



MINUTES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE FOR COOPERATIVE ACTION

Commissioners' Meeting Room/Courtroom of the Historic Courthouse
Main Street | Hendersonville NC 28792

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 – 3:00 PM

MINUTES

<u>City of Hendersonville:</u>	Barbara Volk, Mayor; John Connet, City Manager Debbie O'Neal Roundtree, City Council Member
<u>Henderson County:</u>	Rebecca McCall, Chairman
<u>Laurel Park:</u>	J. Carey O'Cain, Mayor
<u>Village of Flat Rock:</u>	Anne Coletta, Vice Mayor
<u>Town of Fletcher:</u>	Preston Blakely, Mayor; Keith Reed, Council Member
<u>Town of Mills River:</u>	Shanon Gonce, Mayor; Sandra Goode, Council Member

1. WELCOME

Vice Mayor Anne Coletta called the meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Anne Coletta led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

4. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Mayor Shanon Gonce made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by City Council Member Debbie O'Neal Roundtree. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 17, 2023

Chairman Rebecca McCall made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mayor Barbara Volk. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

6. 2023-2024 Appraisal Update – Darlene Burgess

Darlene Burgess, Henderson County Tax Collector, introduced Luke Small, Deputy Tax Collector, and Kevin Hensley, Assistant County Assessor.

She stated the tax office is considering the 2023 reappraisal a success. A total of 69,433 reappraisal notices were mailed, and of that amount, 3,961 appeals (5.7 percent) were received. The N.C. Department of Revenue statistics show the average appeal rate is 10 percent, so Henderson County falls below the average rate. Of the 3,961 appeals received, 216 appeals are scheduled to go before the Board of Equalization and Review. The Board of Equalization and Review reconvened April 14, 2023. Taxpayers have until May 15, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., to file an appeal; after this date, the appeal will be considered untimely and will not be heard.

Of the 3,961 informal appeals, 93 parcels that were visited for review had an increase in value, 1,330 appeals had a decrease in value, and 2,391 appeals had no change in value.

Currently the combined current year tax collections rate is 98.541 percent, slightly higher than last year. Collected tax revenue for the City of Hendersonville is at 98.06 percent, Laurel Park 99.397 percent, and City of Saluda 100 percent for the sixteen parcels in Henderson County.

Tax projections will be emailed either late this week or early next week, as the Tax Office is waiting on personal property adjustments that need to be made. There will be a rise in unregistered personal property listings that include businesses and individual listings. Currently this involves 62 percent for complete business listings, 90 percent unregistered motor vehicles, 71 percent mobile homes, and 18 percent for watercraft.

Darlene Burgess will be retiring May 31, 2023, after 30 years in Henderson County government.

7. Pathways for disconnected youth – Henderson County

Chairman Rebecca McCall has been working with a team task force since October 2021 on pathways for disconnected youth in Henderson County. The task force members are those who work in healthcare, mental healthcare, the school system, Department of Social Services, school system counselors, Blue Ridge Community College, recreation department, and foster care, etc.

A disconnected youth is a child between the ages of 16 – 19 who is not in school or is not working. The statewide statistic for North Carolina youth who fall in this category is 9.65 percent. In Henderson County, the statistics over several years show an increase in the number of disconnected youth: in 2017, 7 percent of those ages 16 – 19; in 2020, 8 percent; and in 2022, 10 percent. The task force is looking at ways to help decrease these percentages.

8. Henderson County Child Care Initiative – Henderson County

Chairman Rebecca McCall mentioned she is co-chair of a task force with the initiative to improve childcare problems in Henderson County. She has asked State legislators for help and has hired a consultant. There will be a fact-gathering session with different groups asked to participate on May 9, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Bethel Wesleyan Church on Tracy Grove Road.

9. **OLD BUSINESS** - None

10. **NEW BUSINESS** – None

11. **UPDATES**

a. **City of Hendersonville** – Mayor Barbara Volk reported that the City of Hendersonville Fire Department received a #1 ISO rating effective July 1, 2023, moved up from a #3 rating. She mentioned the following events that are happening in April and May:

- April 22, 2023, the first Hendo Earth Fest – with exhibits and activities at the north end of Main Street and 5th Avenue
- May 5th – Budget Workshop
- May 6th – Farmers’ Market opens
- May 10th – Bear reveal
- May 18th – Rhythm & Brews starts
- May 27th & May 28th Memorial Day weekend – Garden Jubilee

b. **Village of Flat Rock** – Vice Mayor Anne Coletta reported the following:

- Shred Day – May 6, 2023, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Budget Workshop was held April 13, 2023
- Ice Cream Social – June 10, 2023, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Construction on N. Highland Lake Road has started
- Installing two speed signs at the north and south end of Greenville Highway

Vice Mayor Anne Coletta mentioned Senate Bill 265, to move municipal elections to even years, at the April 3, 2023, meeting, Village Council voted unanimously to oppose this bill and asked that Flat Rock be removed from the bill.

Senate Bill 317, municipality’s ability to control its own zoning. Vice Mayor Anne Coletta reported Village Council has not voted on this formally, but by consensus, the Village Council is opposed to Senate Bill 317.

Vice Mayor Anne Coletta asked for the other municipalities’ position on Senate Bills 265 and 317, either at this meeting or by phone.

c. **Town of Laurel Park** – Mayor J. Carey O’Cain reported Laurel Park is currently working on the next fiscal year budget and also getting ready to start stream restoration at

Laurel Green Park. The town has a contract of \$700,000 to manage stormwater on the mountain and will be making substantial roadway improvements in the coming fiscal year, estimated to cost around \$1 million.

d. Town of Fletcher – Mayor Preston Blakely reported the Shred Day/Pill Drop-off event held last weekend was a huge success. In March the Budget Workshop was held, and the Budget Retreat will be in May. The town has recently prepared a resolution with the N.C. Department of Transportation designating a future right-of-way for all of Cane Creek Road. The mayor reported that the Town of Fletcher has not taken a position on either Senate Bill 265 or 317. Fletcher’s Summer Day Camp for children sold out in one day.

e. Henderson County – Chairman Rebecca McCall reported that on Saturday, April 22, 2023, Henderson County is partnering with the City of Hendersonville for a trash pickup day at the intersection of Four Seasons Boulevard and Dana Road, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Henderson County’s next year budget will be presented at the May 17th Commissioner’s meeting, and the tax rate for next year will be determined at the June 5th meeting. The Parks and Recreation Department has numerous camps planned for the summer. Ribbon cutting for the new playground in Jackson Park is May 13, 2023, and Henderson County has bought the twelve-acre property that adjoins East Flat Rock Park.


f. Town of Mills River – Mayor Shanon Gonce mentioned they are working on the budget and also working on distributing American Rescue Plan monies to nonprofits. Council Member Sandra Goode mentioned that the following events are happening in May:

- Sunshades installed, open the grass area of the dog park
- May 6th – Farmers’ Market will open at Mills River Elementary, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- May 6th – Mills River Day at North River Farms 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., with live music, vendors, food trucks, kid zone, tractor show, horse show and more
- May 13th – Mills River Fire Department will have an annual flower show 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- May 20th – the second Movie in the Park will be showing *Sonic 2* at dark.

12. REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING – *July 18, 2023, hosted by the Town of Fletcher*

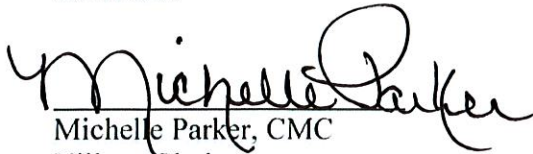
13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:38 p.m.



Vice Mayor Anne Coletta
Village of Flat Rock

ATTEST:



Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk
Village of Flat Rock