

**Town of Montreat
Board of Commissioners
Town Council Public Forum Meeting
February 8, 2018
Walkup Building**

Board members present: Mayor Tim Helms
Mayor Pro Tem Kent Otto
Commissioner Kitty Fouche
Commissioner Bill Gilliland
Commissioner Alice Lentz
Commissioner Tom Widmer

Board members absent: None

Town staff present: Alex Carmichael, Town Administrator
Angie Murphy, Town Clerk

Approximately 10 members of the public were also present. Mayor Helms called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., led the group in a moment of silence.

Agenda Approval

Commissioner Lentz moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Gilliland seconded and the motion passed 5/0.

Public Forum

Tom Frist of 98 Frist Road mentioned the recent passing of Sam Hope and how much he meant to the Town. Mr. Frist stated that he felt bad about the declined participation in the valuable Public Forum period. Mr. Frist also stated that he would like to informally hear about the annexation and the sale of the Creek Side Property. Mr. Carmichael stated that the Town closed on the Creek Side Property around Christmas. On tonight's agenda there is a proposal for asbestos abatement which will take a three week process to complete and then the Town can move forward with demolition. The Town of Montreat and Town of Black Mountain sent a joint resolution to the General Assembly in December. The General Assembly will meet again in May and it is likely that the entire delegation will be in support of the annexation since both Towns are in agreement. The de-annexation/annexation could happen as early as summer. The annexation process will not put us behind in the demolition of the Creek Side Building. Mr. Carmichael stated that Town Staff are in the process of rerouting power lines and water lines for the new Public Works Building and the next step will be to have an engineer cap off the existing well. Mr. Frist asked if the Police Force would be divided into the current Town Services Building rather than in the new Town Hall. Mr. Carmichael stated that would be up to the discretion of the Council. The current Town Services Building floods often so it would be a hard building to keep evidence and public records safe. The current Town Services Building will still be used for water production as the lease states. Mayor Helms stated that Council will take the existing space study and start paring it down considerably.

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Mayor Helms envisions the building keeping with the spirit of Montreat but with the ability to add-on in the future if needed. All of these decisions will of course be made by Council. Mr. Frist asked for an update on the Texas Road Bridge. Mr. Carmichael stated that the Town is still waiting to hear from the State Historic Preservation Office. Once they approve our engineer can sign the document and then it will go to the Department of Transportation. Mayor Helms stated that the Florida Terrace Property has been rezoned residential into two relatively equal sized lots and it will eventually be put up for sale.

Mary Jo Clark of Montreat, thanked the Commission for running for office. She stated she was hopeful for the future of Montreat.

Joe Kirkland of Montreat College announced that every 2nd week of February the College routinely likes to expose to their students injustices in the world. This year they are focusing on Compassion International. There will be speakers on Monday and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in Graham Chapel. On the Black Mountain Campus Compassion International will have a 80 ft truck which expands 40 ft wide and will house an interactive experience. The College is expecting 2,000 visitors between 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday.

Judy Shuford of 613 Greybeard Trail, heard there was going to be a public input process in the appearance of the new Town Hall. Mr. Carmichael stated that we would discuss the next steps in the process at the retreat which will be held on February 13th in the Left Bank building. Mrs. Shuford thinks public input is an important part of the process.

There being no further business, Commissioner Gilliland moved to adjourn the Town Council Meeting. Commissioner Lentz seconded and the motion carried 5/0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Tim Helms, Mayor

Angela Murphy, Town Clerk