

November 9th, 2017

At the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Canton held at the Municipal Building Boardroom, November 9th, 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, Alderwoman Edwards led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: 10/26/17

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the October 26th minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members present in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Ray stated that Joann Browning had graciously agreed to donate the municipal parking areas to the Town. Mayor Ray stated that the Browning's had been an instrumental supporter of the Town for many years. The parking areas are located at Mears Avenue and across from Davis Furniture on Main Street.

Mayor Ray congratulated the new Board members on their election and wished them well in their endeavors. Mayor Ray also thanked all that ran for their interest in Canton.

Mayor Ray thanked Alderwoman Edwards for her service to the Town and thanked her for voting for what she felt was in the best interest of the Town, as well as her tireless dedication but most importantly her friendship.

Mayor Ray thanked all the people who were responsible for the

Veterans Day celebration and invited everyone to come out and support our Veterans on Saturday November 11th at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Ray also reminded everyone of the Grand Ole Opry event that would be in the Theatre on Sunday provided by the Haywood Arts Council and that all Veterans would be admitted free of charge.

F. Public Comments

Pastor Vos of 149 Newfound Street, asked if the Town could install a gate on the playground to keep small children from wondering into the roadway.

Carl Cortright of 15 Allen Street, inquired if the Recreation Park had a smoking area with receptacles as he noticed a lot of people smoking in the Recreation Park.

Jean Parris stated that she was against the proposed parade policy disallowing the display of the Confederate flag. The banner she presented at the meeting for "Drugs in Our Midst" would be prohibited under the proposed policy. Ms. Parris stated that she felt everyone should be allowed to display banner/flags under the Constitution.

Judy Bartlett of 22 Sunset Drive, gave a brief history of the Confederate flag and stating that it is the Communist goal to destroy our history. Ms. Bartlett urged the Board to reconsider the parade policy that was proposed.

Yvonne Gilbert stated that she moved here to raise her children because it was a place of dignity and tolerance. Ms. Gilbert stated that this was a part of our history and she was strongly against the proposed parade policy.

Mike Combs stated that he moved here several years ago and that it took a while to be accepted by the local people and he understood why. Mr. Combs stated that foreigners move into this beautiful place and try to force issues that didn't even work where they moved from and change the heritage of this place. Mr. Combs encouraged the Board to vote down this proposed ordinance stating that the media portrays the Confederate flag as something that it is not.

Mr. Chris Jennings of Oakmont Drive, stated that according to the wording of the proposed policy that the Community Kitchen and his church would not be able to participate in the parade because religion offended some people. Mr. Jennings also stated that the Town of Canton could set an example to others stating that you can display whatever you want whether we agree or not and we will love and accept you because of who you are not what you believe by loving everyone. Mr. Jennings stated that he felt that it is his right to display a religious symbol if he chooses to and that this is where the non-profits such as the Community Kitchen get a lot of exposure.

Andrew Henson of 47 Cooper Street, stated that Canton can only grow if we ban together and this policy would only divide and pull the community apart.

G. Aldermen/Women Comments

Alderwoman Edwards commented that she had enjoyed her four years on the Board and even though at times a difference of opinion would arise it always seemed to get worked out. Alderwoman Edwards stated that she wanted to thank Mayor Ray for his willingness to give many years of his time and money to benefit this town and she really appreciated everything that he and his family had done for the community.

Alderman Hamlett thanked the outgoing Board members for their service and welcomed the newly elected members.

Alderman Smathers thanked all the people in attendance stating that the community is diverse and the First Amendment guides everything. Alderman Smathers stated that all the comments will be taken to heart and that we are all still one in this community. Alderman Smathers thanked Mayor Ray and Alderwoman Edwards for their service to the community.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report to the Board.

Manager Burrell presented a request for co-sponsorship from the American Red Cross to use the Armory on January 2, 2018 from 8am until 3pm for a blood drive. Alderman Hamlett made

a motion to approve the co-sponsorship as presented. Alderwoman Edwards seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

I. New Business

Crossroad Hill Water Project Award

Manager Burrell presented a project award for Hyatt Pipeline Inc. for the Crossroad Hill water project. Alderwoman Edwards made a motion to award Hyatt Pipeline Inc. the project. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the motion.

Relay for Life

Manager Burrell presented a list of dates that Relay for Life would like to use the Town Hall facilities for meetings, as well as the use of the Recreation Park for the Relay for Life Event. Manager Burrell made the Board aware that this is one of the events that was grandfathered in for co-sponsorship. Alderwoman Edwards made a motion to approve the requested dates and facility usage. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Naming Rights for the Aquatic Facility

Manager Burrell presented to the Board the contract to name the new aquatics facility on behalf of Champion Credit Union for their generous donation. Mayor Ray requested that the facility name add "of Canton" to the title. Alderwoman Edwards agreed. This item was tabled until the next meeting pending further discussion.

Town Clerk Appointment

Manager Burrell stated that it was necessary for the Board to officially appoint Ms. Melisa Stinnett to the Town Clerk position even though she had been the Deputy Clerk for years and had assumed the Clerk role several months ago by consensus. Alderwoman Edwards made a motion to appoint Melisa Stinnett as Town Clerk. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the official appointment.

Recognition of outgoing Officials

Manager Burrell thanked Alderwoman Carole Edwards for her dedication and service to the Town, Employees and Citizens as he presented her with a plaque in a show of appreciation.

Manager Burrell also commented on the tireless dedication and service from Mayor Ray not only as Mayor but for numerous years as an Alderman for the Town of Canton. Manager Burrell presented Mayor Ray with a gaveled plaque to show appreciation for his service to the Town, Citizens, and Employees alike.

J. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting will be the Oath of Office Ceremony to be held on November 29th at 6:30pm at the Colonial Theatre.

K. Adjournment

There being no additional business, Mayor Ray adjourned the Meeting at 7:24pm.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk