Town of Montreat
Board of Commissioners
Public Forum Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall

Board members present:	Mayor Tim Helms Commissioner Jane Alexander Mayor Pro Tem Mason Blake Commissioner Kitty Fouche Commissioner Grant Dasher Commissioner Tom Widmer
Board members absent:	None
Town staff present:	Savannah Parrish, Town Manager Angie Murphy, Town Clerk Brandon Freeman, Town Attorney

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.

Agenda Approval

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

Public Forum

Dr. Mary Standaert of 118 Shenandoah Terrace stated that after traveling, as she did recently, it was nice to travel back through the gate of Montreat to one of the most beautiful places in the world. Dr. Standaert asked for an update on the cell tower issue that was discussed a few months ago. Commissioner Grant Dasher advised that while he had nothing to report at this time, he thought it would a great time for the Town's legal counsel to investigate the Town's options regarding the cell tower. Mayor Helms advised that the original agreement with the cell tower company was that they could install the tower, but it had to stay aesthetically pleasing to the community. Mayor Helms also stated that the maintenance of the tower was not what was agreed upon at installation. Dr. Standaert stated that while the Town had to agree to allow the cell tower to be built, they were able to put restrictions on the aesthetics. Ms. Parrish advised that in 2022 a colocation permit was issued, without conditions, to SBA Network Services, LLC. and it has been a struggle to obtain a contact person within the LLC. Dr. Standaert then asked if the $15 sanitation fee was still in the proposed budget. She went on to ask if the fee was one-time only and what the fee would go towards. Mayor Helms advised that it would be a monthly fee. Ms. Parrish advised that it would cover the salary of sanitation employee Drew Brown, convenience center upgrades, and Buncombe County tipping fees. Dr. Standaert stated that using a fee to cover personnel costs would be better be served as a tax increase.

There being no other questions or comments, Mayor Helms called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Tom Widmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Mason Blake seconded, and the motion carried 5/0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

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Tim Helms, Mayor Angie Murphy, Town Clerk