

April 12th, 2018

At the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Canton held at the Municipal Building Boardroom, April 12th, 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 Mull led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: March 22, 2018

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the March 22nd minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion with all members voting to approve the minutes as presented.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers began his comments by stating that he had been approached regarding pothole repairs and asked the Manager when these types of repairs could be expected. Manager Burrell stated that the crews would begin pothole repairs in the next couple of weeks as the asphalt plants were up and running for the season.

Mayor Smathers stated that he had received a request to attend the NJROTC inspection and pick the Mayor's Choice award. Mayor Smathers asked the other Board members that could attend to please join him in this presentation. Manager Burrell stated that he would email the information to the Board regarding this event.

Mayor Smathers stated that he had been approached by numerous Citizens that expressed their support regarding the hiring of Chief Shawn Gaddis. Mayor Smathers played a

telephone message from the District Attorney, Ashley Welch, commending the Town on their decision to hire Chief Gaddis.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Markey stated that he felt the hiring of Chief Gaddis was a good decision and his community relationships would be an important asset for the position. Alderman Markey also inquired if staff was aware that the sliding board at the recreation park was cracked resulting in possible scraping of legs issues. Manager Burrell stated that he was aware and staff was in the process of finding a replacement slide and until then the slide would be roped off to prevent usage.

Alderman Hamlett stated that the marquee reflected a political event would be held in the Colonial Theatre and he personally wanted to invite everyone to attend. Alderman Hamlett also in jest wanted the minutes to reflect that the newly elected Mayor mentioned potholes at 6:36 p.m. Mayor Smathers jovially responded that he indeed was learning how important pothole issues were to the public as he had been inundated with calls.

Alderwoman Mull commented that she was pleased with the hiring of Chief Shawn Gaddis and felt he was the right fit for Canton and he would do a good job.

Alderwoman Smith commented that Chief Whitner's retirement celebration was a good event and that she welcomed Chief Gaddis. Alderwoman Smith also thanked the Police Department for a wonderful Easter Egg hunt event in the Recreation Park. Alderwoman Smith stated that she was eager to get started in the budgetary process in the coming weeks.

G. Public Comments

Ms. Dorothy Fisher addressed the Board regarding the blocking of a right of way off Thomson Avenue that had been addressed by the Board about six weeks prior. Ms. Fisher stated that she was upset with the Manager speaking in length with the Leatherwood's in the parking lot and the fact that he nor the Board had fixed the issue.

Mr. Mick Trostel addressed the Board regarding the right of way

issue off Thomson Avenue reporting that vandalism and property damage seemed to be a vendetta from the other party since they had spoken against closing the right of way.

Manager Burrell addressed the issue reporting that answering and speaking to individuals if approached did not mean he agreed or disagreed rather he listened to anyone that approached him in or out of the office out of respect. Manager Burrell also updated everyone that the Police Department had been dispatched on numerous occasions to have the right of way unblocked and it seemed that after the officer would leave the party would in turn move the vehicles back to their original location. Manager Burrell stated that he had instructed the Town Attorney at the last meeting on April 12 to seek further action regarding this issue and he was in the process now. Town Attorney, William Morgan, stated that if the attendees had pictures or other evidence, he would ask they please share this information with him as he preceded with this case.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report to the Board.

Manager Burrell asked the Board's pleasure with regards to the pot belly pig allowance request that had been tabled in September 2017. Manager Burrell explained to the new Board members that a resident approached the Board to add an allowance for pet pot belly pigs. Manager Burrell constructed a proposed ordinance for the Board's consideration in September 2017 that was tabled. Manager Burrell stated that if the Board wanted to move forward with this topic that he would suggest they have a Public Hearing before considering the ordinance. Manager Burrell also stated that this would give William time to make sure that the proposed ordinance was written in the parameters of the law with regards to the penalty and removal sections. The consensus of the Board was to table the request to allow the Town Attorney to research and approve the legalities of the ordinance and return to the Board to either set a public hearing or vote on the issue.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that on May 10th the NCDOT would be having a meeting with Town Officials to go over the 19/23 project before construction. Manager Burrell also made the Board aware that the public input session would be held at the Colonial Theatre Annex for the 19/23 project

from 4pm to 7pm the same day.

Alderwoman Mull inquired when the roundabout project on NC110/Pisgah Drive would begin? Manager Burrell stated that it would more than likely be 2019 before any construction would begin.

Manager Burrell announced his selection for the Assistant Manager position was Nicholas "Nick" Scheuer. Manager Burrell reported that he felt Nick would bring a lot to the table in the planning and zoning areas and this would be very beneficial as Canton was starting to see the influx of commercial and residential interest from Buncombe County. Manager Burrell stated that Nick would be instrumental in helping to shape what Canton would look like for the next 10 to 15 years and his knowledge and leadership skills would be a major asset. Manager Burrell stated that Nick's first day would be April 30th.

I. New Business

1. Spruce Street Project Update

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that the Spruce Street project was moving forward and that surveyors would be in the Spruce Street area in the next couple of weeks.

2. Crossroad Hill Project

Manager Burrell reported to the Board that Hyatt Pipeline would continue to hold the contract on the Crossroad Hill project after the unexpected passing of owner, Blake Hyatt and McGill Associates would be working closely with them on this project to see it to fruition.

3. Graduation Ad Request: The Mountaineer

Manager Burrell presented the Board with a request to take out an ad in the Mountaineer newspaper to congratulate the 2018 graduates. After a brief discussion, the Manager reminded the Board the total left in community promotions was around forty-five dollars. Alderman Hamlett suggested that hanging a banner might be appropriate for future acknowledgment. Failed for lack of a motion.

J. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next Regular Scheduled meeting will be held on April 26th at 6:30 p.m. in the Town of Canton Board Chambers.

L. Adjournment

There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk