

## **March 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 24<sup>th</sup>, 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, and Town Clerk were present.

### **C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

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

### **D. Approval of Minutes: 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Alderman Markey made a motion to approve the March 7<sup>th</sup> and March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull 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 thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Mull for filling in for him at the previous meeting so that he could receive an award for his law practice. Mayor Smathers stated that he was not present but lent his approval to the pool/billiard Hall business that came before the Board for approval.

Mayor Smathers asked the Manager to add the Opioid lawsuit to the next agenda.

Mayor Smathers thanked the Historical group for their efforts in clearing off the debris from the original bridge abutment.

## **F. Aldermen/women Comments**

Alderman Markey commented that it was great to see a large crowd in attendance. Alderman Markey stated that it was a blessing to see the renaissance in Canton taking place. Alderman Markey stated that it was great to be a part of a forward thinking and innovative Board.

Alderman Hamlett thanked staff for the road closure notification during the repair to a broken gas line.

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Alderwoman Smith thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

## **G. Public Comments**

Mr. Ray Sheppard from First Baptist Church Community Reach program introduce himself and stated that he was always available.

## **H. Reports from the Manager**

Manager Burrell gave the cash report.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that the Planning Board would be meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. to hear the request from Mrs. Alisha Putnam about the pool/billiard hall.

Manager Burrell stated that he would be meeting with all the Department Heads to go over their budget requests.

Manager Burrell was excited to announce that the Town of Canton had been awarded the Duke Progress Grant to proceed with the boat launch project at the property across from the Armory.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that the swimming pool would be opening on May 25<sup>th</sup> for the season. This day would be free to everyone with music and food trucks on site for opening day.

## **J. Old Business**

## **K. New Business**

### **1. Pisgah NJROTC: Commander Weaver**

Manager Burrell introduced Commander Weaver of the Pisgah High School NJROTC program. Commander Weaver presented a slide show from some of the meets and championships that they had attended and won. Commander Weaver stated that these men and women not only train during school hours but numerous hours on weekends and during the week on their own to be able to compete at the championship level. Mayor Smathers stated that this group of young people were our future and already understood that they work toward a common goal as a unit to make things better. Alderman Hamlett stated that this was a very positive form of economic development as this program was representing Canton all over the State and Nation putting Canton and Pisgah High School on the map with their hard work and dedication. Alderman Markey commented that this program exemplified high standards and the future looked bright for these men and women and those that they will work to defend later in their careers. Alderwoman Smith thanked Commander Weaver for working hard to provide these kids with limitless opportunities. Alderwoman Mull asked those in attendance to stand in ovation for the hard work and accomplishments of NJROTC program. Commander Weaver asked the Board if they could donate to help offset cost for these kids to go to the Nationals that would be held in Florida. Alderman Markey made a motion to donate \$500.00 dollars to the NJROTC program. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Alderman Hamlett asked Commander Weaver to look at Camp Hope for any future competitions that he might have. Commander Weaver stated that he would most certainly look at the Camp.

### **2. Bike and Pedestrian Plan**

Manager Burrell introduced Mr. Kenny Armstrong with Teague Engineers to present the proposed Bike and Pedestrian Plan (see attached). Mr. Armstrong gave a brief presentation to the Board. Manager Burrell stated that a copy of the proposed Bike

and Pedestrian Plan would be available for their review before taking a vote at the next meeting.

### 3. First Baptist Church: Court Greene

Manager Burrell introduced Pastor Court Greene with First Baptist Church. Mr. Greene stated that he would like to propose to the Board to lease property beside Riverview Farm and Gardens to have a community garden that would benefit the Community Kitchen and people of the community. Pastor Greene stated that they would grow vegetables and flowers in the garden. They would also partner with Pisgah High School FFA, The Community Kitchen, and others to provide not only a resource for the community but also a place to reach out to the community in a secular way. Mr. Greene also stated that they had approached the Cruso Endowment for the funds to do the garden and had been approved \$3,000 dollars for plants, lease, etc. if approved by the Town. Manager Burrell stated that he would have to do some research as to what would be permitted on the property from the floodway restrictions, as well as determine the best utilization of this property. Manager Burrell stated that perhaps the Town had other property that would be more suitable, however, he would do the research and report back to the Board. Mr. Carroll Jones a volunteer of the Historical Museum stated that he was in support of the garden and hopefully would incorporate some flowers and landscaping at the new bridge abutment site.

### **L. Closed Session N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6)**

Alderwoman Smith made a motion to enter Closed Session at 7:49 pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11(a)(6). Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter Open Session at 7:57 p.m. Alderman Markey seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

### **M. Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next Regular Scheduled meeting will be held on April 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Walter Clark Board Chambers.

**N. Adjournment**

There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:58 p.m.

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Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk