

**Town of Montreat  
Board of Commissioners  
Public Forum Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.  
Town Hall**

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

Board members absent: None

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

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

**Public Forum**

Mr. Philip Arnold of 530 Magill Drive asked the Town Council for an update on the hiring of a new Finance Officer. Interim Town Manager Ben Blackburn advised that an offer has been made and accepted by Rachel Eddings. Ms. Eddings has been working for the past month on a part time basis and will start full time on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Blackburn hoped Ms. Eddings would be in attendance later on this evening for an introduction to the Town.

Dr. Mary Standaert of 118 Shenandoah Terrace reflected on the history of Gaither Chapel and its importance to the Town of Montreat. Dr. Standaert recently learned that Montreat College plans to remove the chestnut pews from Graham Chapel and replace with more flexible seating. Dr. Standaert urged people to reach out to College administration if they had concerns about the pews.

Mayor Helms brought everyone's attention to a beautiful new podium in the Community Room which was handcrafted by our very own Commissioner Tom Widmer.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Pro Tem Mason Blake moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jane Alexander seconded and the motion carried 5/0. The meeting was adjourned prior to 6:37 p.m.

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Tim Helms, Mayor

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Angie Murphy, Town Clerk