

October 12th, 2017

At the Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Canton held at the Municipal Building Court Room, October 12th, 2017 at 6:30pm with Mayor Ray and Aldermen/women Edwards, Smathers, Hamlett and Mull present, the following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Ray called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Ray noted that the Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Town Clerk were all present and Alderman Smathers was attending via Iphone technology

C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Pastor Vos gave the Invocation, Alderwoman Edwards led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: 9/28/17

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the September 28th minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members present in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Ray inquired if Ms. Sherry Horton had been contacted regarding muddy water on Ferguson Street. Manager Burrell stated that Mark Jones had tested the water and it seemed to be in Ms. Horton's pipes not the Town system but he would confirm this and report back.

Mayor Ray asked the Manager if he had any new information on Smathers and Northside Streets. Manager Burrell stated that it was still in the progress.

Mayor Ray asked about the dip in the road located on North Main in front of the Crawford Ray Funeral Home was really starting to show signs of sinking. Manager Burrell stated he had contacted NCDOT and made them aware and did not know

their plans at this time.

Mayor Ray stated that the NJROTC inspection at Pisgah High School was a very good event. Mayor Ray announced that they had finished 9th in the Nation and should be commended on their hard work and dedication to this event.

F. Public Comments

Roland Osborne wanted to thank Johnny Gibson and his crews for a job well done on the patching and repair of the pothole in his neighborhood.

G. Aldermen/Women Comments

Alderwoman Mull stated that the NJROTC program was an excellent program and the inspection went well.

Alderwoman Edwards stated that it was an honor to be invited to the NJROTC inspection because the kids worked so hard with a lot of discipline and they did not always get the recognition they deserved. Alderwoman Edwards stated the program was excellent for all those involved.

Alderman Smathers stated that Emily Wilson had the Town looking better than it ever had and commended her on her hard work.

H. Public Hearing: to amend the Town Code of Ordinance to Add a Provision for Regulations of Sunday Sales of Alcoholic Beverages for the Purpose of Allowing Certain Alcoholic Sales to begin at 10:00am on Sunday Morning

Manager Burrell gave a brief description of the item to be considered at the public hearing. Alderwoman Hamlett made a motion to enter a public hearing at 6:45 pm. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of opening the public hearing.

Pastor Vos stated that he understood that alcohol was big business so what would two hours matter? Pastor Vos stated that it would send a message to people looking to move or

start a business in the Canton area to see that the Town was more conservative and put core family values first and that he asked the Board to vote the way God would want them to vote. Pastor Vos also volunteered to help push the Economic Development with family friendly values.

Mr. Nathan Lowe owner of the Southern Porch spoke in favor of the "Brunch Bill" stating it was not something that would catapult them to major sales but would keep Canton from being skipped over since the bill had passed in Asheville and Waynesville allowing Canton business owners to capture whomever wanted to partake in an alcoholic beverage at brunch. Mr. Lowe complimented the Town on its growth over the last 2 years and encouraged the Board to keep progressing.

Mr. David Angel owner of Elevated Distillery in Maggie Valley spoke in favor of the bill because of the impact that this industry had not only in Haywood County but the State as well. Mr. Angel encouraged the Board to do whatever means necessary to help support the businesses to help them grow and be profitable. Mr. Angel stated that if they did not pass the bill it would send a negative message to business investors seeking to start or relocate to this area.

Alderwoman Edwards made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:00pm. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion with all members voting to close the public hearing.

Consensus is to table this item until the next meeting on October 26th at which time a vote would be cast.

I. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report to the Board.

J. Old Business

Parade Route Change- Manager Burrell made the Board aware that the Police Chief had contacted most business owners and received positive remarks regarding the change of the parade route. Alderwoman Edwards asked that proper advertisement take place to assure the public was made aware. A consensus was to change the parade route.

Co-sponsorship Att-fit Halloween Festival-Manager Burrell made

the Board aware of the attached requested information from the ATT-Fit non-profit organization. After a brief discussion Alderman Hamlett made a motion to co-sponsor the ATT-Fit Guinness Book of World Records Halloween Haunted House. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the motion.

Pickin' in the Armory- Manager Burrell invited the Board to engage in a discussion on the cost related to the event. After a brief discussion Manager Burrell stated he would compile the numbers and report back to the Board for a decision.

Parade Theme- Manager Burrell provided a list of parade themes and after a brief discussion the theme "An Ole Time Christmas" was chosen.

K. New

1. Co-Sponsorship Application- Bounce for Pink

Manager Burrell presented a co-sponsorship application to waive facility fees for the Bounce for Pink event to benefit 5 families for the Christmas Holidays in conjunction with Long's Chapel. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the co-sponsorship. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the motion.

2. Veteran's Day Ad request for the Mountaineer.

Manager Burrell presented a request from the Mountaineer to sponsor an ad in the Veterans edition of the paper. Alderman Hamlett requested to have a discussion on the topic. After a lengthy discussion, Alderman Hamlett made a motion to select a Veterans organization and donate the money straight to the selected Veterans group and as an example the Wounded Warrior program. Alderwoman Edwards concern was that the perception would be that the Town of Canton did not support the Veterans. Alderwoman Edwards made a motion to purchase a 1/8-page ad for \$95.00 and send the same amount to the group of choice. Alderwoman Mull stated that if the ad was purchased then the money would go to the Mountaineer instead of the Veterans. Alderman Smathers commended Alderman Hamlett's stance on this topic stating that he was in favor of a donation to a Veterans group and if it was decided to

do an ad then suggest to the Mountaineer that next year some of the proceeds be donated to a Veterans group. Alderman Smathers left the meeting due to other commitments. Alderman Hamlett stated it is always easier to do the right thing when someone is watching but you should put your money where your mouth is when no one is watching and maybe other municipalities would follow suit and give their money directly to the Veterans. Alderwoman Edwards made a motion to purchase an 1/8-page ad and select a group to donate money to as well. Alderman Hamlett stated that the Wounded Warrior Project is one he would recommend and would let the Board decide the amount as he would not support a vote for the ad. The consensus of \$95.00 would be the amount to donate. Alderwoman Edwards voted in favor of the motion she made adding the 1/8-page ad with Alderman Hamlett and Alderwoman Mull voting against the motion as presented. The motion to purchase an ad did not pass for a lack of a second. Mayor Ray stated that he was also in favor of a small ad due to the perception of support for the Veterans.

3. 10 Tax Release, 2016 Tax Settlement, Order to Collect

Manager Burrell presented the Board with the 10-year Tax Releases. After a brief discussion, this will be tabled until the next meeting.

Manager Burrell presented the 2016 Tax Settlement. Alderwoman Edwards made a motion to approve the 2016 Tax Settlement as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the motion. Mayor Ray asked what percentage of collection was at this point. Manager Burrell stated that the collection rate was 97%.

Manager Burrell presented the Order to Collect Taxes and Second Notices. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the Order to Collect and Second Notices as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion with all member voting in favor of the motion.

4. Pool Update-

Mayor Ray inquired if the pool would be open this year and if the final punch list had been performed. After a lengthy discussion Alderman Hamlett stated that if the grand opening was in the Spring his wish would be that the current Board would be recognized as they were the ones that voted for and

saw the project through to fruition. Mayor Ray asked if any contingency money was left after the project to maybe look at some ADA playground equipment for the playground. Alderwoman Edwards stated that she might be able to find life guards if the pool were to open. Manager Burrell asked Alderwoman Edwards to contact him first thing Friday morning with the names.

5. Employee Medical Benefits

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that during the difficult times between Blue Cross Blue Shield and Mission Health Systems that he and Jackie Edwards had been shopping around for benefits to make sure that the employees had the best coverage with the doctors and facilities that they were accustomed to. Manager Burrell stated that he was recommending to the Board that they change to back to Medcost which provided employee coverage for years as soon as possible. After a brief discussion regarding rates and coverage Alderman Hamlett made a motion to switch the health benefits to Medcost. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the motion.

6. Reynolds School Foundation Request

Manager Burrell suggested to the Board that he get more information and bring back to the Board regarding this event stating that the Board could give an amount directly to the Foundation without giving to the concert. This request was tabled until the next several meetings.

L. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting will be a Public Hearing held on October 26th at 6:30pm.

M. Adjournment

There being no additional business, Mayor Ray adjourned the Meeting at 8:03pm.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk