

March 22nd, 2018

At the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Canton held at the Municipal Building Boardroom, March 22nd, 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 Voss gave the Invocation, Alderwoman Smith led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: 3/8/18 and 3/13/18

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the March 8th and March 13th minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion with all members voted to approve the minutes as presented.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers began his comments by stating that he had attended a Haywood County Commissioners meeting and humbly accepted a \$25,000-dollar donation to the Champion Credit Union Aquatics Center. Mayor Smathers commended the County in their willingness to give back to the community and the working relationship with the Town of Canton.

Mayor Smathers read a thank you note from the Ronnie Sprinkle family for the Peace Lilly that was sent from the Town in honor of Ronnie's tireless efforts as one of Canton's prior Aldermen.

Mayor Smathers asked Attorney Morgan if the Lawsuits that were being filed by municipalities against drug companies pertained to the Town of Canton and asked him to research the subject.

Mayor Smathers made the Board aware that The Home and Garden Real Estate Group had opened their office in downtown Canton and he was excited to see the growth and the need for a real estate company in Canton.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Smith stated the Board had a great work-session regarding the Colonial Theatre and she looked forward to processing the information requested and discussing the options during budget discussions.

Alderman Markey stated that during the work-session there was a good dialogue and he agreed with Alderman Hamlett that the Colonial was the "Jewel of Canton" and there was still a lot of work to do in the decision of the future of the Colonial and making sure that it is utilized.

Mayor Smathers inquired if anyone was contacted regarding the usage of the Colonial whom they should contact. Manager Burrell stated that if it was an event they should call Denise Holcombe and if it consisted of a lease or vision of use, then that should be directed to the Manager.

G. Public Comments

Mr. Carl Cortright stated that he had looked at the budget expenditures verses revenues and anything that the Colonial could be used for to fill the gap would be great. Mr. Cortright stated that he was disappointed with the notification for the Papertown 5k race and that a lot of the businesses were not aware of the event. Mr. Cortright suggested a need to form a business association. Tiffany Cortright stated that it should be announced so that other businesses could capitalize on events going on in the Town and any road closures resulting from these events.

Mayor Smathers stated that he thought government had a role but this would-be business/citizen based association that could work together to find ways to promote their businesses and bring them closer together.

Alderwoman Mull inquired if the parking spaces in front of businesses belonged to them or the Town. Manager Burrell stated that he would discuss this issue with the businesses that

in fact they are owned by the Town.

Pastor Voss stated that this was a faith community and when looking at the usage ideas for the Colonial that the Town needed to identify the core values and allow them to be filters for what the Town marketed for the Colonial.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report to the Board.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that Town employee, Wanda Lurvey, had graciously donated a 6-foot waterwheel to replace the old one in waterwheel park in loving memory of her late husband John Lurvey. Manager Burrell stated that Mrs. Lurvey had an extremely big heart and loved this community. The Board remarked on how gracious and thoughtful this donation was and asked the Manager to thank her for the kind donation.

I. New Business

1. NJROTC Sponsorship Request

Commander Weaver from the Pisgah High School NJROTC program reported to the Board all the accomplishments that his cadets had earned during the school year. Commander Weaver informed the Board that his cadets had worked hard and had achieved the chance to compete at the Nationals again this year, which is a tremendous accomplishment. Commander Weaver asked the Board if the Town of Canton would sponsor this event to help offset the costs so that every kid would be able to participate in the competition. The Mayor and Board praised Commander Weaver on such a stellar program and class of young men and women. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to donate \$500-dollars to sponsor this event for the Pisgah NJROTC National competition. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Alderman Markey made a motion to up the sponsorship to \$750-dollars seconded by Alderwoman Smith, after a brief discussion, this motion died for a lack of a motion. Alderman Markey requested that the Board entertain the first motion from Alderwoman Mull for the \$500-dollar sponsorship. All members voted in favor of the motion to approve \$500-dollars to the Pisgah NJROTC. Motion carried.

2. Co-Sponsorship Request: Haywood County Senior Games Banquet

Manager Burrell introduced Haywood County Parks and Recreation Director, Claire Carleton, as well as presented a summary of a co-sponsorship request to use the Armory for the Senior Games Banquet. After a brief discussion, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the co-sponsorship application and waive all fees associated with this event. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the motion.

3. Recognition for the Historical Museum Volunteers

Mrs. Caroline Ponton recognized Phil Paxton, Carroll Jones, Jenny McPherson, and Liz Skene for their knowledge, volunteerism, mentorship, and tireless efforts with regard to the Canton Historical Museum. The Mayor and Board thanked the recipients for a job well done.

4. Historical Marker Request: Caroline Ponton - Carroll Jones

Mrs. Caroline Ponton, Curator of the Historical Museum, introduced Mr. Carroll Jones to discuss the purchase and positioning of a historical marker to be designed to show the original stone abutment of the bridge that had the company name from Canton, Ohio. In 1893, the Town changed the name from Pigeon River to Canton because they liked the name from the bridge plate. This location was once an important fording spot for travelers going East to Asheville or West to Waynesville. Manager Burrell stated that this item could be addressed during budget times, but also added that the Board might consider several important historical markers to try and connect them along the greenway system. The board thanked Mr. Jones and Mrs. Ponton for their research and tireless efforts in preserving and displaying our history.

5. Sponsorship Request: The Community Kitchen

Mrs. Linda Caldwell submitted a co-sponsorship request for the

10th annual golf tournament to benefit the Community Kitchen. Mrs. Caldwell expressed the need for people to get what is sometimes their only meal and to be treated with respect and love while they were at the kitchen. Mayor Smathers inquired when the new facility would be open? Mrs. Caldwell stated that the goal was this summer to have the new location up and running. Alderman Markey made a motion to sponsor \$500-dollars to the 10th annual golf tournament for the Community Kitchen. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the sponsorship.

J. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be held on April 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the Town of Canton Board Chambers.

K. Closed Session

Alderman Mull made a motion to enter closed session at 7:44 p.m. Alderman Markey seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the closed session. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter open session at 8:44 p.m. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the motion.

L. Adjournment

There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk