

April 26th, 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 26th, 2018 at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women Mull, Hamlett, and Smith 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 was out of Town and Alderman Markey was delayed but would join the meeting shortly. Mayor Smathers stated the Town Attorney and Town Clerk were 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: April 12, 2018

Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve the April 12th minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion with all members voting to approve the minutes as presented.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers thanked Mr. Ed Underwood for being the Easter Bunny at the annual egg hunt.

Mayor Smathers reported that Alderman Markey had joined the meeting at 6:35pm.

Mayor Smathers asked Attorney Morgan for an update on the legal process for Thompson Street. Attorney Morgan stated that he had mailed a letter to the party blocking the Right-of-Way to make them aware of the legal process if the Right-of-Way continued to be blocked.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Smith commented that the Spring decorations and flowers were beautiful and complimented Emily Wilson on a job well done.

G. Public Comments

Pastor Voss commented that he thought that with all the conversation regarding pigs, that it was a good time to bring back to the Board that dog parks would be a welcomed asset to the community as a lot of people and families had dogs and needed a place to let them play to help create a family friendly place to live. Pastor Voss also ask the Board to encourage business owners to form a downtown association to have better communication with one another, as well as to help promote the Town and each other. Mayor Smathers stated that the Board had discussed a dog park, as well as the skate board park in the last work-session and would discuss it further during budget workshops. Mayor Smathers also stated that he felt that a business association needed to come organically from the business owners that in the past it was not well received from the government. Alderman Markey agreed with Mayor Smathers stating that if the Town had a voice in the room it would only complicate the process. Mayor Smathers suggested that the business owners contact the Haywood County Chamber of Commerce for assistance and/or suggestions.

Carl Cortright stated that he thinks it would be helpful for the Town to assist with the formation of a downtown business association. Mr. Cortright stated that the Town needed to put on more festivals year-round to help and drive people to the businesses. Mr. Cortright stated that he felt like the Town had lost its fire and drive to move forward. Mayor Smathers stated that maybe Mr. Cortright could help to facilitate the formation of the business association especially since he was experienced with IT services. Mr. Cortright stated that he felt as if the website was still not fully updated and the Town did not use the resources to its full potential. Alderman Markey stated that he disagreed with Mr. Cortright stating that all the issues he mentioned had been worked on and the Town was moving forward. Mayor Smathers stated that a lot was going on and some businesses were expanding and this Board had a bold vision and a lot of things were percolating. Mr. Cortright stated that he didn't know about these things and the Town should tell what was going on. Mayor Smathers stated that the Town could not release a lot of things due to the business and

industries not wanting the Town to release information without consent. Mr. Cortright stated that no one from Town was visiting businesses to see what they needed. Mayor Smathers stated that staff was doing a good job trying to juggle many different jobs at one time.

H. Reports from the Manager

Town Clerk Lisa Stinnett stated that Manager Burrell would update the cash report at the next meeting.

Town Clerk Stinnett reminded the Board of the meeting on May 10th with the NCDOT to go over the 19/23 project before construction. Town Clerk Stinnett 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.

Town Clerk Stinnett made the Board aware that the Grand Opening for the swimming pool would be May 26th at 10 am with the pool opening at 11am free to the public. Mayor Smathers suggested that the kids from the Wagon Train tragedy, Jordan Webb's tragic death, and the recent loss a former Recreation Commission member Blake Hyatt be the first down the slide. The consensus of the Board was to choose these children.

Alderwoman Mull also made the Board aware that Caroline Ponton would be decorating the windows at the Colonial Theatre with the history of the Town of Canton. Alderwoman Smith stated that Caroline was doing a great job at the museum.

I. New Business

1. Bearwaters Brewery Façade Grant Application

Town Clerk Stinnett presented the Board with an application from Bearwaters Brewery for a façade grant. Town Clerk Stinnett stated that the application met all the qualifications for approval. Mr. Art O'Neil addressed the Board to answer any questions they might have. Alderwoman Mull inquired as to what color the awning would be. Mr. O'Neil stated they would be blue in color. After a brief discussion, Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the façade grant as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in

favor of the motion.

Mr. O'Neil also commented that he had tried to facilitate a downtown business association with to avail and he felt strongly that it needed to come from the businesses not the Town. Mr. O'Neil stated that over 60,000 people had visited the brewery over the past 10 months, so people were coming to Canton and the dilemma was how to get them to visit other businesses and keep them in Town. Mayor Smathers inquired if the brewery had plans for Labor Day and Mr. O'Neil stated they were ready and full of ideas for another wonderful event.

2. Proclamation: National Day of Prayer

Town Clerk presented the proposed Proclamation for the National Day of Prayer. Mayor Smathers stated that the event would be held in the Board Chambers and he welcomed the Board members to join him as he read the proclamation at the event. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve the Proclamation as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the motion.

3. Haywood County Greenway Advisory/Request Greenway Masterplan

Town Clerk Stinnett presented a request from the Haywood County Greenway Advisory Committee for a donation of \$2,000 dollars to construct a Haywood County Greenway Masterplan. After a brief discussion, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the request as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

J. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next Regular Scheduled meeting will be held on May 10th 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 7:22 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk