

October 26th, 2017

At the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Canton held at the Municipal Building Boardroom, October 26th, 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.

C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Pastor Vos gave the Invocation, Alderman Hamlett led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: 10/12/17

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the October 12th minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members present in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Ray asked the Manager if he had any new information on Smathers and Northside Streets. Manager Burrell stated that he should hear from the engineer within the next week regarding his suggestions to remedy the problem on Northside Street. Manager Burrell also stated that no reports of problems had been reported since the larger signage had been put in place regarding no tractor trailers and he would continue to monitor the situation until town crews were available to install the concrete median.

Mayor Ray asked the Manager to fix the section of sidewalk that was crumbled on Adams Street before cold weather. Manager Burrell stated he would check on this issue.

Manager Burrell also reported to the Mayor that the Drive-thru entrance was on the schedule to be paved and a cut-out for

handicap accessibility would be installed soon.

F. Public Comments

Roland Osborne stated that he was probably the oldest veteran in the audience and that he served his country in the Navy. Mr. Osborne thanked Alderman Hamlett for his efforts to try to make sure that the veterans were helped directly by contributions instead of indirectly. Mr. Osborne also reminded everyone that the North Carolina State Motto is "Esse quam videri" meaning "to be, rather than to seem". Mr. Osborne stated that he felt as if that was exactly what Alderman Hamlett's goal was at the last meeting by voting against and ad and donating monies to an organization instead.

G. Aldermen/Women Comments

Alderman Smathers stated that he appreciated the quick response regarding taking the football sign down that was flailing in the wind and suggested purchasing a new one to hang at the beginning of next season.

Alderman Smathers inquired if the lights had been fixed that shine on the flags at the gazebo and veterans memorial? Manager Burrell stated that he had an employee checking into the repairs that it would take to get the lights in working order.

Alderman Hamlett thanked Mr. Osborne for his kind words then responded to the rumors that were circulating throughout the community that Alderman Hamlett and the Town of Canton did not support the veterans. Alderman Hamlett stated that his actions were to try to make sure that the monies donated for the veterans benefitted the veterans instead of another entity and since the confusion with that he wanted to pay for an ad in the Mountaineer himself not using taxpayer dollars so that the perception of support from the Town of Canton would be a positive one and the use of taxpayer dollars in an amount equal to that to go directly to a Veterans organization of the Board's choice. Alderman Hamlett explained in detail that his father and other relatives had served this country and had allowed him the freedoms to do and be what he wanted and that he could never truly understand the sacrifice that those that served and continue to serve our Country.

Mr. Eddie Underwood stated that he felt as if Alderman Hamlett was referring that he started the rumors and that he in fact had not. Mayor Ray stated that no names or insinuations were made in the statement by Alderman Hamlett and this was not the time for this discussion. Mr. Underwood asked that Alderman Hamlett meet with him after the meeting to discuss this issue further. Alderman Hamlett agreed.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report to the Board.

Manager Burrell asked the Board's pleasure regarding the Christmas Tree for the tree lighting ceremony either to have a pole tree again or possibly spend up to \$500.00 dollars to purchase a live tree of at least 15 feet or higher. Mayor Ray suggested to contact Sandy Hollow Farms in the Sandy Mush area. Manager Burrell also stated that we could seek donations of trees from the public through social media.

Manager Burrell stated that the Swearing In Ceremony would tentatively be scheduled for November 30th at 6:30pm.

Manager Burrell stated that he had been approached by Ms. Laura Conard regarding the Veterans Day Celebration for this year. Manager Burrell disbursed the agenda for the event stating that Ms. Conard was seeking the Town of Canton to sponsor this event. After a short discussion Alderwoman Edwards made a motion to sponsor the 2017 Canton Veterans Day Event on November 11th from 11:00am to 12:00 noon. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the motion.

I. Old Business

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. Alderman Smathers stated that it would be a possibility to use prisoners to help with set-up and take-down free of charge and that that could be explored further. Mayor Ray stated that this is something to provide the community during the winter months and he felt that it was

important to give back to the community. Alderwoman Edwards agreed stating that a lot of citizens attended this event and there was not a lot of other activities going on for the people during the winter months. It was the consensus of the Board to continue this event.

Consideration of the Ordinance to allow alcohol sales at 10am on Sunday referred to as the "Brunch Bill".

Manager Burrell stated that the Board had held a public hearing regarding the "Brunch Bill" and asked the Board to consider the adoption of the ordinance as presented. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the "Brunch Bill" as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Alderman Smathers abstained from the vote citing his family profited from the restaurant business and even though he did not directly he would not vote on the issue to avoid the appearance of a conflict. Alderwoman Edwards voted against the motion stating she was proud of Bryson City for not passing this ordinance and wished this Board would have done the same. The ordinance passed 3 to 1. Mayor Ray stated that although he did not get to vote he was against the ordinance as well.

Veterans Day Contribution

Manager Burrell stated that the contribution amount to a Veterans organization was tabled from the last meeting and asked the Board's pleasure as how to proceed. Alderwoman Mull stated that she had spoken with the Canton American Legion post 61 and that they would appreciate any donations made to them as they were in the process of fund raising to replace the roof on their facility. Alderwoman Mull also stated that after some research that the Wounded Warrior project only used 3% of donations to benefit the veterans directly. Alderwoman Edwards inquired if the money would benefit the Canton Chapter directly? Alderwoman Mull stated that it would go directly to the Canton American Legion. After a brief discussion with Town Attorney William Morgan regarding the motion legalities, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to donate \$150.00 to the Canton American Legion Post 61. Alderwoman Edwards seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Alderman Smathers commended and agreed with Alderman Hamlett on his stance regarding donating taxpayers money directly to a Veterans organization also stating that

unfortunately perception is everything in the times we live. Alderman Smathers made a motion to approve the donation from Alderman Hamlett to pay for the ad in the Mountaineer Veterans edition on behalf of the Town of Canton. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

J. New

1. Proposed New Development site approval for parcel #8657-47-7079.

Manager Burrell presented a new development site plan that was recommended by the Planning Board for approval. Manager Burrell stated that final plan approval would also go before the Planning Board for approval and if approved would come back to the Board for approval at that time. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the proposed site approval that was recommended by the Planning Board. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

2. Suggested Parade Rules and Regulations

Manager Burrell presented the proposed rules and regulations for parades. After a brief discussion, it was referred to the Town Attorney for recommendations and brought back to the Board for discussion.

3. 10 Tax Release

Manager Burrell presented the Board with the 10-year Tax Releases and assured the Board that staff did everything within the law to collect on taxes and collection rates were around 97 to 98 percent now and that most of these releases were due to bankruptcy or were personal property not real property. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the ten-year tax releases as presented. Alderwoman Edwards seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the motion.

Mayor Ray reminded the Manager to please check to see if any left-over monies from the pool project could be utilized for ADA playground equipment and overhead heat protection for the existing slides.

K. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting will be a Public Hearing held on November 9th at 6:30pm.

L. Adjournment

There being no additional business, Mayor Ray adjourned the Meeting at 7:32pm.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk