

**Town of Montreat  
Board of Commissioners  
Town Council Meeting – Public Forum  
June 14, 2018  
Walkup Building**

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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  
Ed Teters, Police Officer

Approximately 35 members of the public were also present. Mayor Helms called the Public Forum to order at 6:30 p.m., and held a moment of silence. Mayor Helms also asked those in attendance to remember the Smith family in the passing of Kent L. Smith. Mayor Helms detailed the purpose of the Public Forum.

**Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Lentz moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Otto seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

**Public Forum**

Mrs. Ginny Porter of 388 Appalachian Way questioned what the Town was going to do about pipes sticking out of the road on Greybeard Trail where her son has a home. Mayor Helms stated that when you lay water and sewer pipes in rocky areas the rocks are almost always removed and sand is used to fill in around the pipes. The reason is that the ground heaves in heat and cold and the rocks would eventually break the pipes. Mr. Carmichael stated that when Tropical Storm Alberto came through there was damage to property but no one was evicted from their homes. There was also minor damage to public buildings and private institutions. The Town saw a lot of damage to roads and culverts. Mr. Carmichael recently met with the Office of Emergency Management and FEMA to do a preliminary assessment to see if Montreat qualifies for federal disaster relief. There is estimated to be \$184,000 in damages to roads and culverts. There is a long list of roads that need repairs. It will be a long process for the Town to identify all the needs and to put into play the necessary processes for repair schedules. Commissioner Fouche clarified that this was concerning Greybeard Trail rather than Appalachian Way. Mrs. Porter stated that these were not Montreat roads but Montreat trucks go up there twice a day. Mr. Carmichael stated that the Town has an access easement to the roads on Greybeard but he could not speak at this time about

repairs to the roads.

Mr. Bill Scheu of 146 Eastminster Terrace asked for updated information on the annexation process and wondered if there were ways the public could help to move the process along. Mr. Carmichael stated that Commissioner Lentz and himself traveled to Raleigh a few weeks ago and talked to legislature and it seems to be bearing fruit now. Commissioner Lentz stated that Senate Bill 775 has cleared the Senate completely. This was uncontested in the Senate. We are now waiting for the House of Representatives. Mr. Scheu asked if there were people the citizens can call to lobby. Mayor Helms stated that he didn't feel that was necessary at this time. Mayor Helms then went on to explain the de-annexation/annexation process.

Mr. Peter Boggs of 338 Chapman Road stated that he was gratified to see that the Creek Side property did not seem to flood during the rains.

Mr. Tom Frist of 98 Frist Road stated that he felt it was important to have a welcome center for MRA and Montreat College as well as the Town in the new Town Hall.

Mayor Helms stated that Mr. Jim McNair had taken some pictures of buildings and structures around Town that he would like to see the new Town Hall reflected in the style of architecture. Mayor Helms advised those in attendance that if they had an idea for the new Town Hall to snap a picture; that it didn't have to be a hand drawn design.

Mr. Jim Williamson of 529 Memphis Lane suggested hiring an architect who is sympathetic to the architecture of this region for the new Town Hall. Mr. Williamson also suggested having the architect look at older building and do a more contemporary interpretation of them. Mr. Williamson also mentioned using landscaping to soften the impact of the building.

Mrs. Clare Frist of 98 Frist Road asked if the Council could pass around Mr. McNair photos.

Mayor Helms praised the Public Works Crews for their hard work during the Alberto storms.

Mrs. Judy Shuford of 619 Greybeard Trail complimented the Council on "The Burn". She felt that it was a great time of community between Black Mountain and Montreat. Mrs. Shuford enjoyed meeting the families of town employees and felt that it was a wonderful evening.

Mrs. Suzanne Phelps of 433 Kentucky Road stated that she thought the meeting was fun and informative with great comradery.

Commissioner Fouche stated that the Tree Board received a grant for a Tree Inventory along with an intern. The trees, in the rights-of-way, were inventoried from the gate to the dam. Volunteers tagged trees based on several different criteria. Seven of the trees were tagged red meaning they needed to come down and two of the seven fell down on Assembly Drive. Public Safety played a huge part in completing this inventory plan.

Mrs. Jane Sewell of 143 Virginia Road stated that she felt welcomed back. She's moved to think about the town workers and is thinking about making a batch of cookies. Mayor Helms told her that would be a great idea and that the majority of staff are there Monday through Thursday.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Gilliland moved to adjourn the Public Forum. Commissioner Widmer seconded and the meeting was adjourned 5/0.

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Tim Helms, Mayor

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Angie Murphy, Town Clerk