

October 25th, 2018

At the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at the Walter Clark Board Chambers, October 25th, 2018 at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women Mull, Hamlett, Markey 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 stated the Manager, Assistant Manager, Town Attorney and Town Clerk were present.

C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Pam Kearse gave the Invocation. Mr. Lewis Oates led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: October 11, 2018

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the October 11th minutes with the amendment to the "Approval of the minutes to reflect October 11th instead of April". Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion as amended, with all members voting to approve the minutes as amended.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that a life-threatening issue at the mill showed the dedication of our Fire Fighters and First Responders as they never know what they will encounter on a call and their willingness to put themselves in harm's way to help others. Mayor Smathers thanked Chief Carver and all the Fire Department for the job that they do.

Mayor Smathers stated that he had attended the Pisgah NJROTC inspection, remarking that this was a wonderful group of young men and women. Mayor Smathers stated that Commander Weaver's program was second to none and that this was a very good program.

Mayor Smathers stated that he would like to see speeding measures put into place between the tattoo shop and Three Compas as pedestrian safety was a concern in this area.

Mayor Smathers reported that the chickens at Food Lion had been a hot topic from citizens this week. Mayor Smathers stated that the chicken owner's property was located outside the corporate limits and that the County and Animal Control had been notified of the issue and the Town was doing all they could legally do regarding the issue.

Mayor Smathers reminded everyone to attend the Veteran's Day Ceremony on Sunday, November 11th at 3pm in the Pisgah Memorial Stadium. Mayor Smathers thanked all Veterans for their service.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Markey inquired if the chickens were in violation once they came into the corporate limits? Manager Burrell stated that the Town was taking all legal action that they could through citations but could not trap the animals.

Alderman Markey stated a moment can never be replaced or replayed and you should be present in every moment. Alderman Markey encouraged everyone to get out and vote and be present in the moment. Alderman Markey stated that Local Government is the level where you could actually see a difference and yet the majority of the time the seats during a Board meeting would be empty. Alderman Markey encouraged the Citizens to get involved in their community. Alderman Markey stated that he is happy to serve the people and that we as American can do better. Alderman Markey stated that he was optimistic because the young people of today were very bright and capable.

Alderman Hamlett encouraged people to get out and vote because many had sacrificed so that we had the opportunity to vote and have a voice and voting was a celebration of that sacrifice. Alderman Hamlett commented that he hopes that with the level of toxicity in the world today people learn to disagree without being disagreeable from Canton, Raleigh to Washington.

Alderwoman Mull stated that the mill accident ended well because of the emergency personnel and their actions. Alderwoman Mull stated that God is Good. Alderwoman Mull stated that each of us can always strive to do better to make the world a better place. Alderwoman Mull thanked all in

attendance for coming to the meeting.

Alderwoman Smith encouraged all to get out and vote and thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

G. Public Comments

Mr. Lewis Oates of Veteran Services reported to the Board that issues with local Veterans had not been addressed by the Federal Government. Mr. Oates stated that he had Veterans in Haywood County that had holes in their walls and no clothes to wear to keep them warm. Mr. Oates reported that these Veterans were 60 percent and 100 percent disabled and deserved the help they were promised. Mayor Smathers thanked all the Veterans attending for their service. Mayor Smathers asked Mr. Oates to make the Town Manager aware of some of the needs when they come up to see if we could help to alleviate some of the issues. Mayor Smathers encouraged those in attendance to come out to the Veterans Day Ceremony and let us all honor and respect them for their service to this Country.

Mr. Ed Underwood of 20 Hampton Heights commented that the rumble strips put in on Academy Street were working and was a very good device to slow traffic down and inquired if these could be used at the location the Mayor had mentioned with regards to pedestrian safety? Manager Burrell stated that the Academy site was a pilot program and if things went well then, this type of device could certainly be used in other locations as a speed deterrent.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell gave the cash report.

Manager Burrell presented the Board a copy of a letter that Town Attorney William Morgan would be sending the residents on Skyland Terrace regarding the Right of Way issues.

Manager Burrell also reminded the Board of the Veterans Day Ceremony that would be held at 3pm on November 11th. Manager Burrell asked the Board to let Lisa Stinnett know if they would not be able to attend as they would be setting on the stage at the ceremony. Manager Burrell thanked Mayor Smathers for orchestrating the change of time for the Sunday

at the Opry start time so that folks would be able to attend both events.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that the grant he applied for in March for the STBG Grant from the MPO and RPO to explore sidewalks from around the Community Kitchen to Ingles was approved by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. This would consist of a local match around \$40,000 that would be split in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 budgets. Manager Burrell stated that this shows that all the progress we have made is starting to pay off in the fact that we were not only considered for the grant but approved for the award of the grant.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that the Town still had the \$30,000 grant for the boat launch from the Pigeon River Fund Grant. Manager Burrell made the Board aware that he submitted the application to Duke Progress for a \$100,000 grant for consideration. Manager Burrell recommended to the Board that they only proceed if they are awarded this grant and if they do not receive it then they should return the \$30,000 to the Pigeon River Fund.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that the advertisement for the Evergreen Contract would push that Resolution adoption until the December 13th meeting, however, he was going to allow the use of the parking lot space in the interim.

J. New Business

1. Appointment of Deputy Finance Officer and Deputy Tax Collector

Manager Burrell explained to the Board that they needed to appoint a Deputy Finance Officer and a Deputy Tax Collector. Manager Burrell stated that this is was normal protocol. Manager Burrell presented that he, Jason Burrell, would be appointed Deputy Finance Officer and Wanda Lurvey would be appointed Deputy Tax Collector. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to appoint Jason Burrell the Deputy Finance Officer. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion with all in favor of the motion. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to appoint Wanda Lurvey Deputy Tax Collector. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the motion.

2. Tax Billing

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that the tax bills would be mailed out on Friday. Manager Burrell stated that new software on the County's side had caused the billing to go out later than normal.

3. Cancellation of the November 22nd and December 27th meetings

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that with the holidays that two meeting would need to be cancelled. Manager Burrell stated that unless the Board decided otherwise he suggested to cancel the November 22nd and the December 27th meetings due to the holiday seasons. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to cancel the meetings as presented. Alderman Markey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Governor's Crime Commission Grant: Captain Scott Sluder

Captain Scott Sluder reported to the Board that the Governor's Crime Commission was releasing funds for a grant that the Police Department was awarded in 2017 for equipment and would require the Town of Canton's Chief Legal Officer, William Morgan, to sign the documentation. Alderman Markey made a motion to approve Attorney William Morgan to sign the grant documentation as presented on behalf of the Town of Canton. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Captain Sluder also made the Board aware that the Chicken issue was in violation of the Town Code of Ordinance and the Police Department was actively issuing citations to the fowl owner.

K. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next Regular Scheduled meeting will be held on November 8th 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 7:34 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk