Board members present: Mayor Tim Helms

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer

Commissioner Jane Alexander

Commissioner Mason Blake

Commissioner Kitty Fouche

Commissioner Kent Otto

Board members present via

Zoom: None

Board members absent: None

Town staff present: Ben Blackburn, Interim Town Administrator

Angie Murphy, Town Clerk

David Arrant, Chief of Police

Barry Creasman, Public Works Director

Darlene Carrasquillo, Finance Officer

Scott Adams, Zoning Administrator

Town staff present via Zoom: None

Approximately fifteen members of the public were present at Town Hall and several more were watching via Zoom. Mayor Tim Helms called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and led the group in the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Jane Alexander moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

**Mayor’s Communications**

Mayor Tim Helms asked everyone to remember former Town Council Member and Montreat Neighbor Jack McCaskill on the recent passing of wife, Fran. Mayor Helms also took a moment to with Commissioner Jane Alexander a very Happy Birthday! Town Staff with the help of Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer and Audit Chair Hugh Alexander drafted a letter to the State Treasurer’s Office explaining several points from the last audit.

**Meeting Minutes Adoption**

* April 14th Town Council Public Forum Meeting Minutes
* April 14th Town Council Meeting Minutes

**Interim Town Administrator’s Communications**

Interim Town Administrator Ben Blackburn had no communications at this time.

**Administrative Reports**

* Administration – This report was given in written format.
* Finance – This report was given in written format.
* Planning & Zoning – This report was given in written format.
* Police – This report was given in written format.
* Public Works and Water – This report was given in written format.
* Sanitation – This report was given in written format.
* Streets – This report was given in written format.

Mayor Tem Tom Widmer had a few questions for Finance Officer Darlene Carrasquillo with regards to the special fund projects.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Bryant McEntire of 128 Virginia Road expressed more concerns about the possible change in the form of government. Mr. McEntire suggested a survey as a way to know how people really feel about the change. Mr. McEntire suggested again that the change be put to a referendum vote.

Dr. Mary Standaert of 118 Shenandoah Terrace expressed her support of the proposed change of the form of government with strict oversight by the Councilmembers. Dr. Standaert also stated that she feels the Town will get more experience candidates for the manager’s position.

**Old Business**

There was no Old Business to discuss.

**New Business**

1. Presentation of FY22-23 Proposed Budget and Consideration of Setting a Public Hearing: Commissioner Mason Blake moved to set a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. or soon thereafter on June 9th 2022 regarding the FY22-23 proposed budget. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

B. Consideration of Setting a Special Meeting regarding Budget Work Session: Commissioner Kent Otto moved to set a Special Meeting on May 26th at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of holding a Budget Work Session. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

C. Consideration of Contract Extension regarding Tax Collection Agreement: Commissioner Kent Otto moved to approve the Contract Extension with Buncombe County regarding the Tax Collections Agreement. Commissioner Jane Alexander seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

D. Consideration of Renewing Property and Liability Insurance with the Interlocal Risk Financing Fund of NC: Commissioner Kitty Fouche moved to approve the renewal of Property and Liability Insurance in the amount of $23,665 with the Interlocal Risk Financing Fund of NC. Commissioner Mason Blake seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

E. Consideration of Renewing Workers Compensation Insurance with the NC Interlocal Risk Management Agency: Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer moved to approve the renewal of Workers Compensation Insurance in the amount of $13,936.37 with the NC Interlocal Risk Management Agency. Commissioner Mason Blake seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

F. Consideration of Appointing Allen Crawford as Planning & Zoning Commission ETJ Member: Commissioner Mason Blake moved to appoint Allen Crawford as Planning & Zoning Commission ETJ Member to a term of three years to expire on 05/31/2025. Commissioner Kent Otto seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

G. Consideration of Appointing Danny Sharpe from alternate member to full time member of Board of Adjustment: Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer moved to appoint Danny Sharpe as a regular member of the Board of Adjustment to fill an expired term that will expire on 01/31/2023. Commissioner Kent Otto seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Grace Nichols of 527 Suwannee Drive took a moment to reflect on the recent Landcare Meeting in which there was a presentation about stormwater management. Mrs. Nichols stated that this community needs to learn about our watershed and stormwater issues. Mrs. Nichols also stated that Landcare would take responsibility for this educational opportunity.

**Commissioner Communications**

Commissioner Mason Blake thanked Grace Nichols, Jean Norris and Brad Hestir for all their work on the Native Plant Sale. Commissioner Blake also advised that there would be a Special Meeting surrounding the hunting dog issue in Montreat on May 19th at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Kent Otto reminding everyone that Montreat College would be wrapping up this weekend with a graduation ceremony. The College had a strong year with very few COVID cases. Commissioner Otto also mentioned that the MRA will open up with their season very soon and we will them a very strong turnout.

**Dates to Remember**

* Tree Board, Tuesday May 24th at 9:30 a.m. in Town Hall and by Zoom Meeting Software
* Board of Adjustment, Thursday May 26th at 5:00 p.m. in Town Hall and by Zoom Meeting Software
* Town Offices Closed, Monday May 30th in observance of Memorial Day Holiday. Sanitation services will resume on Tuesday May 31st
* Landcare, Wednesday June 1st at 9:00 a.m. in Town Hall and Zoom Meeting Software
* June Town Council Meeting, Thursday June 9th at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall and by Zoom Meeting Software. Public Forum begins at 6:30 p.m.
* Bridge Aesthetics Committee, Tuesday June 14th at 2:00 p.m. in Town Hall and by Zoom Meeting Software
* Audit Committee, Thursday June 16th at 2:00 p.m. in Town Hall
* Tree Board, Tuesday June 28th at 9:30 a.m. in Town Hall and by Zoom Meeting Software

**Closed Session**

Commissioner Kent Otto moved to enter into Closed Session in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(3) for attorney-client consultation. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

Upon returning to Open Session there was no business to attend too.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Kitty Fouche moved to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer seconded and the motion carried 5/0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Tim Helms , Mayor Angie Murphy, Town Clerk