

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK COUNCIL MEETING
ASSEMBLY ROOM – VIA ZOOM
JULY 9, 2020
9:30 A.M.

Mayor Weedman presided over the July 9, 2020, council meeting at 9:50 a.m. Those present in addition to Mayor Weedman were Vice Mayor Jamerson, Council Members Carpenter, Coletta, Dethero, Gooch and Posey, 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

The following items were added to the agenda: Under *Old Business* – *Sign Ordinance revisions, Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue sewer easement request, CLUP Trail Plan*, Under *New Business* – *Face coverings/social distancing policy, Renaming of Robert E. Lee Drive*. Vice Mayor Jamerson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Council Member Coletta. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consent Agenda

1. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:
 - June 1, 2020 – Agenda Workshop Minutes
 - June 11, 2020 – Council Meeting Minutes

Council Member Coletta made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Vice Mayor Jamerson. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Special Reports

2. Administration – Village Administrator Christie

Administrator Christie reviewed the June 2020 zoning report dated July 6, 2020, and the Village Administrator report dated July 2, 2020 (see attached reports).

3. Park Update – Council Member Carpenter

Council Member Carpenter turned it over to John Wilkerson, who reported Trace & Company completed several projects to improve trail drainage by adding a swell and drain on the trail by King Creek and paving a 220-foot section of trail by Dye Creek that frequently washed out when the creek flooded.

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4. Foundation Update – Council Member Gooch

Council Member Gooch stated he will be meeting with Tracey Daniels and Duncan Fraser today at 1:00 pm, to discuss strategies for the Foundation.

5. Transportation Update – Council Member Coletta

Council Member Coletta reported there will be no FBRMPO or TAC meetings held in July.

Council Member Coletta mentioned the final draft for the Bike Pedestrian Plan, which was to incorporate a bike pedestrian plan throughout the entire Village, has been received. She will forward the final draft to council members and post a link for viewing on the Village's website.

PARTF update: As required by PARTF as part of completing the conversion process, WGLA Engineering was hired to complete a site plan, but a discrepancy was discovered between the Village's park survey and the NCDOT right-of-way designation. NCDOT has resolved the issue, WGLA is in the process of finalizing the site plan.

Council Member Coletta reported due to NCDOT's budget issues, they have filed with the State Attorney General's Office in terms of the right of way for the N. Highland Lake Road project, but NCDOT is not able to deposit any checks in terms of the compensation. NCDOT is not authorized to write checks given their funding situation. Bonds are to be sold in order for the project to start. Originally scheduled to go on sale in May or June, these bonds have not yet been offered for sale. Council Member Coletta has sent an email requesting a timeline.

6. Tax Report – Mayor Weedman

Mayor Weedman reported that, as of July 8, 2020, the current fiscal year tax collections are at 99.94 percent with \$1,245,732.26 total collected (see attached report).

Old Business

7. Sign Ordinance Revisions – Council Member Posey

Council Member Posey reported she forwarded to Council the Planning Board's recommendations of the sign ordinance revisions. Council Member Carpenter expressed concerns with limiting the number of signs, and Council Member Coletta suggested that could be done with regard to lot size or road frontage. In conversations with Village Attorney, Sharon Alexander, she states this is biasing the landowner with more frontage towards more freedom of expression. Council Member Posey stated the Planning Board did not address this per advice from the attorney as limiting the number of signs would be hard to regulate.

Next steps with the sign ordinance are to insert the final revisions as a proposed ordinance, for Council to review the ordinance, and then forward to Attorney Sharon Alexander for review and approval. Once Council has gotten approval from the attorney, a public hearing should be scheduled.

8. Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue sewer easement request – Mayor Weedman & Village Administrator Christie

Mayor Weedman reported Village Council has received a letter from Chief Sheehan of the Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue as a formal request for the Village Council to grant an easement in order for

the fire department to connect to the City of Hendersonville Water & Sewer system. Council is in favor of the easement, but would like to review the final plans when available.

Chief Sheehan spoke stating he would do whatever is necessary to have a good working relationship with the Village. The civil engineer is currently working on drawings, and once they have been completed he will supply the Village with a copy. The City of Hendersonville Water & Sewer Department is going to run the sewer line under Greenville Highway from the post office parking lot. The line will come out where the Village Hall is connected. The fire department will connect at the same spot, and then run the line across Village Hall property along Greenville Highway to the fire department's property.

9. CLUP Trail Plan – Council Member Coletta

Council Member Coletta reported Village Council previously passed a resolution suspending the use of Page 16 of the CLUP, titled “Planned Trails, Paths, and Sidewalks.” She asked the Planning Board to review and give their recommendation. The Planning Board recommended that the map be amended by changing the name and putting a disclaimer noting that the map is for “planning purposes only.” Council Member Coletta is taking their recommendation into consideration, but she recommends that Page 16 be deleted from the CLUP. After discussions, Council Member Coletta made the following motion; Page 16 of the CLUP “Planned Trails, Paths, and Sidewalks” be deleted from the CLUP as it does not reflect adequate community input, has not been evaluated from Historic Preservations perspective, and could cause confusion with our area community partners. Council Member Dethero seconded the motion. The motion failed with 4-nay, 3- yes vote. Mayor Weedman made the provision that Page 16 goes back to the Planning Board for further consideration, and Village Council will vote after the Planning Board has revised to make more acceptable or consider deletion.

New Business

10. Face coverings/social distancing policy – Mayor Weedman

Mayor Weedman reported, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order No. 147, that face coverings are required for groups of 10 people or fewer when meeting indoors and for groups of 25 or fewer when meeting outdoors. A policy has been drafted and circulated. There were concerns about requiring face masks in the Welcome Center restrooms at the park. Council Member Carpenter feels because the restrooms are small enclosed spaces, people are more susceptible to the virus. He suggests putting signs on the restroom doors stating face masks are required while in the restrooms. It was mentioned that this requirement could not be enforced, Council Member Coletta agreed. John Wilkerson, Park Ranger, stated less than 20% do not wear face masks while in the restrooms.

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Council Member Carpenter made a motion for signs to be on restroom doors stating pursuant to the Governor's order, face masks are required entering the restrooms. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Jamerson and carried by unanimous vote.

11. Renaming of Robert E. Lee Drive – Mayor Weedman

Mayor Weedman mentioned a letter has been received from a resident in Atlanta requesting to rename Robert E. Lee Drive. After discussions, Mayor Weedman will prepare a letter to the resident stating Council rejected the request.

Other Business

12. Mayor - Council Reports

Budget Officer Jamerson explained when a budget has been set and departments have either been overestimated or underestimated, she is authorized to do a budget adjustment. The FY 2019 – 2020 budget adjustment dated June 15, 2020 shows departments underestimated \$12,305.00, making no change to the budget but just moving funds between departments.

Vice Mayor Jamerson reported due to the banks being closed during the coronavirus pandemic, she has been unable to meet with bank representatives to discuss the Village's accounts and determine whether the Village needs to change banks or stay with First Citizens.

Council Member Coletta reported she and Administrator Christie have signed up the Village with Archive Social. Facebook and Instagram posts and comments are being archived in case public comment requests are received and we would have that information available. Free COVID-19 testing with the Health Department is July 14, 2020, at East Henderson High School. Governor Cooper's current Executive Order #147 is scheduled to end July 17, 2020.

Council Member Dethero reported there has been no change in the sewer system with Halfway Tree Mobile Home Park—the City is still working on eminent domain and settling with the property owners. He met with Ginger Brown, who gave him some Kudzu historical documentation, so he is getting started with the Kudzu program.

Council Member Posey mentioned the citizen survey was discussed at the June Planning Board meeting and discussed whether the survey results were circulated to residents. The results have been on the Village's website. It was suggested to have the information circulated by mentioning the results in the Village Record newsletter and having an access link on the Village's Facebook page.

Council Member Posey mentioned Planning Board members Michael Thompson, Judy Katz, and Dale Bartlett terms expire August 13, 2020, and they all have expressed an interest to continue to serve on the Planning Board for an additional three years. Council Member Posey made a motion to appoint board members Michael Thompson, Judy Katz, and Dale Bartlett for three-year terms ending August 13, 2023, seconded by Council Member Gooch. In discussions, Council Member Coletta expressed concerns that there are other residents in the community that wish to volunteer

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on the Planning Board and suggests that Village Council not vote on this today but wait until August.

Council Member Posey stated since the current members of the Planning Board are doing such a great job and these three board members have agreed to serve an additional three-year term, that she recommends Council approve appointment of these members.

Council Member Carpenter requested holding off until August to hold sessions for new council members to meet the three current members of the Planning Board as well as to interview the new three people who came forward asking to serve on the Planning Board, before taking a formal vote.

After discussions, the motion to appoint Michael Thompson, Judy Katz, and Dale Bartlett carried a 4-yes, 3-nay vote, motion carries.

Mayor Weedman reported the Village ended the 2019-2020 fiscal year with a cash balance of \$2.66 million in the banks. A fund balance appropriation of \$195,000 was budgeted to make up for any budget deficits, but this appropriation wasn't needed. The Mayor mentioned the Village ended the fiscal year in great shape.

Public Comments – Village Clerk Parker received no written public comments.

Adjournment

With no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned, at 11:20 a.m.

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk

Nick Weedman
Mayor