

## **March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

At the Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Canton held in the William G. Stamey Municipal Boardroom, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. 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, Assistant Manager, Town Clerk, and Finance Officer were also present.

### **C. Work-session**

Manager Burrell opened the work-session with what his plans were for the 2019-2020 budget and asked the Board to chime in at anytime with questions or input.

Manager Burrell stated that the engineering and Right-of-Way acquisition for the Bike and Pedestrian plan would be included in the 2019-20 budget. Manager Burrell stated that several open input sessions and numerous meetings reflected the connectivity of sidewalks on Champion Drive and better walkability in the downtown area were two major targets of this plan.

Manager Burrell stated that in the Spring, Town of Canton crews would finish the sidewalk project on Newfound Street before starting any new streetscape work downtown. Manager Burrell commented that he likes to see projects to fruition before starting on other projects with none getting completed.

Manager Burrell reported that he planned to use Powell Bill funding to improve roadways, however when he did this it would not only include paving, milling, resurfacing but also looking at the infrastructure under the street to see if this needed replaced to alleviate cutting newly paved streets. Alderwoman Smith commented that she agreed that even if it took a little longer it should be done the right way.

Manger Burrell stated that the long-awaited round-a- bout project would begin in March and should be completed sometime in late fall. Alderwoman Smith inquired if the State

would be responsible for the notifications. Manager Burrell affirmed that the North Carolina Department of Transportation would be responsible for notifications, road detours, etc.

Manager Burrell stated that he would like to set money aside to finish the streetscape on Main Street as promised in the location of Mears Avenue near Neal McCracken's building before moving to the Park Street side. Alderman Markey inquired if money was being set aside in the 19/20 budget for these projects. Manager Burrell stated that he would like to accomplish all that he can with money already set aside in the 18/19 budget for mostly paving and add money back in the 19/20 budget for streetscape. Alderman Markey asked if we had something on the books to keep people from parking on new sidewalks and how would we justify streetscape when residential streets were in poor condition? Alderman Markey suggested that the motor vehicle tax be revisited this budget. Manager Burrell stated that he would work with the Police Department to better educate people about parking on sidewalks and that making parking on one side of the street was being looked at in several locations.

Mayor Smathers stated that this was the second year that this Board had worked together and that he felt that they needed to step it up with big ideas and forward thinking and this was the time if anyone had suggestions they would like to see implemented.

Manager Burrell stated that he would not recommend the motor vehicle tax again. Alderman Markey stated that if a plan was in place he would support the implementation this year and felt that it would be okay to revisit.

Mayor Smathers stated that speeding needed to be addressed on the upper end of Main Street with the new businesses in the area that people were speeding from Jan's Blossom shop to Three Compas to try and beat the red light and it was making crossing the street in that area to the bakery, nutrition shop, toy store, etc. very hazardous.

Manager Burrell introduced former Mayor Patrick Smathers. Mr. Smathers reported to the Board that a trust for community projects had been established by two very gracious people Mr. and Mrs. David Smathers called the Cruso Endowment. Mr. Smathers stated that the stipulations on the monies was that it meet certain criteria to benefit the community. Mr. Smathers stated that he had met with Manager Burrell and Town Clerk

Stinnett and was excited to see how this money could be used for the betterment of the community and the Citizens that lived here and that this needed to be considered each year during budget time of what projects would be most beneficial for the Town within the stipulations of the fund. Manager Burrell and the Board thanked Mr. Smathers for the information presented.

Manager Burrell stated that the Champion Credit Union Aquatics Center would be opening May 25<sup>th</sup> for the 2019 season. Manager Burrell stated that the revenue generated the first year was the most that had been generated in numerous years maybe ever. Manager Burrell stated that he planned to have food trucks more often at the facility to replace the concession stand as in the past year. Alderman Markey asked if vending machines could be added as well.

Alderman Markey stated that he felt like the quality of life needed to be elevated for the people in Canton especially with the usage of the Colonial Theatre.

Manager Burrell stated that he planned to look at the design to Sorrells Street Park and what we can and cannot do regarding the floodway restrictions in this budget year.

Manager Burrell reported to the Board that he wanted to implement some of the proposed ideas from Clemson University to the Camp Hope property. Manager Burrell stated that he would also like to change out the windows in the caretaker's house that has been discussed in the last fiscal year.

Manager Burrell stated he would like to visit the trail grant program for Rough Creek in the 19/20 budget.

Alderman Markey stated that he felt the Armory facility should be made to be as versatile as possible with adding a kitchen or using the Senior Center's Kitchen, as well as the floors needed to be refinished. Alderman Hamlett stated that these decisions could be made after the future sit-down meeting with Mountain Projects.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that he planned on implementing the same monetary amount as last fiscal year for economic development.

Manager Burrell stated that the Water and Sewer Asset Management Plan would help us to better identify future needs, as well as the finishing the Spruce Street Water Project.

Manager Burrell stated that infrastructure was one of the things he would like to see upgraded as funds allowed.

### **L. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk