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

Town staff present via Zoom: None

Approximately fourteen 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 Kitty Fouche 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 reserved his comments for later in the meeting.

**Meeting Minutes Adoption**

* May 12th Town Council Public Forum Meeting Minutes
* May 12th 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 Pro Tem Tom Widmer congratulated Public Works Director Barry Creasman and Senior Water Operator Jarod McIntosh for the perfect score they received on their sanitation inspection for the water system which was performed by NCDEQ.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

**Old Business**

There was no Old Business to discuss.

**New Business**

1. Public Hearing RE: FY 22-23 Budget for the Town of Montreat: Commissioner Jane Alexander moved to open the public hearing. Commissioner Kent Otto seconded and the motion carried 5/0. The public hearing was thus opened.

* Mrs. Letta Jean Taylor, former Montreat Mayor, of 386 Oklahoma Road asked the Council to consider a 6% Cost of Living Adjustment Raise (COLA) for Staff like Black Mountain and Asheville are proposing. Mrs. Taylor mentioned that the chipper, dump truck and tractor were all being left off the budget again and she stated that in her experience when things are left off they tend to snowball and lead to a huge tax increase. Mrs. Taylor suggested a $0.02 tax increase which would give the Town $50,000 per cent which would allow several things to be accomplished. Mrs. Taylor expressed her desire for the Town to get aggressive again with street repairs.

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Kitty Fouche seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

1. Consideration of FY 22-23 Budget Ordinance and Fee Schedule: Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer moved to approve the FY 22-23 Budget Ordinance and Fee Schedule. Commissioner Kent Otto seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

C. Consideration of Adoption of Continuing Resolution of the 2008 Montreat Comprehensive Plan: Mayor Helms stated that this motion would extend the use of the 2008 Montreat Comprehensive Plan until the new plan is complete. Commissioner Kitty Fouche moved to adopt the Continuing Resolution of the 2008 Montreat Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Mason Blake seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

D. Consideration of Setting a Public Hearing re: Conditional Zoning on property located at Lot 1185, Mississippi Road (PIN#07106501680000): Commissioner Kent Otto moved to set a Public Hearing on July 14th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. or soon thereafter with regards to a Conditional Zoning application. Commissioner Jane Alexander seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

E. Consideration of Adoption of an Ordinance Amending the Charter of the Town of Montreat to Adopt the Council-Manager Form of Government: Commissioner Kitty Fouche moved to adopt an Ordinance amending the Charter of the Town of Montreat to adopt the Council-Manager Form of Government. Commissioner Mason Blake seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

F. Consideration of Flat Creek Crossing Project: Grace Nichols, Landcare Chair, of 527 Suwannee Drive advised the Council that her team had acquired a survey at the request of the Town Council at the April meeting. April Carder, trail designer, was on-hand to answer any questions. Mayor Tim Helms asked what safety features were taken into consideration. Ms. Carder stated that the grade and surface of the grade are both very important safety features that have been addressed. Ms. Carder mentioned special curbing and handrails for the visually impaired in particular. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer stated that the area there floods frequently and questioned whether the surface will withstand issues of fast water. Ms. Carder stated that currently concrete is down near the trail and the concrete is overhanging the edge of the creek. Ms. Carder stated that the proposed improvements will make it a little more stable. Commissioner Kitty Fouche moved to approve the Flat Creek Crossing Project. Commissioner Jane Alexander seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

**Commissioner Communications**

Interim Town Administrator Ben Blackburn thanked the homeowners, property owners and visitors for their indirect participation in the FY 22-23 Budget Process. Mr. Blackburn also expressed his thanks to Town Staff and to the Board of Commissioners.

Mayor Helms thanked Mr. Blackburn for the well-done conservative budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Helms stated that the Land-of-Sky MPO has approved the Town of Montreat’s grant for the Texas Road Bridge. Funding will be available in 2027. Funding for Phase I is also included in the FY 22-23 budget.

Mayor Helms expressed his disbelief that the Montreat Stewards are questioning the volunteers on the Board of Adjustment and the decision they made regarding the MRA Lodge issue.

**Dates to Remember**

* Montreat Tomorrow, Comprehensive Plan Community Workshop, Postponed
* Bridge Aesthetics Committee, June 14th at 2:00 p.m. in Town Hall and by Zoom Meeting Software
* Audit Committee, June 16th at 2:00 p.m. in Town Hall
* Montreat Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Virtual Meeting, June 21st at 6:00 p.m.
* Board of Adjustment will not meet in June
* Tree Board, Tuesday June 28th at 9:30 a.m. in Town Hall and by Zoom Meeting Software
* Landcare will not meet in July
* Town Offices Closed, Monday July 4th in observance of the July 4th Holiday. Sanitation services will resume on Tuesday, July 5th
* Bulk Pickup, Wednesday July 6th beginning at 8:00 a.m. at your Curb
* July Town Council Meeting, Thursday July 14th at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall and by Zoom Meeting Software. Public Forum begins at 6:30 p.m.
* Tree Board, Tuesday July 26th at 9:30 a.m. in Town Hall and by Zoom Meeting Software

**Adjournment**

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kent Otto seconded and the motion carried 5/0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

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Tim Helms , Mayor Angie Murphy, Town Clerk