

**Town of Montreat  
Board of Commissioners  
Town Council Meeting – Public Forum  
November 8, 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 Tom Widmer

Board members absent: Commissioner Alice Lentz

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

Approximately 10 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.

**Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Gilliland moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Widmer seconded and the motion carried 4/0.

**Public Forum**

Mr. Tom Frist of 98 Frist Road is very thankful that Frist Road is being paved.

Mayor Helms ran into Anne Rogers, of 527 Calvin Trail, who expressed her gratitude on the replacement of the culvert on Calvin Trail.

Sara Baughman of Montreat College invited everyone to Montreat College's Annual Christmas Concert on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Anderson Auditorium. Ms. Baughman extended a thank you to Mayor Pro Tem Otto and Alex Carmichael for their help in working with the College on a parking plan. The new parking plan has elicited positive feedback from the MRA, students and community members. Commissioner Widmer asked Ms. Baughman about the recent cybersecurity conference. Ms. Baughman stated that 400 people were on campus and they are already planning for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual conference. Mayor Pro Tem Otto asked Ms. Baughman how many countries are represented on campus this year. Ms. Baughman stated that approximately 20 countries are represented with the soccer team being the most diverse.

Mr. Tom Frist of 98 Frist Road asked if there was anything new to report on the addressing situation. Mr. Frist found it interesting that Montreat residents voted at First Baptist Church Black Mountain in the recent election rather than in Montreat. He questioned whether that had anything to do with the addressing issues. Commissioner Widmer stated that with the

reconfiguring of the precincts it was inconvenient for people on either end of the precinct to come all the way into Montreat so that's why the voting location was changed to the First Baptist Church.

Commissioner Fouche asked those in attendance their thoughts on the two public comment periods in the current order of business. Currently public comment items on the agenda are first and then public comment items not on the agenda are last.

Mrs. Judy Shuford of 613 Greybeard Trail would like to see the separate comment periods disappear. Mrs. Shuford feels it has the potential of making for bad feelings over something trivial. Mrs. Shuford stated that Mayor Helms controls the meetings well and could gracefully corral people back to the topic on hand if the conversation should wander.

Mayor Helms stated that he feels the Public Forum has done away with a lot of the public comments.

Commissioner Fouche questioned whether both public comments were really needed.

Mrs. Judy Shuford of 613 Greybeard Trail feels that it is wise to hear from the people whenever possible so she is in favor of the Public Forum and both public comment periods.

Mr. Brad Hestir of 192 Mississippi Road likes the two separate comment periods. The structure helps keep the focus on the meeting.

Mr. Brad Hestir of 192 Mississippi Road asked if the Town had guidelines and ordinances in which it directs homeowners to what amount of parking they should provide. Mr. Carmichael stated that with new construction there are rules that determine the number of parking spaces that are required. Mr. Carmichael stated that on street parking is allowed in Montreat unless it is marked otherwise.

Mrs. Clare Frist of 98 Frist Road has concerns with people parking in such a way that emergency vehicles cannot pass through the roadways. Mr. Carmichael advised that if this does happen to notify the Montreat Police Department immediately.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Gilliland moved to adjourn the Public Forum. Mayor Pro Tem Otto seconded and the meeting was adjourned 4/0 at 6:56 p.m.

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Tim Helms, Mayor

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Angie Murphy, Town Clerk