Board members present: Mayor Tim Helms

Mayor Pro Tem Kent Otto

Commissioner Bill Gilliland

Commissioner Kitty Fouche

Commissioner Alice Lentz

Commissioner Tom Widmer

Board members absent: None

Town staff present: Alex Carmichael, Town Administrator

Angie Murphy, Town Clerk

Approximately 30 members of the public were also present. Mayor Helms called the Public Forum to order at 6:31 p.m., and held a moment of silence.

**Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Kitty Fouche moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Bill Gilliland seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

**Public Forum**

Mrs. Mary Knight of 159 Virginia Road and 336 Chapman Road expressed her concerns about the parking situation on Lookout Road. On her way to the meeting this evening there was a solid line of cars along Appalachian Way and Texas Road past the College parking lot. This type of parking turns Lookout Road into a one way street and creates major issues for snow removal. Mr. Carmichael stated that the Town is patiently enforcing the parking issues with the College and the best answer to Mrs. Knight’s question is increase enforcement.

Mr. Don Reid of 127 Shenandoah Terrace felt that there was something vitally missing in our little Town. Mr. Reid would like to see the Town promote buildings and condos for young families and for older families who do not want to go to Highland Farms. He suggested a general store, a restaurant and re-opening Lake Susan. Mr. Reid felt these actions would make us a real town, which would retain the best of Montreat, yet promote vibrant growth while sustaining churches, the College and the MRA. Mr. Reid reflected on his time spent on the Comprehensive Planning Committee in 2007. This plan suggested several recommendations that have been adopted but Mr. Reid feels the plan has not been pulled out of the cobwebs in the last several years. Mr. Reid read aloud from the section entitled “Montreat Tomorrow”. Mr. Reid stated that the Town of Montreat has not grown in years and is becoming a holding pen for Highland Farms.

Mrs. Mary Standaert of 118 Shenandoah Terrace found Mr. Reid’s comments intriguing and provocative. Mrs. Standaert questioned how many of our community properties are being purchased as investment properties. She stated that most people that come to Montreat have ties to the community. Montreat is now being marketed as a beautiful place to come stay. Mrs. Standaert encouraged the Commission to consider the achieved purpose if they move in the direction that Mr. Reid proposes.

Mr. Tom Frist of 98 Frist Road wanted to hear a status update on the Texas Road Pedestrian Bridge and the adjoining proposed park. Mr. Carmichael stated that staff had publicized a bid opportunity for design services for the bridge a couple of months ago with no response. It is currently on his desk to send out again for a wider reaching audience.

Mayor Pro Tem Otto stated his appreciation of Mr. Reid and Mrs. Standaert comments regarding the Comprehensive Plan as he has been reviewing the plan himself. Mayor Pro Tem Otto advised that the Planning and Zoning Commission is getting ready to look at the Zoning Ordinance for possible changes and how they reflect back on the Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Pro Tem Otto would like to see the Comprehensive Plan reviewed in depth. Mayor Helms asked Mr. Carmichael to include a discussion of the Comprehensive Plan in the upcoming Annual Board Retreat.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Pro Tem Otto moved to adjourn the Public Forum. Commissioner Widmer seconded and the meeting was adjourned 5/0 at 6:54 p.m.

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Tim Helms, Mayor Angie Murphy, Town Clerk