

**MINUTES**  
**VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING**  
**ASSEMBLY ROOM – VIA ZOOM**  
**MAY 13, 2021**  
**9:30 A.M.**

Mayor Weedman presided over the May 13, 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 #12 – Resolution No. 226*, *Item #13 – Foreclosure*, and *Item #14 – FY 2020/2021 Budget Amendment* were added to the agenda. Council Member Gregory made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Council Member Tiles. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Consent Agenda**

1. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:
  - March 29, 2021 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
  - April 8, 2021 – Council Meeting Minutes
  - 2020 Discoveries and Releases

Council Member Gooch made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Gregory. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Special Reports**

2. Administration – Village Administrator Christie

Administrator Christie reviewed the April 2021 zoning report dated May 11, 2021, and the Village Administrator report dated May 6, 2021 (see attached reports).

3. Park Update – Council Member Carpenter

Council Member Carpenter reported the Park Commission met April 22, 2021, and discussed the following:

- Tree City USA/Arbor Day Observance: Our first annual Arbor Day Observance was held at the Park on Saturday, May 1st. Both the Boy and Girl Scouts helped to plant trees in observance of National Arbor Day. In addition, Mayor Weedman tossed in the first shovel full of dirt, then gave a short speech on the history of Arbor Day and Flat Rock's commitment to preserving our trees. Nine (9) hardwood trees were planted in the park. Ace Hardware contributed six (6) hardwood trees and Raymond's Garden Center donated three (3) trees. Small metal labels will be placed at the foot of each tree so that the species of each can be identified.

The Henderson County branch of the Forestry Service had a table at the event to hand out tree- and forest-related literature and answer questions on tree propagation and care, along with some toys and other items for the Scouts and visitors. Tracey Daniels of the Flat Rock Park & Recreation Foundation was also on hand for this event.

- Tree City USA Application: We submitted our application to certify as a Tree City USA to the National Arbor Day Foundation in March 2021. Because we did not hold an Arbor Day observance in 2020, our application will be considered for the certifications to be presented in 2022. Formal review of our application will begin in September 2021, with the approval notification expected to be sent to us in the spring of 2022.
- Park Ranger Job Applications: Notice of a job opening for the position of Park Ranger was posted on our Village Facebook page as well as other venues several weeks ago. As of May 13, we have received fourteen (14) resumes and sixty-eight (68) online applications. These will be reviewed by Pat Christie, Matt Toner, and Tom Carpenter. Selected applicants will then be called in for preliminary interviews with Pat, Matt, Albert, and Tom. All council members will have an opportunity to meet with the selected candidate(s) prior to voting to approve the hire of the person who will be asked to fill this position.
- Park Parking Spaces: The lines designating the parking spaces at the Park were scheduled to be repainted the week of May 10, but this work has been pushed back to May 21, 2021, due to inclement weather.
- The Park Commission has requested permission to meet in person at the Village Hall on Thursday, May 27, 2021. Following discussion among the council members, permission to meet in person was approved.

4. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

• **Pardee in the Park**

- Free yoga classes are now in session until 10/30. Huge success with 25+ in attendance at each session (3 sessions to date)
- Yoga classes are every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and every Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month – health & wellness talks, special events with themed topics and guest speakers (10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.); next one is scheduled for 5/22

• **Kids in Parks**

- Informal ribbon cutting will be held on 5/22 (postponed from last month due to heavy rains)

• **Friends of the Park**

- Please spread the good word; information can be found on the Foundation website
- April's Village Newsletter campaign gave us 10 new members of Friends of the Park
- 155 total members
- \$68,000 raised to date from Friends of the Park

• **Spring Village Newsletter insert**

- We raised \$3,200 to date with this outreach mailing (sent mid-April)

5. Transportation Update – Vice Mayor Coletta

- The May Henderson County TAC meeting has been cancelled. The next TAC meeting will be June 16.
- Dominion Energy will be adding a gas pipeline connection on Greenville Highway in Flat Rock sometime soon. Because this work is in the Flat Rock Historic District, Dominion has been working with Historic Flat Rock, Inc. (HFR) and the NC State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to finalize plans to protect any historic structures. They have submitted plans to SHPO for review and approval, and HFR will update Vice Mayor Coletta on the work schedule.
- West Blue Ridge Road will be resurfaced sometime between now and October 15 as part of NCDOT's summer resurfacing schedule.
- Vice Mayor Coletta heard from Jim Nunziato with the Sheriff's Office VIP program that in the next week or two, the Sheriff's Office will place a traffic trailer on the northbound direction of Greenville Highway near the new 25 mph speed limit sign (at Mansouri Mansion or the Woodfield Inn) to alert drivers to the slower speed limit. After about a week, the sign will be moved to the southbound direction of Greenville Highway near the Flat Rock Playhouse to alert drivers traveling from that direction. The Village will receive a report that will show the number of cars, car speed, etc. for each location. It's hoped that seeing the traffic trailer will encourage drivers to keep to the new, lower speed. Captain Staton of the Sheriff's Office also indicated that the Sheriff will have more cars in the area as a visual reminder to drivers.

- NCDOT is expected to award the construction contract for the N. Highland Lake Road project on May 18 when they open new bids for construction costs. The bids that were received on the original award date in February were all rejected because they exceeded the \$5M limit that Division 14 could approve. The bidding process then moved to the NCDOT Contract Standards and Development Office in Raleigh to be re-let.
- Mayor Weedman, Vice Mayor Coletta, and Council Member Carpenter met with Ms. Wanda Austin, the newly appointed project engineer for Division 14 (replacing Mr. Brian Burch), on May 7.

#### 6. Financial & Tax Report – Mayor Weedman & Paul de Chalain

Mr. de Chalain prepared a Statement of Revenues and Expenditures Budget and Actual for the ten months ended April 30, 2021 (see attached report).

### **Old Business**

#### 7. 2021/2022 Budget

Mayor Weedman reviewed the proposed FY 2021/2022 budget spreadsheet. Mayor Weedman stated there are two revenue items and one expense item that are expected but not included in this spreadsheet: 1) payment from NCDOT for the expenses they feel the Village will incur on the N. Highland Lake Road project; 2) payments from the Foundation; and 3) the expenditure of \$50,000 for Dye Creek stream remediation to be removed and to be considered as a special fund.

There were discussions of the budgeted amount allocated for Flat Rock Community Support (Flat Rock Playhouse) of \$41,000. Council Member Carpenter commented he would like the budget amount changed to a maximum of \$25,000. Mayor Weedman feels the Playhouse is still in bad financial position, and is opposed to lowering the budget amount at this time. He stated in time he wants to diminish the contribution to the Playhouse. After reviewing the rest of the spreadsheet, Council Member Tiles made a motion that \$41,000 be budgeted for Flat Rock Community Support (\$40,000 Flat Rock Playhouse and \$1,000 miscellaneous expenses). The motion was seconded by Council Member Gooch. After discussions, the motion carried a 5 – nay, 1 – yay vote, motion fails.

Council Member Carpenter made a new motion to allocate \$26,000 to Flat Rock Community Support (\$25,000 Flat Rock Playhouse and \$1,000 miscellaneous expenses) with the knowledge Village Council can increase the amount to \$41,000 (\$40,000 Flat Rock Playhouse and \$1,000 miscellaneous expenses) if the Flat Rock Playhouse does not receive federal American Rescue Plan funding from the Village of Flat Rock Village Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Tiles, the motion carried a 5 – yay, 1 – nay vote.

#### 8. Traffic Safety Advisory Committee – Vice Mayor Coletta

Vice Mayor Coletta presented Ordinance No. 109 (see attached copy). Vice Mayor Coletta made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 109, an Ordinance to Establish a Transportation Advisory Committee for the Village of Flat Rock, NC, seconded by Council Member Gregory. The motion carried by unanimous vote. Vice Mayor Coletta made the motion and presented four names for appointment to the Committee, herself as Council Member with transportation oversight responsibility as required by Ordinance No. 109; Dennis Flanagan to represent Historic Flat Rock, Inc., and Ed Tiles and Patrice German as two at-large members. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carpenter, and carried by unanimous vote. One at-large seat still remains to be filled.

## **New Business**

### 9. American Rescue Plan – Mayor Weedman

Mayor Weedman reported he and Administrator Christie participated in a meeting with the NC League of Municipalities and NC Pro via Zoom on May 12, 2021. They provided guidance in applying for funding, and Mayor Weedman has been working on applying and will continue until complete. It will be Council's action on how the monies are disbursed.

### 10. Committee Appointments – Council Member Gregory

Council Member Gregory made a motion to appoint Richard Ehlers to the Planning Board, filling Dennis Maloy's term ending August 2021. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Coletta, and carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Gregory made a motion to appoint Ruth Reeves to the Board of Adjustment as an alternate for a three-year term, seconded by Council Member Carpenter. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

### 11. Town Hall Meetings – Council Member Carpenter

Council Member Carpenter suggested having the first meeting tentatively after the agenda meeting on June 28, 2021. He will prepare a draft agenda to send to council members in the next couple of weeks for review. The first meeting will concentrate on residents that will be mostly affected by the N. Highland Lake Road project: Staton Woods, Bonclarken, Highland Golf Villas, and a few residents along Greenville Highway. Council Member Carpenter suggested having the meeting at a larger venue, possibly at Pinecrest Presbyterian Church. After discussions, it was agreed for Council Member Carpenter to prepare a draft agenda and start the planning process with the intent to start June 28, 2021.

## **Council Minutes May 13, 2021**

**Page Six**

### 12. Resolution No. 226 – Council Member Carpenter

Council Member Carpenter read into the record Resolution No. 226, *Resolution to Express Opposition to North Carolina State Senate Bill 349 and House Bill 401, "Increasing Housing Opportunities."* Council Member Carpenter made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 226, seconded by Council Member Gregory. Council Member Gregory asked if the word "draconian"

could be removed. After discussions, Council Member Carpenter made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 226 as amended, seconded by Council Member Gregory. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

13. Foreclosure – Mayor Weedman

Mayor Weedman made the motion that Council direct the Tax Collector, Finance Officer and Village Attorney to start foreclosure proceedings on the following property:

219 Greenleaf Drive, Flat Rock NC 28731, PID #100945, America's Management, LLC, Kenneth R. Hodges, Member Manager. Total owed FY 2020 \$752.44, FY 2021 751.92 totaling \$1,504.36 + associated fees. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Coletta and carried by unanimous vote.

14. Budget Amendment – Mayor Weedman

Mayor Weedman presented a proposed budget amendment for FY 2020-2021 (see attached copy) to raise the money allocated to pay the fire departments that service Flat Rock. Mayor Weedman made the motion for the acceptance of the budget amendment for the current FY 2020/2021 budget, seconded by Council Member Gregory. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Weedman explained Historic Flat Rock presented a document stating they undertook a study of the impact that the NCDOT Kanuga Road Project R-5748 would have on the historic district. A study was prepared and given to NCDOT. Historic Flat Rock is asking for the Village Council to consider supporting Historic Flat Rock in asking for reimbursement for a total of \$39,994.50, the cost of the Kanuga Road project. No action was taken.

**Other Business**

15. Mayor – Council Reports

Council Member Dethero mentioned that the last meeting of the City of Hendersonville Water & Sewer Advisory Committee was cancelled and has been rescheduled for May 24, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

Council Member Tiles gave an update on the following:

**Flat Rock Playhouse** - The Playhouse is still working to acquire funds that will allow them to make mandatory upgrades in order to reopen. They are still waiting to hear if they will be receiving money from the Shuttered Venue Operation Grant that they applied for.

**Census** - Council Member Tiles will be attending the webinar NCLM is hosting on May 26, 2021, on What to expect and How to prepare for release of census data.

**COVID** – As of May 10, 48,865 Henderson County residents have received a first vaccine dose (40.2%) and 44,281 are fully vaccinated (35.9%). All groups are now able to be vaccinated and 12-15 year olds are eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine. Governor Cooper’s June goal is to lift the mandatory mask restriction when 2/3 of residents have been vaccinated.

Council Member Gregory reported Shred Day and Pill Drop-off was a success on May 8, 2021. The Sheriff’s Office collected 151,395 pills and 5 tons of paper was shredded. She thanked the fire departments for directing traffic.

On May 11, 2021, Mayor Weedman, Vice Mayor Coletta, and Council Member Gregory presented Resolution No. 225, *Resolution To Express Support and Thanks to the Henderson County, North Carolina Sheriff’s Office* to the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office, and also provided lunch from the Flat Rock Village Bakery to the Office.

Myra Grant asked for Council to reconsider including the \$50,000.00 budget amount for Dye Creek Remediation project in next fiscal year’s budget because some of the grants she is researching look favorable if there is a village match.

**Public Comments** – Village Clerk Parker received an email from Victoria Flanagan giving a schedule of Mountain Gardener events:

- Saturday, May 22, at 10:00 a.m. — there will be speakers and a tour of the Pollinator Garden at the Park at Flat Rock. Those interested will meet at the Pollinator Garden. Dr. Gretchen Pettis, an entomologist, will discuss native pollinating plants. Wendy Beville will share how the Pollinator Garden got started.
- Monday, May 24, at 5:00 p.m. — join us at the Historic Flat Rock Preserve and Bird Sanctuary in the heart of the historic district as we dedicate all blue bird houses as a memorial to Chris and Mary Jane McDonnell, who were constant volunteer faces in Flat Rock and are missed by all who attended ice cream socials, visited the Park, and any and all garden events.

Chief Will Sheehan, Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue, stated the firehouse adjacent to the Village Hall is making progress on construction. In approximately two weeks, they should be able to move into the new portion so that the old portion can be remodeled.

Superintendent Polly Angelakis, Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, mentioned the Memorial Day Music Festival will be virtual via Facebook, a virtual writing workshop will be held at the end of May via Facebook, and the goat barn will continue to be closed.

**Adjournment**

With no further discussions, at 11:30 a.m., Council Member Carpenter made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Gregory.

---

Michelle Parker, CMC  
Village Clerk

---

Nick Weedman  
Mayor