

**Town of Montreat
Board of Commissioners
Public Forum Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall & Zoom**

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

Board members absent: None

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

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

Commissioner Kitty Fouche advised that it has been frustrating trying to get used to the sound system. She asked for everyone to speak directly into the microphones.

Agenda Approval

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

Public Forum

Mr. Tom Frist of 98 Frist Road stated that he was so pleased to be with everyone in the new Town Hall. He thanked everyone for their hard work and asked how it had been in the new building.

- Town Administrator Alex Carmichael said that traffic in the new building has been low with visitors having to make appointments with staff. The transition has been different but wonderful. Mr. Carmichael stated that he is more productive at the new facility and it has a much warmer feel to the environment.
- Town Clerk Angie Murphy stated she felt blessed to be working in the new building and in Montreat. The building is beautiful and functional. Ms. Murphy misses all the residents coming in to visit or to take care of business. Ms. Murphy thanked everyone for the new facilities.
- Police Chief David Arrant stated that it took him several weeks to get used to the new building. He appreciated the breakroom, the patrol room and the evidence room. His police officers are most appreciative as well.

**Board of Commissioners
Public Forum Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2020**

Mayor Tim Helms stated that the COVID-19 banner that was displayed at Welch Field was defaced over the weekend. Mayor Helms cut the sign down and turned it over to the Police Chief. Mr. Carmichael stated that a replacement banner has been ordered from the County.

Mrs. Judy Shuford of 613 Greybeard Trail wanted an update on the Public Works Building. Mr. Carmichael stated the building was complete and staff has moved in to work on a daily basis. There are a few finishing touches needed but staff are pleased to have a new building. Mr. Carmichael commented that Public Works Director Barry Creasman worked many days off and weekends to finish up the details. Mayor Helms advised there is a fundraiser going on in Town right now to purchase appliances and furnishings. Mrs. Jacqueline Clark is spearheading that initiative so contact her if you would like to donate.

Mayor Helms stated that he had been in contact with Montreat College President Paul Maurer who stated that the College would keep the Town up-to-date on COVID-19 cases. Mayor Helms spent some time walking around campus and was very impressed with the diligence in which the College students were wearing their masks and incorporating social distancing.

Mr. Tom Frist of 98 Frist Road asked about sound quality with the proximity to Montreat Road. Chief David Arrant said he has definitely noticed a difference compared to being at the other building.

Mayor Helms asked Chief Arrant for a bear report. Chief Arrant said a stubborn bear keeps hanging around the Alabama Terrace area. Chief Arrant advised the Police Department maintains a list of local bear hunters who can bring their dogs up to put some fear into the bears.

Adjournment

Commissioner Fouche moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Alexander seconded and the motion carried 5/0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Tim Helms, Mayor

Angie Murphy, Town Clerk

**Board of Commissioners
Public Forum Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2020**
