was approved to appoint Duncan Fraser to the Park Commission to fill Sally Boyd's open position. At the December 9, 2021, council meeting, when Matt Toner will be appointed to Village Council, Council Member Carpenter will suggest appointing Duncan Fraser as Chairman to the Park Commission. For the open seat of Duncan Fraser, Roger Bass has expressed an interest in serving on the Commission. Council Member Carpenter will also recommend appointing Mr. Bass to the Park Commission at the meeting.

Dye Creek Restoration Project: It was discussed about hiring a project manager for the project. Council Member Carpenter spoke with Hunter Marks asking if he would consider doing project management with Andrew Bick, and he expressed an interest.

Garden Tool Shed: Park Commission suggested having the Pollinator Garden tool shed custom made to match other existing structures in the park. Council Member Carpenter hopes to have sizing and costs available at the October 28, 2021, Park Workshop meeting, so the Park Foundation can start looking for donors to help with costs.

4. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Council Member Gooch gave the following update:

The Friends of the Park at Flat Rock campaign for 2021 is off to a great start. For the month of September alone, close to \$16,000 has been brought in. The Foundation plans to continue this outreach with personal phone calls and in-person meetings from Tracey Daniels, Foundation development and programming director. and Foundation board members.

- Annual Pumpkin Sale, October 9, 2021, was super fun and successful; the Foundation raised approximately \$1,300, including credit card purchases.
- In September, the first “Pictures in the Park” was also a huge success and had a great level of donations and participation. \$2,000 was raised with this picture promotion.
- Next Foundation Board meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, November 8, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.
- Foundation is preparing for their next big outreach which will be #GivingTuesday and the end-of-year “Ask.”

5. Transportation Update – Vice Mayor Coletta

- As reported by Council Member Dethero, NCDOT removed a dead deer from Rutledge Drive.
- Vice Mayor Coletta held a meeting last Friday with NCDOT engineers, including Jonathan McCall, the assistant resident engineer overseeing the N. Highland Lake Road project, and local property/business owners on how road closures and detours during construction might affect the surrounding properties.
- The road project should begin in November 2021 and will be done in sections, starting at Greenville Highway.
- As part of the road project, NCDOT will replace two culverts; the large one over King Creek at the dam and a smaller one over Dye Creek in between Highland Lake Drive and Highland Park Road. During these replacements, N. Highland Lake Road will be closed to through-traffic. NCDOT will post detour information and inform emergency services of those detours. NCDOT anticipates a total of 150 days to replace the two culverts, but dates for those replacements are not yet scheduled.
- Both Henderson County TAC and MPO meetings this month will be via Zoom.

6. Finance and Tax Report – Mayor Weedman & Paul de Chalain

Mayor Weedman reported that, as of October 14, 2021, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 31 percent with \$383,397.00 total collected (no reports were available).

Old Business

New Business

7. Historic Landmarks Commission Resolution No. 4

Council Member Dethero presented Resolution No. 4., which has been approved by Village Attorney Sharon Alexander, for council members to review. A joint public hearing between the Historic Landmarks Commission and Village Council is scheduled for the November 12, 2021, Council Meeting in order to adopt the ordinance to make designation of Saluda Cottages. The designation documents must be recorded by January 1, 2022.

8. Discussion of Nature Center pavers – Council Member Carpenter

After meeting with Hunter Marks of Watermark Landscape Architect in September to discuss erosion issues and installation of pavers at the Nature Center and the Eppler Overlook bridge, Mr. Marks prepared a proposal. The project scope will address installation of pavers and related demolition, hardscape and landscape plans, Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC), and project coordination and oversight. The next phase is 1) Data Collection/Property and Program Inventory & Analysis, and 2) Project Development at a cost of \$4,300.00. Council Member Carpenter mentioned the Park Foundation has donors willing to donate for trail maintenance.

Council Member Carpenter made a motion to approve the contract with Hunter Marks to provide the project development, data collection and analysis at a cost of \$4,300.00 to install pavers around the Nature Center and the Eppler Overlook bridge. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dethero.

Discussion: Park Ranger Dages mentioned that the Park Commission approved a preliminary design and consultation cost for \$1,600.00, not the \$4,300.00.

Vice Mayor Coletta stated she was unclear of the need for pavers around the Nature Center. She felt asphalt around the Nature Center was not appropriate, but granite fines are acceptable and whatever else is needed to handle the drainage issues. Vice Mayor Coletta does not want to spend the unnecessary funds around the Nature Center if it is not 100 percent needed or necessary, since there are other areas in the Park that could use the money.

After discussions, Park Ranger Dages indicated that he was concerned that remediation of Dye Creek will affect the Nature Center and that pavers at the Nature Center is premature.

There were discussions if pavers were not installed at the Nature Center, could the \$4,300 be used in other parts of the park for trail maintenance. The motion is to allocate or appropriate \$4,300 for an engineering study prepared by Hunter Marks in certain areas in the park. The vote carried unanimously.

9. Christmas Luncheon – Vice Mayor Coletta

Vice Mayor Coletta asked the mayor and council members to indicate what date might work best to hold the Village Holiday Luncheon from a list of open dates provided by the Hendersonville Country Club. Friday, December 10, 2021, was set as the date. The luncheon will be the club's Holiday Buffet at a cost of \$30/person. The luncheon will include all council members, village staff, and their guests. Vice Mayor Coletta will confirm with the country club.

Fire Chief Will Sheehan, Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue, gave an update on the construction progress of station #2 adjacent to the Village Hall property. Chief Sheehan reported they are continuing to wait on materials. December is the target move in date, with a tentative grand opening date in January 2022. They are waiting on plumbers to finish to receive temporary Certificate of Occupancy. The station will be staffed 24/7 by full-time employees, and Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue is in the process of hiring an additional person per shift. Cabinets are scheduled to be delivered in November.

10. Feedback on Town Hall meetings – Mayor Weedman

Village Council held four town hall meetings in 2021 with low attendance. Council Members are in favor of holding town hall meetings in 2022, but think each meeting should have a theme. At the meetings, ARP (American Rescue Plan funding), N. Highland Lake Road project, speeding within Flat Rock and animal control were main topics discussed.

11. Purchasing adjacent land to the Park – Mayor Weedman

Mayor Weedman made a motion to purchase the adjacent land to the park owned by Mickey Lively, seconded by Council Member Carpenter. The land is 13.13 acres assessed at \$132,100 that backs up to Spartanburg Highway and is located in the floodplain. After discussions, the vote carried a 1-4, 5-1 vote, and the motion failed.

Other Business

12. Mayor – Council Reports

Council Member Dethero reported the City of Hendersonville Water & Sewer meeting will be held the last Monday in October.

Council Member Tiles gave an update on the following:

Public Health – In the update from Dr. Ellis, from Pardee UNC on October 8, 2021, he reported that COVID cases in Henderson County are not declining like the rest of the state. Of the current patients hospitalized with COVID 96 percent are unvaccinated and 100 percent of patients in ICU are unvaccinated. There has been a reduction in the supply of antibody treatment due to the fact that they are now being managed at the state and federal levels. As a result of the reduced supply and increased demand, referrals for the antibody treatment have been changed to allow COVID positive patients to receive treatment within 5 days of onset, instead of previous 10 days. Statewide, 70 percent of those 18 and older have received at least one dose. In Henderson County, 55 percent of the eligible population has had 1st dose and 52 percent have had both doses. Those 65 and older, who had the second dose at least 6 months ago, qualify for the booster. Residents can visit vaccines.gov for a list of local locations available for each vaccine. There have been 408 new cases reported in the county in the last 14 days and 10 new cases on October 13th in the public schools.

Census – Council Member Tiles made a copy of the current released census data for Flat Rock. She can make copies for council members or get the information at <http://data.census.gov>.

Flat Rock Playhouse – Kim Hinkelman is preparing a budget overview to help in determining if ARP funding will be allowed. She is hoping to get this to Mayor Weedman by Friday.

Historic Landmarks Commission – Council Member Tiles attended the meeting on September 22, 2021, with Council Member Dethero as work continues on Saluda Cottages.

Council Member Tiles mentioned she will attend the Park Commission meeting on October 28, 2021, followed by the Park Workshop meeting.

Vice Mayor Coletta attended the county American Rescue Plan meetings with Village Administrator Christie on both September 13th and October 4th. All local governments are in a holding pattern, waiting for the final rules from the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury. The next meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2021.

Vice Mayor Coletta registered for a six-day online class from the UNC School of Government on the Basics of ARP. The first session was October 13th. It seems as though there will be a lot of good information presented in the sessions, as well as additional material in the chat and Q&A forums.

Vice Mayor Coletta, with Village Administrator Christie, will be meeting on October 14th via phone with GovOffice to explore if the village's website needs updating to be ADA compliant.

Council Member Gregory mentioned that on November 18, 2021, a public hearing on the rewritten Comprehensive Land Use Plan will be held at Pinecrest Church. The members of the Planning Board asked Village Council for more time to work on the CLUP until early 2022. Shred Day is October 16, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., along with Sheriff's Office prescription drugs pill-drop.

Public Comments – Polly Angelakis, Superintendent of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, reported that the National Historic Site will be celebrating their 53rd Anniversary with a poetry reading at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 17, 2021, as well as a sing-along with Daniel Sage at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further discussions, Council Member Gooch made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice Mayor Coletta, and the meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk

Nick Weedman
Mayor