



VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE FOR COOPERATIVE ACTION

Henderson County Historic Courthouse
Commissioners' Meeting Room
1 Historic Courthouse Square
Hendersonville, NC 28792
Tuesday, April 21, 2026 – 3:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Present:

City of Hendersonville
Henderson County
Village of Flat Rock
Town of Fletcher
Town of Laurel Park
Town of Mills River

Mayor Barbara G. Volk, Council Member Melinda Lowrance
Vice Chair J. Michael Edney
Mayor Anne Coletta, Vice Mayor Matt Toner
Mayor Preston Blakely
Mayor J. Carey O'Cain, Commissioner Travis Bonnema
Councilwoman Sandra Goode

1. WELCOME

Mayor Anne Coletta called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Coletta led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Vice Mayor Toner moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 20, 2026

Vice Chair Edney moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

6. OLD BUSINESS – None

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Flat Rock Playhouse update – Lisa Bryant, Producing Artistic Director

Ms. Bryant, who has been the artistic director for twelve years, reported that the Playhouse is the NC State Theatre and a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. She gave highlights from the 2025 Economic Impact Study. She mentioned the 2026 season, youth programs, summer camp and the Playhouse will be

celebrating their 75th Anniversary in 2027.

b. Farmland Preservation Update – Angela Price, Coordinator

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners voted to approve the creation of a County Farmland Preservation Taskforce in April 2024. The purpose of the taskforce is to preserve and protect agricultural land throughout Henderson County while supporting local food production, rural character, and economic stability of the County.

Ms. Price mentioned the impact of the loss of agricultural land in the region from Hurricane Helene. She mentioned how the program works with conservation easements, which are legal agreements that restrict land use to agriculture allowing farmers to retain ownership and continue farming while preventing development. The program addresses rapid land value increases and development pressures, helping farmers maintain profitability while preserving open space.

In 2025, Henderson County applied for the NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund's Agricultural Growth Zone (AGZ) grant. In March 2026, the County was awarded \$424,571 state grant from the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The County Commissioners matched the grant with \$396,974 with a total of approximately \$821,545.

c. 4th of July Celebration – City of Hendersonville

John Connet and Mike Morgan spoke about the celebration events planned in the city and county for the America's 250th Anniversary, July 4, 2026, with a timeline of events that can be found on the Henderson County's website www.hendersoncountync.gov. The County received a \$10,000 grant from the NC America 250 program to help with costs.

8. UPDATES

a. City of Hendersonville

Mayor Volk gave the following updates;

- April 20, 2026, held a well-attended public input session regarding Rosa Edwards Park.
- May is Historic Preservation Month
- May 1st – Budget Workshop meeting
- May 2nd – Farmers Market opens
- May 6th – Bearfootin Bear reveal
- May 18th – Shred event at Patton Park
- May 22nd – 24th, Garden Jubilee
- May 27th – Housing Summit, officially presenting housing plan with speakers
- June 18th - first Rhythm & Brews Concert Series

b. Henderson County

Vice Chair Edney reported groundbreaking has started for the new jail and the new courthouse. The County is going to start reviewing the possibility of a new Fletcher Library. He is a proud parent of his son who is touring Italy working on his PhD in nuclear engineering.

c. Town of Fletcher

Mayor Blakely gave the following updates;

- Budget update – slight growth in revenue versus notable increases in expenses. A 1.5 cent rate increase for Fletcher Fire & Rescue. Town of Fletcher will be holding a FY 2026/2027 budget presentation meeting on May 7, 2026.
- Reviewing policy to restrict data centers in the Town of Fletcher, with language to be added to the LDO ordinance.
- May 11, 2026, a public hearing will be held for a rezoning SUP Birkshire Trace, an affordable housing project for 150 multi-family housing apartments.
- Town Council passed a resolution opposing state legislation limiting local property tax authority.
- Shredding Event & Pill Disposal, Saturday, April 25, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

d. Town of Laurel Park

Mayor O’Cain gave the following updates;

- May 2, 2026, there will be a concert at Jump Off Rock dedicating “Pisgah” bear purchased by someone for Laurel Park in 2025.
- Continuing to pursue FEMA opportunities but having little success so the Town will be taking a different approach and will be seeking reimbursement from FEMA for Hurricane Helene damage.
- For the 2026/2027 budget, Laurel Park potentially will not raise the tax rate, but a tax revaluation will be in 2027.

e. Town of Mills River

Councilwoman Goode gave the following updates;

- Continuing to work on the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) with the community involved.
- Two council members will be attending a community meeting on April 30, 2026, at Fire Station #4 to give an update on things happening in the community, and to answer any questions from the community.
- Repairs have started on the back loop from Hurricane Helene to be completed around June 1, 2026. They have started receiving reimbursements from FEMA.
- Continuing budget meetings and discussions.
- Lots of activities planned in the Park.
- Mills River Farmers Market opens May 2, 2026, at Mills River Elementary School.
- Mills River Day, May 2, 2026, at Davis Farm on North Mills River Road, a free public event.

f. Village of Flat Rock

Mayor Coletta gave the following update;

- Started the budget process, with a budget workshop on April 9, 2026, we plan to present a public draft at our May council meeting.

- Awarded a contract for the King Creek Mitigation project to repair damage from Hurricane Helene. We are in the process of getting approval for reimbursement from FEMA and feel hopeful.
- The Village holds a shred day/pill drop-off twice a year in May and October, so Thursday, May 7, is our next one from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Village Hall.
- Our annual Celebrate Flat Rock Ice Cream Social will be Saturday, June 6, from noon to 4:00 p.m.

9. REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING – July 21, 2026 – hosted by the Town of Fletcher

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Council Member Lowrance made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

Anne G. Coletta, Mayor

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk