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

David Arrant, Police Chief

Four 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.

**Agenda Approval**

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

**Public Forum**

Town Clerk Angie Murphy read the following comments aloud to the Mayor and Commissioners.

Shirley and Charlie Mitchell of 201 Harmony Lane praised Nancy Midgette for a recent Firewise Accessment that she provided for them. The Mitchell’s stated that Nancy was a gracious professional who raised awareness of Firewise techniques in a non-critical manner.

Mike Sonnenberg of 125 Virginia Road posed a series of comments and questions. Mr. Sonnenberg recommended the removal and changing of landscaping at Virginia Road and Assembly Drive as well as at Louisiana Road and Assembly Drive. Mr. Sonnenberg reported a streetlight out at 125 Virginia Road and suggested that the police check all lights for functionality. He had questions about the status of the old Town Hall with regards to flooding and moisture. He was curious to know if there is round the clock video coverage of the new Town Hall. Mr. Sonnenberg asked if the attic access in the Town Hall was highly insulated and sealed. He also felt that more lights are needed on the front of the new Town Hall. He stated that the current sign is not easy to see. He suggested using projectors to project the name on the roof and/or south side of the building. Mr. Sonnenberg asked if the Town was on target with the current budget. He questioned how much more the new Town Hall cost for maintenance and utilities compared to the old Town Hall. He posed the same questions for the maintenance building. Mr. Sonnenberg questioned why the Town of Montreat Sanitation Department needed three people to collect garbage when most other collection services need two per truck. He asked if there were long-term plans for the old Town Hall and for the garbage collection area. His final comments were with regards to utility water billing. He questioned whether water bills could be sent by email or text message. He also suggested a graph of the last two years on the bill to help water customers modify their behaviors. Mr. Carmichael stated that he would have Public Works investigate the landscaping concerns. Town Clerk Angie Murphy had already reported the streetlight to Duke Progress Energy. Mr. Carmichael commented that he was investigating future arrangements of the old Town Hall with Mountain Retreat Association. With regards to 24/7 video coverage Mr. Carmichael stated that while there are cameras inside the building only one is outward facing. Mr. Carmichael stated that a projector on the roof of the building would violate Montreat’s own sign ordinance. Software issues limit our capacity to streamline our water billing process.

Bill Roberts of 155 Woodland Road mentioned that the state COVID-19 dashboard no longer includes the 28757 zip code. He stated that any help the Town could give to getting this situation rectified would be appreciated so residents can determine the risk level.

Dr. Mary Standaert of 118 Shenandoah Terrace also mentioned the state COVID-19 dashboard. She also included an email that she sent to Representative John Ager in which she asked for help in solving this problem for Montreat.

Commissioner Tom Widmer took a moment to share an email response he recently received from the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services of Buncombe County. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are tracked by their physical address of residence so if Montreat College students list their home addresses this would not be captured in the 28757 zip code. Also individuals who have post office boxes are not tracked by zip code because these populations are estimated to be zero.

Martha Campbell of 149 Maryland Place referred to the Mayor’s report of the October 8, 2020 Town Council Meeting in which noise concerns were presented by two different citizens. Mrs. Campbell thanked the three Commissioners who took the time to give individual attention to concerns of full time resident property owners. She asked what each Commissioner had learned from their contacts with the residents and what action(s) they are recommending to guide staff of the Town and College to prevent future residential noise issues. Commissioner Tom Widmer stated there was no clear cut answer to the situation. He encouraged the individual to call the non-emergency police phone number to report any and all noise complaints. Commissioner Kent Otto has met with a number of people involved in the situation and has also directed them to call the non-emergency police number. Mayor Tim Helms spoke at length with Town Administrator Alex Carmichael and Police Chief David Arrant and felt very satisfied about the steps the Town had taken thus far.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Fouche moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Widmer seconded and the motion carried 5/0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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Tim Helms, Mayor Angie Murphy, Town Clerk