

**Town of Montreat
Board of Commissioners
Public Forum Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall & Zoom**

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

Board members absent: None

Town staff present: Ben Blackburn, Interim Town Manager
Angie Murphy, Town Clerk

Approximately thirteen 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.

Agenda Approval

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

Public Forum

Mrs. Letta Jean Taylor of 386 Oklahoma Road respectfully asked the Board to not host Public Hearings and votes on the same night.

Dr. Mary Standaert of 118 Shenandoah Terrace asked for the formula by which the fund balance was actually calculated in 2020. Interim Town Manager Ben Blackburn stated that he would meet with Finance Officer Darlene Carrasquillo and follow up with Dr. Standaert. Dr. Standaert also wanted to know why Commissioners Fouche and Otto did not sign the letter to the state treasurer. Mr. Blackburn affirmed that all Board Members agreed to and signed the letter. Dr. Standaert also wanted it clarified that the fund balance was 16% in the previous year and went to 24% in the 2020-2021 audit, not the 32% that was expected. Mr. Blackburn stated that was correct. Dr. Standaert also had a question about the response from the Board with regards to the dramatic drop in the fund balance. Dr. Standaert wanted to know at what point the Board became aware that the Town Hall was \$255,000 over the \$1.69 million budget. Mayor Pro Tem Widmer explained that the \$1.69 million was the construction budget, and the Town actually came in under budget at \$1.64 million. Dr. Standaert wanted to know why the Town of Montreat had a net income of \$277,000 for FY22

and what areas were under budget. Mr. Blackburn explained that income was higher than budgeted and the underspending was in many areas as staff was trying to control expenses. Dr. Standaert stated she was a little surprised that the Board did not have a better handle on where all the savings derived from. She also mentioned that since there was a surplus that the Board could offer twice a week garbage collection in the summer to alleviate the bear problems.

Mr. Wade Burns stated that stormwater issues were top of mind in Montreat and offered his assistance to help control the stormwater problems.

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Widmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mason Blake seconded and the motion carried 5/0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Tim Helms, Mayor

Angie Murphy, Town Clerk