

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING
ASSEMBLY ROOM
APRIL 9, 2009
9:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Staton presided over the council meeting of April 9, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in the Assembly Room of the Village Hall. Those present in addition to the Mayor were Vice Mayor Weedman, Council Members Bucher, Chandler, Davis, Farr and Wert, Village Clerk Hill, and Zoning Administrator Boleman.

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 moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Council Member Chandler. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Council Member Farr moved to approve the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following matters:
 - March 4, 2009, Agenda Workshop Meeting Minutes
 - March 12, 2009, Council Meeting Minutes

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

Special Reports

2. ZONING ADMINISTRATION – Council Member Wert

Zoning Administrator Boleman reported on the following:

- The Boyd property SUP will expire April 10, 2009. The matter has been discussed with Mr. Boyd and a letter officially notifying him of the expiration will be sent to him.
- The Braewood SUP expiration date is under review by zoning.
- Mr. Kerry Lindsey reports that the corrected and updated master plan for Highland Lake PMUD will be available for review by Council at the May Council meeting.

- The King Creek developer continues to work on installation of infrastructure. The Planning Board chairman and Zoning Administrator met with the project manager at the site to look at bridge work being done and to get confirmation from Pomona Pipe and a structural engineer that the bridge is structurally sound.

3. VILLAGE HALL

Council Member Wert reported that the hemlock trees on the grounds are dead or dying, and he met with Phyllis FitzSimons to get her recommendation on what to do. He also met with Ed Lastein who is preparing a plan for the replacement of the hemlocks with small shrubs. Renditions from Sign Crafters for a replacement sign at the entrance to Village Center Drive were reviewed and a selection was made by consensus. Mr. Wert will get price information and inform the fire department of the sign replacement. The Village Record will be published in April and the deadline for articles to be included in the issue is April 10.

4. TAX COLLECTIONS

Vice Mayor Weedman distributed a report of the status of tax collections to date that indicated that collections are currently at 99.45%. There are 13 owners of 19 properties delinquent as of this date. Two properties on the delinquent list may be the subjects of foreclosure actions. There are three candidates for garnishment.

5. BUDGET PROCESS

Council Member Bucher reported that revenues for the upcoming fiscal year are estimated at 97% of the current year's revenues. Some dates on the budget calendar have been changed for lack of solid information from the county, and it was recommended that we not adopt a budget until the fire departments complete their budget process.

Old Business

6. Enactment of Sign Control Ordinance

Council Member Farr made a motion to adopt the sign control ordinance (Ordinance No. 57), seconded by Council Member Davis. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

New Business – None

Other Business

7. Mayor – Council Reports

Council Member Farr reported that a free-standing “no right turn on red” sign has been erected on West Blue Ridge Road at its intersection with NC 225, and the hanging sign by the traffic

control light is to be relocated to a more visible position. Construction to convert the connector between Greenville Highway and Spartanburg Road into a freeway will start this summer and may take up to three years to complete. Carl Ownbey, of NCDOT, may be contacted for the removal of signs within 10 feet of the edge of roads within the village, if we do not want our sign enforcement officer to pick up such signs. NCDOT is reviewing the form of sidewalk easement prepared by the Mayor to determine that it satisfies state and federal requirements for funding of the proposed sidewalk extension project in the village center. Mr. Farr is continuing to work on resolving trash pickup issues within the village.

Vice Mayor Weedman reported that the village will not be participating in Duke Energy's program for the burying of utility lines. Funding for the project would not be feasible for Flat Rock. We are in the process of replacing four computers.

Council Member Wert mentioned that a memorial service for Cyrus Highlander, the village's first mayor, would be held at St. John in the Wilderness at some date in the near future. He suggested that the village offer to host a reception in the Village Hall Assembly Room for the family and friends of the Highlanders after the service.

Council Member Chandler reported that he will be working with the Village Clerk next week on making changes to the fixed asset registry to take into account increasing the capital threshold to \$5,000.

Mayor Staton mentioned that Historic Flat Rock plans to offer the Village a gift of the wooded preserve at the corner of Greenville Highway and Memminger Drive. Such gift would be made with deed restrictions that would prevent development of the property. A discussion of possible uses for the property, its maintenance, liability issues, and other concerns resulted in Council's determination that there would be little upside and more downside to the acceptance of such a gift.

Adjournment

At 10:43 a.m., with no further discussions, Council Member Chandler moved to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Farr. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Michelle Hill
Village Clerk

Robert V. Staton
Mayor