Board members present: Mayor Tim Helms

Mayor Pro Tem 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

Adrienne Isenhower, Zoning Administrator

Eight members of the public were present. Mayor Helms called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and led the group in the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Agenda Approval**

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

**Public Forum**

Mr. Joe Kirkland of 310 Gaither Circle, Montreat College, shared exciting news from Montreat College. Although final student census figures will not be available for a few weeks, the College is anticipating a 10% increase in the student body over last year bringing the total in Montreat and Black Mountain to nearly 600. Over the past five years, there have been year overyear gains, totaling an increase of 200 students over the five years. Mr. Kirkland commented that new student orientation begins next Friday, August 16, and all students will be on campus the following Monday. Classes begin on the 21st. Mr. Carmichael stated that the Town has been a little more deliberate about the placement of officers to remind drivers there is a posted speed limit with consequences. Mr. Kirkland mentioned seeing signs at the beginning of the summer promoting the conference center season on the crosswalks and questioned whether these were permanent signs. Mr. Kirkland questioned if there were thoughts on putting these at crosswalks on the College campus.

Mayor Helms asked Mr. Carmichael to bring everyone up-to-date on the Greybeard Wall. Mr. Carmichael stated that Civil Design Concepts had been engaged to provide three different cost estimates for a riverbank wall on Lower Greybeard. We are looking at a gabion basket styled wall with vegetation on the top. It is our biggest project from Tropical Storm Alberto. Mr. Carmichael believes construction will begin in the fall. He stated that a portion of Greybeard will have to be closed for construction but all detours and closures will be informed ahead of restrictions.

Mayor Pro Tem Otto stated that just within the past two days another section on “upper” Texas collapsed. It’s of Mayor Pro Tem Otto’s opinion that it is 100% worse than it was three weeks ago. Mr. Carmichael stated he was not aware of this recent collapse but would have Mr. Creasman go investigate the situation.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Widmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gilliland seconded and the motion carried 5/0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

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Kent Otto, Mayor Pro Tem Angie Murphy, Town Clerk