

**Town of Montreat
Board of Commissioners
Town Council Public Forum
September 1, 2016
Walkup Building**

Board members present: Mayor Tim Helms
Mayor Pro Tem Kitty Fouche
Commissioner Bill Gilliland
Commissioner Mary Standaert
Commissioner Ann Vinson

Board members absent: Commissioner Kent Otto

Town staff present: Al Richardson, Interim Town Administrator
Jack Staggs, Police Chief
Barry Creasman, Senior Water Operator
Angie Murphy, Town Clerk

Call to Order

Approximately 24 people were in attendance. Mayor Helms called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the group in a moment of silence.

Agenda Approval

Commissioner Vinson moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Gilliland seconded and the agenda was approved 4/0.

Public Forum

Mr. Mike Sonnenberg of 125 Virginia Road, expressed his opinion on the Town Hall needs of the future as compared to Town Halls of the past. Mr. Sonnenberg felt that the future needs will involve fewer employees, smaller and more adaptable buildings, less water used per resident, consolidated sanitation and road maintenance, and automation throughout the Town. Mr. Sonnenberg challenges Council to look thoroughly at the future needs before they move forward with the purchase of land or buildings.

Mrs. JoAnn Ellington of 123 John Knox Road, stated that she heard the property on the right just outside the gate was available and she hoped that the Town of Montreat could be one of the first bidders as a possible location for the future Town Hall.

Mrs. Janie Moore of 100 Frist Road, stated that in the future if a special meeting is held in the same week as a regularly scheduled Board meeting that they could be consolidated as a way to allow more public to attend without having to alter their work schedules.

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Public Forum Minutes
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Mrs. Martha Campbell of 149 Maryland Place, thanked Town Staff for cleaning out ditches so quickly after the days heavy rains. Mrs. Campbell looks forward to the day when staff can take showers at Town Hall and go home clean. She is very thankful to live in a town where staff cares so much about residents.

Chief Jack Staggs advised the community of an incident that occurred over the weekend, which resulted in an arrest, in which the suspect had been staying at a home in Montreat. The individual would not advise officers of where he had been staying so Chief Staggs asked if anyone had noticed a black Toyota Corolla with Alabama License Plates parked anywhere in Montreat to let the Montreat Police Department know immediately. This individual could have broken into a vacant summer house and stayed for a number of days without anyone being made aware. As always, Chief Staggs reminded those in attendance that the Montreat Police Department is open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Vinson moved to adjourn the Public Forum Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Fouche seconded and the motion carried 4/0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Tim Helms, Mayor

Angie Murphy, Town Clerk