

January 10th, 2019

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, January 10th, 2019 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 stated the Manager, Assistant Manager, Town Attorney and Town Clerk were present.

C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Pam Kearse gave the Invocation. Alderman Hamlett led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: December 13th, 2018

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the December 13th minutes as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion with all members present voting to approve the minutes as presented.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers welcomed everyone that was in attendance.

Mayor Smathers commented that while he was vacationing in Israel he saw a milk carton with the Evergreen Packaging logo on it. Mayor Smathers stated that it was incredible to be so far away from home and see a piece of the hard work that the people did right here in Canton, North Carolina supplying the paper for the milk carton and that he was proud to be from Canton.

Mayor Smathers stated that new announcements on economic development would be coming soon.

Mayor Smathers stated that the Board needed to begin thinking about the vision they had for the new year leading into the budget work sessions.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Alderwoman Mull stated that the contract for Evergreen Packaging seemed to be getting closer to a vote.

Alderwoman Smith stated she looked forward to a new year. Alderwoman Smith thanked the employees for an expedient removal of the Christmas decorations.

Alderwoman Smith thanked Town Manager, Jason Burrell for helping to work through parking issues with the construction in the downtown area.

Alderman Markey stated that the new businesses and construction showcased a positive momentum and he was happy for that. Alderman Markey also stated that he was looking forward to the planning work sessions and eager to start targeting the Recreation areas as a priority.

G. Public Comments

Ms. Jean Parris invited the Board to attend a community meeting with guest speaker Sheriff Greg Christopher regarding drugs in our midst on February 6th at 6:30 at Canton First Baptist Church. Mayor Smathers thanked Ms. Parris for all the work she did to help make the community safer and bring awareness to the opioid problems within the County. Mayor Smathers also complimented Chief Gaddis and his team on their diligence in trying to keep drugs away from our community. Ms. Parris stated that she felt that Chief Gaddis had made a very noticeable difference in the community.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell gave the cash report.

Manager Burrell reminded the Board of the Elected Officials reception on January 17th at the Wells Event Center in Waynesville from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that Emily Wilson had returned to work from maternity leave and thanked the Street Department crew for a great job in her absence.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that he was going to be working to update the planning, zoning, and land use plans to help open more opportunities for growth. Manager Burrell reported that when he had identified the changes the process would require Planning Board meetings, Public Hearings and Board work-sessions and then put on the agenda for Board approval.

J. Old Business

Mayor Smathers thanked the Manager and Town Staff for the possible flood preparation and precautions that were taken to ensure the safety of citizens and property.

Mayor Smathers reminded everyone of the "Nite to Shine" event that would be in the armory on February 8th for exceptional people of all ages. Mayor Smathers stated that he was proud to co-sponsor this event as it spoke volumes of what Canton is all about.

Alderwoman Smith inquired if the recodification was still slated for the near future. Manager Burrell stated that the planning and zoning was a huge part of the process and that it was in the process.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that the Round-A-Bout project on Pisgah Drive had been awarded and he would update the Board on estimated start date of the project.

Manager Burrell reported that he would also update the Board on the time-frame of the Old Asheville Highway project at the next meeting.

K. New Business

1. Martin Luther King Jr Breakfast Ad Request

Manager Burrell presented a request for an ad in the Martin Luther King Jr Breakfast program. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to sponsor a \$150.00 color ad in the Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast program. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

2. Mountain Projects Request

Manager Burrell presented the Board with a request for \$2,000 dollars in support of Mountain Projects. Alderman Hamlett

made a motion to table the request. Manager Burrell explained that he would like to request a representative from Mountain Projects come to the next meeting to discuss the request as well as possible usage of the kitchen area of the Senior Center for other events held in the armory. Manager Burrell stated that he would also request a copy of the latest audit for the Board to review. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion to table the request. Alderman Hamlett and Alderwoman Mull voted in favor of the motion. Alderman Markey and Alderwoman Smith voted against the motion. Mayor Smathers voted in favor of the motion. Motion Carried 3 to 2 in favor to table the request.

3. Resolution: Recognizing the Pisgah Marching Band

Manager Burrell presented the Board with a Resolution praising the efforts and accomplishments of the Pisgah Marching Band members under the direction of Mr. Stephen Parris. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the resolution with the removal of the number 1 in the final paragraph of the resolution. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

L. Closed Session: Pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a)(5i)

Alderman Markey made a motion to enter closed session at 7:41 p.m. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of entering closed session.

After a brief discussion Alderman Markey made a motion to enter open session at 7:51p.m. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

M. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next Regular Scheduled meeting will be held on January 24th at 6:30 p.m. in the Walter Clark Board Chambers.

N. Adjournment

There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk