

# City of Blue Ridge

480 West First Street • Blue Ridge, Georgia • (706) 632-2091

Town Hall Meeting  
April 13, 2021  
4:00 pm  
480 West First Street

## MINUTES

### Present:

Council member: Mike Panter

Council member: Robbie Cornelius (arrived 4:17pm)

Council member: Nathan Fitts (by telephone)

City Clerk: Kelly Crowder

Zoning, Land Development, and Project Manager: Jeff Stewart

### 1) Call Meeting to Order

Council member Mike Panter called the meeting to order.

### 2) Zoning Changes

Council member Mike Panter opened the floor to anyone who wanted to speak about the Zoning Changes.

1. Richard Arnold, city resident wanted the height maximum to be 35', in favor that you could build back to what you had.
2. Brian Pritchard, wanted to note that all the Council members were at the last Town Hall meeting and only one showed this time and he wanted to know why that was. Council member Mike Panter let him know that Council member Nathan Fitts was on the telephone, Council member Robbie Cornelius will be there shortly she had a funeral to attend, Mayor Donna Whitener has developed some health issues. Mr. Pritchard discussed that if going back to 35' goes back to what town was like 20 years ago. He wanted to know how many Council members are still on Council that approved the 60' structure. He also asked what Council members current or past have vested interest in any of these buildings that are new and over 35'.
3. Donna Thompson – She thinks there does need to be a height limit. She wanted to establish a direction for the city as far as growth for the City. She wanted to know if there were any Council members that have a vested interest in a property that will be affected by this vote, and are they planning to vote or are they going to recuse themselves.
4. Brian Pritchard as a resident of Fannin County would like to see every Ordinance read tonight and, in the future, should be read in its entirety.  
Council member Mike Panter wanted to say in summary, he would like to find the height that makes sense for the future of the city. He also wanted to make sure

everyone understood that height is measured from the back of the building.

3) Short Term Rentals

Richard Arnold spoke about the special land use variance. He did not believe it was right.

4) Parking

Speaker did not announce his name, but his suggestion was to make Blue Ridge all honor system, put out collection boxes and signs. As far as residents, they have Fannin tags so no charge.

Council member Nathan Fitts agreed with this last speaker.

Next speaker: Keith Duncan – said local resident should be free parking, wanted to offer a shuttle service from 7p – 9p for the employees. Tourists could park off site and shuttle them in, have short term and long-term parking. He also mentioned having access to school busses on the weekends.

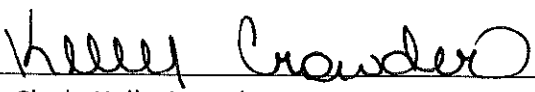
Donna Thompson spoke about the last Council meeting where a developer made the comment about solving all the City's parking. She said she assumed it was the developer for the retail space and parking garage. She did not understand why he would make such a comment because it would not solve all the problems. She also mentioned that she is concerned with an elected official holds a piece of property and it gets sold to the person who manages the parking, and he is managing parking on that lot and it is a private interest, so it seems to be a lot of gray area as far as a conflict of interest is concerned.

Richard Arnold spoke about how he wanted to be able to go downtown more but it is not possible. He spoke about wanting the honor system downtown.

Council member Mike Panter asked if there was anyone else that wanted to speak. No one did.

Time was about 17 minutes until the City Council meeting started.

This meeting was then terminated.

  
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City Clerk, Kelly Crowder

May 11, 2021  
Approved

  
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