

## **February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

At the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Canton held at the Municipal Building Boardroom, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women Mull, Hamlett, Smith and Markey present, the following proceedings were held.

### **A. Call to Order**

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

### **B. Roll Call**

Mayor Smathers noted that the Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Town Clerk were all present.

### **C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

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

### **D. Approval of Minutes: 1/25/18 and 1/27/18**

Alderman Markey made a motion to amend the January 27<sup>th</sup> minutes to reflect that his statement regarding the hiring of vacant positions should be advertised inside and outside for applicants for all positions that became vacant not just the Police Chief position and it should be articulated as standard policy. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the January 25<sup>th</sup> minutes as presented and the January 27<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

### **E. Mayor Comments**

Mayor Smathers began his comments by stating that the economic push is still in forward motion and a lot of exciting interest was happening in Canton.

Mayor Smathers commented that the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Plunge was going to take place in the Champion Credit Union Aquatics Center and this was a great way to showcase Canton and support Haywood Waterways at the same time.

## **F. Aldermen/women Comments**

Alderwoman Smith stated that it was good to be back after her battle with the flu. Alderwoman Smith stated that the planning session went well and a lot of discussion regarding infrastructure took place during the meeting. Alderwoman Smith requested that the Manager set a work-session to discuss the Colonial Theatre, Armory, and other recreational venues. Alderwoman Smith also reiterated Mayor Smathers comments regarding the economic movement adding that the residential side was also booming and she receives at least one call per week inquiring about Canton.

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Alderwoman Mull stated that the work-session went well and the future of Canton looked bright.

Alderman Markey commented that he was excited for what was to come for Canton. Alderman Markey stated that the work-session was a learning experience for him and it was good to be updated on all the projects that were in the works. Alderman Markey also inquired if the schedules such as holiday garbage pick-up could be added to the website.

Mayor Smathers commended staff for their hard work and stated that getting all the Town venues where they needed to be was a top focus of this Board.

## **G. Public Comments**

Mr. Phillip Wright a Town citizen stated that it was important to him as a taxpayer that employees within the organization get a hard look for promotion before going to the outside to hire for openings.

Alderman Hamlett commented that the newspapers do a good job and there was great value in what they do, however, sometimes if just one word such as "if" was left out it could alter the perception of the quote. Alderman Hamlett clarified that his comment was that "if" the Manager did not hire within the organization that he would like for whomever was hired to live in the Canton area. Alderman Hamlett stated that he was not against hiring within the organization as his Dad was an internal hire as Police Chief.

Manager Burrell stated that it was his intention to open the

applications to inside, as well as outside candidates so that the Town was assured to get the best person for the job. Manager Burrell stated that the internal candidates had strong qualifications and would most certainly be considered for the position.

Mayor Smathers stated that at no time had the Manager been instructed to hire inside or outside that this was a general discussion for open positions and the Manager would hire whomever he thinks will do the best job for Canton.

Alderwoman Mull stated that whomever was chosen had big shoes to fill as Chief Whitner was going to be a hard act to follow.

Alderman Markey stated that the Board discussed their perspective and the qualities that they would like the Manager to consider however, the Manager was responsible for the hiring of employees. Alderman Markey also agreed with Alderwoman Mull that Chief Whitner has done a fantastic job in this position.

## **H. Reports from the Manager**

Manager Burrell presented the cash report to the Board.

Manager Burrell reminded the Board that a ribbon cutting ceremony would be held at 2:00pm on February 19<sup>th</sup> for the Kountry Kitchen that had recently opened for business.

Manager Burrell updated the Board on necessary purchases that need to be made at Camp Hope before the season kicked off. Such as, a new ice maker, stove, damaged roof, and possibly the flooring in the kitchen. Manager Burrell stated that in the budget work-session the Board would chart the course on what they would like to see at the Camp. Alderwoman Smith inquired as to what type of rentals were booked at the Camp. Manager Burrell responded that the Camp was booked for the entire season on weekends and most week days. This consist of a good mixture of weekly and daily rentals.

## **I. Old Business**

Manager Burrell asked the Board if they had any recommendations for the 1% TDA Sub-Committee for

consideration. Alderman Hamlett recommended Pam Kearse and Ed Underwood. Mayor Smathers recommended Nathan or Michaela Lowe and possibly a reappointment of Laura Simmons. Manager Burrell reminded the Board that the TDA guidelines for the appointments are tourism related, such as business owners, or someone that was in the tourist industry. Manager Burrell stated that he would contact the individuals to see if they would consider serving on this committee.

## **J. New Business**

### **1. Co-Sponsorship Request for the Special Olympics**

Manager Burrell presented the Board with a request (see attached) from Tim Petrea from Haywood County Special Olympics. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the event as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion with all members voting in the affirmative.

### **2. Co-Sponsorship Request "Remember the 22" Patti Best**

Manager Burrell presented the co-sponsorship request (see attached). After a brief discussion, the Board instructed the Clerk to contact Mrs. Best and advise her to partner with a non-profit such as the VFW. Mrs. Best will also need to obtain a Certificate of Liability Insurance and return to the Board as policy would not allow them to co-sponsor an event unless it met certain criteria. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to table this request. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the motion.

## **K. Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next Special Called meeting will be held on February 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Board Chambers.

## **L. Adjournment**

There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:10 pm.

---

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk