

**Town of Montreat
Board of Commissioners
Public Forum Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall & Zoom**

Board members present: Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer
Commissioner Kitty Fouche
Commissioner Mason Blake
Commissioner Jane Alexander
Commissioner Kent Otto

Board members absent: Mayor Tim Helms

Town staff present: Alex Carmichael, Town Administrator
Angie Murphy, Town Clerk
Scott Adams, Zoning Administrator

Approximately thirteen members of the public were present. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and led the group in a moment of silence.

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer stated that Mayor Tim Helms would not be at the meeting this month.

Agenda Approval

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

Public Forum

Mr. Tom Frist of 98 Frist Road mentioned that he had recently been hacked online and warned people not to open his emails. Mr. Frist also expressed his appreciation with the dedication and seriousness of the Board of Adjustment members. Mr. Frist stated he was full of admiration for the civility on both sides of the recent Special Use Permit Hearing and hopes the civility will continue.

Mr. Ed Kramer of 134 Kanawha Drive expressed his displeasure with the deliberations of the recent Board of Adjustment case concerning the MRA Lodge. Mr. Kramer did not understand how 50 hours of testimony could be boiled down to 2 hours of deliberation. Mr. Kramer respectfully requested the Board of Commissioners to not reappoint Mrs. Martha Chastain and Mr. Robert Sulaski.

Mrs. Shirley Mitchell of 201 Harmony Lane urged the Commission to go back and listen to the last two hours of the Special Use Permit hearing. Mrs. Mitchell was appreciative of the Board of Adjustment members but felt their deliberations were rushed. Commissioner Kent Otto took a

moment to state that he was disappointed in the personal attacks toward the Board of Adjustment members. Commissioner Otto reminded everyone to be aware of how we treat our neighbors. Commissioner Mason Blake thanked Commissioner Otto for his comments and also expressed his agreement.

Mrs. Shirley Mitchell of 201 Harmony Lane felt that during the deliberations that the BOA members did not consider the facts presented.

Adjournment

Commissioner Kent Otto moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jane Alexander seconded and the motion carried 5/0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Tim Helms, Mayor

Angie Murphy, Town Clerk