

**MINUTES  
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING  
ASSEMBLY ROOM  
FEBRUARY 8, 2018  
9:30 A.M.**

Mayor Staton presided over the February 8, 2018, council meeting at 9:30 a.m. Those present in addition to Mayor Staton were Vice Mayor Weedman, Council Members Dockendorf, Gooch, Jamerson and Posey, Village Clerk Parker and Administrator Boleman. Council Member Brown was not present.

**MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION**

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

**Public Comments** – Ned Wright, Stephanie Dunn, Addison Brown, T.P. Dunn, and Gary Letchworth spoke in opposition to the proposed North Highland Lake Road project.

**Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda consisted of the following:

- June 20, 2017 – Council and NCDOT Special Meeting Minutes
- November 16, 2017 – Highland Lake “The Farm” Minutes
- January 2, 2018 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
- January 11, 2018 – Council Meeting Minutes
- January 11, 2018 – Park Workshop Minutes

Vice Mayor Weedman made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jamerson and carried on a unanimous vote.

**Special Reports**

2. Administration – Village Administrator Boleman

Village Administrator Boleman reviewed the January 2018 zoning report dated February 7, 2018, and the Village Administrator report dated February 8, 2018 (see attached reports). She mentioned Liz Curtis, Chairman of the Kudzu Committee, gave a report that 29 properties were treated in 2017. Ms. Curtis is looking for volunteers for the committee to serve mainly in August and September during treatment time.

3. Tax Report – Vice Mayor Weedman

Vice Mayor Weedman reported that, as of February 7, 2018, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 98.3%, with \$924,112.61 total collected (see attached report dated February 7, 2018).

He reported that North Carolina General Statutes §105-369 requires two actions by the Tax Collector: (1) on the second Monday of February, provide a report to the governing body of delinquent accounts, which the report just given satisfies; and (2) to advertise delinquent accounts between March 1, 2018, and June 30, 2018. Mr. Weedman made a motion that the Village Council direct the Tax Collector to advertise delinquent real property accounts on a date of the Collector's choice between March 1, 2018, and June 30, 2018. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gooch and carried on a unanimous vote.

4. Park Update – Council Member Gooch

Council Member Gooch turned the meeting over to Mr. Steve Jamerson to give an update. Mr. Jamerson reported the new trails are moving forward quickly, Trails J and K are finished, and the base stone for Trail Q is down, and that trail will be paved in the spring. When weather permits, Trail I will be started, as will a small wall to be built behind the Welcome Center.

Mr. Jamerson showed Council a drawing of the shelter to be located between the playground and the future tot lot, for which funds have been budgeted in the next fiscal year with the hope that the shelter will be erected soon after July 1, 2018. He mentioned we will be contacting Beanstalk to work on plans for a tot lot.

5. Foundation Update – Council Member Brown

In Council Member Brown's absence, Maureen Adams gave the following report of actions of the Park Foundation board:

- In December, 95 gifts totaling \$34,402.82 were received, including pledges and pledge payments. All pledges are current.
- Accepted the resignation of Jan Egolf from the board, and elected Bob Lane to fill her position as treasurer.
- Transferred \$12,682.41 to the Village for playground repairs and Nature Center panels.
- Held a retreat to set fundraising plans for the next 12 months. Focus will be on the tot playground, shelter and meadow.
- Feast & Frolic II will be held again at Kenmure in August 2018 on a date to be determined.
- Looking forward to plans, construction, and dedication ceremony for the Eppler Outlook, new trails, and the Maybank-Rhett Nature Center.

6. Transportation Update – Council Member Dockendorf

Council Member Dockendorf thanked Historic Flat Rock for the constructive and solution-oriented way they have handled their disagreement with the North Highland Lake Road project, and their undertaking a review of the Bike-Pedestrian Plan.

He advised that NCDOT is closing a portion of Crab Creek Road to Berea Church Road for culvert repairs and the installation of guardrails in ways, in part, to address the safety issues on Crab Creek Road and Kanuga Road. Pot hole and shoulder repairs on Little River Road are underway in preparation for resurfacing of the road later in the spring. Successful shoulder work was done on West Blue Ridge Road near the dam. He stated that he has not heard of any plans to widen Little River Road, and we have the ability to stop the project early on if it were to appear in the future.

Mr. Dockendorf stated that, in preparing the Bike-Pedestrian Plan, Flat Rock had the best attendance in its public meeting as compared to other such meetings around the state. In the meeting he received public feedback of citizens' desires for walking and biking connections within Flat Rock. He has also received considerable feedback from parents for ways to make the community bike friendly for children.

He thanked Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue for offering their land adjacent to the village hall, potentially free of charge to the Village of Flat Rock, for a public parking lot to expand parking in the village center. A meeting was held with Judy Boleman, John Dockendorf, Paige Posey, representatives from Flat Rock Centre, Merchants of Little Rainbow Row, Carl Sandburg, and Flat Rock Playhouse to discuss the need for overflow parking when they reach capacity. A \$5,000.00 study appropriation to look at a public parking lot with a permeable surface in front of the fire department was authorized by the Council.

**Old Business – None**

**New Business**

7. Sign Control Ordinance – Village Administrator Boleman

Mayor Staton was not in attendance at the January 29, 2018, agenda meeting at which the subject of the *Don't Urbanize Flat Rock* signs appearing around the village in violation of the Sign Control Ordinance was discussed. He will review the ordinance to determine if any amendments may be appropriate. In the meantime, Administrator Boleman will not take any action against the illegal signs until otherwise directed by the Council.

**Other Business**

8. Mayor – Council Reports

Council Member Posey mentioned the Planning Board is reviewing the Comprehensive Land Use Plan's Implementation Plan, and one member of the board thinks a major revision of the CLUP with respect to bicycle and pedestrian facilities should be made. At the Planning Board's meeting on February 6, 2018, Ms. Posey was asked to inquire if the Council wants the board to look for areas in which it feels revisions of the CLUP should be made. Ms. Posey was advised that, if the Planning Board, in its periodic review of the Implementation Plan, finds areas in which it feels some revision would be appropriate, such findings should be brought to Council's attention. Council has not asked

the Planning Board to undertake a general review and revision of the CLUP or any part of the plan.

Council Member Gooch reported interviews with applicants for the Zoning Administrator position are scheduled for next week. He mentioned the litter along Little River Road and the need for groups in the community willing to pick up the litter. An article will be in the next Village Record newsletter.

Council Member Jamerson distributed a preliminary budget calendar for the 2018-2019 budget year. She will distribute budget worksheets in April.

Council Member Jamerson mentioned the need to start hemlock treatment again this year. She regretted that the October – December budget reports were late, but learning how to use the new finance software has taken more time than originally anticipated. She is in the process of preparing a budget amendment.

**Public Comments**

Stephanie Dunn spoke in opposition to a possible new parking lot on the adjacent Blue Ridge Fire Department property.

Addison Brown spoke in opposition to the Highland Lake Road project; and John Cherry spoke in opposition to that project and to bike/pedestrian lanes.

With no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

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Michelle Parker, CMC  
Village Clerk

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Robert V. Staton  
Mayor