

**Town of Montreat
Board of Commissioners
Public Forum Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall & Zoom**

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

Board members absent: None

Town staff present: Ben Blackburn, Interim Town Administrator
Angie Murphy, Town Clerk
David Arrant, Chief of Police
Gin Johnson, Police Officer

Approximately eight members of the public were present. Mayor Tim Helms called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and led the group in a moment of silence. Mayor Helms asked everyone to remember Ed Teters in their thoughts and prayers as his wife Martha passed away this week. Mr. Teters was a long time reserve police officer with the Town of Montreat.

Agenda Approval

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

Public Forum

Mrs. Martha Campbell of 149 Maryland Place questioned the legal fees that the Town has spent on the MRA Special Use Permit hearings with Board of Adjustment. Mayor Helms stated that he personally remembered signing around \$50,000 worth of checks recently but he anticipated there being more in the future.

Mr. Jim Gibbs of Mt. Mitchell Bear Hunting Club and Mill Creek Wildlife Club returned this month to discuss the bear dog and hunting problems in Montreat. Mr. Gibbs and his club members are in agreement with the memo that Commissioner Mason Blake included in this month's packet. His club does not condone the problems the Town of Montreat has incurred recently and they are willing and wanting to help Montreat end these problems. Mr. Gibbs stated that the club would like to provide input in developing a new ordinance. Mr. Gibbs wants to continue to be good neighbors with the Town of Montreat. Mayor Tim Helms assured Mr. Gibbs that the Town of Montreat had no issues with the Mt. Mitchell Bear Hunting Club.

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kitty Fouche seconded and the motion carried 5/0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Tim Helms, Mayor

Angie Murphy, Town Clerk