

## **May 23<sup>rd</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, May 23, 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 Finance Officer, and Town Attorney were present.

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

Mrs. Pam Kearse gave the Invocation. Alderwoman Smith led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **D. Approval of Minutes: May 23, 2019**

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the May 23, 2019 minutes as presented. Alderman Hamlett 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 Jason Burrell, Lisa Stinnett, and Richard Hodge for working at the IP Complex when a part-time employee quit without notice. Mayor Smathers stated that vacations and weekend time off were cancelled to make the complex run smoothly.

Mayor Smathers asked Assistant Manager Scheuer for an explanation on the lack of crews working on the round-a-bout project. Assistant Manager Scheuer stated that the State contracted with Buckeye Construction to complete the project

and they only have one crew working, which were finishing up another job but should return to the site on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Smathers stated that he was proud of the Board's for joining the opioid lawsuit.

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

Alderwoman Smith commented that she was happy to see all the activities going on throughout town. Alderwoman Smith stated that the Pisgah Band would be performing in the Park and the pool would be opening on the weekend for all to enjoy. Alderwoman Smith commended the Lions Club and Urban Athletic for hosting a well-attended and organized event and looked forward to that event growing each year.

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Alderwoman Mull asked why the flags in honor of the Veterans were not allowed in Sorrells Park? Manager Burrell stated that the area had been rented for events, however they were allowed to be displayed on Town property off of Penland Street.

Alderman Markey commented that it was a good decision for the Board to take a stand against the opioid crisis and to try and address the issues.

### **G. Public Comments**

Carl Cortright commented that Water Wheel Park looked nice after the clean-up and new plantings of flowers and trees.

Alderman Hamlett recognized attendee Mr. Ed Underwood for playing the Easter Bunny for all the kids.

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

Manager Burrell gave the cash report.

Manager Burrell reminded the Board that the Pisgah Band would be performing in Sorrells Park on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware he was shifting and expanding pool hours to allow for more pool parties along with

lap swim, and water aerobics.

## **I. Old Business**

N/A

## **J. New Business**

### **1. 2019-2020 Budget Proposal**

Manager Burrell presented a power point presentation on the 2019-2020 proposed budget (see attached).

Highlights of the proposed budget were 2% COLA for employees, 401K percentage match for employee, recycling carts/program, new computer upgrades, and new recreation opportunities.

Alderwoman Smith thanked the Manager for benefits for employees, as well as the forward movement on better utilization of Town facilities.

Alderman Hamlett complimented the Manager for the streamlining the budget presentation, as well as the incentives for the employees. Alderman Hamlett stated that this would help secure good employees in the future, as well as benefit the current employees.

Mayor Smathers stated that he was excited that the citizenry would start to see improvements come to fruition.

Alderwoman Mull inquired if the recycling program and accepted recyclables would be presented to the public when starting the program? Manager Burrell stated that it would be rolled out with pertinent information.

### **2. Public Hearing for the Proposed 2019-2020 Budget**

Mayor Smathers asked the Board's pleasure on opening the public hearing. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to open the public hearing to discuss the 2019-2020 proposed budget. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Smathers asked for any public comments or questions.

Carl Cortright inquired if the Town had entered into a contract with any marketing firm at this point. Manager Burrell stated that monies had been earmarked to explain the expenditures in the budget but that the Town had not entered into a contract with any firm at this time.

Carl Cortright questioned if the concessions at the IP Sport Complex could be a source of revenue and/or marketing aspect? Manager Burrell stated that Little League utilized the concessions during their games as well as those that rented the facility for tournaments, however with more events at the complex it would definitely be looked at as a source of revenue.

Carl Cortright stated that the demographics were changing with more people moving here from Asheville and that food trucks at events and ball games were standard at other facilities.

Tiffany Cortright inquired if the music at Pickin' in the Park could be changed up from entirely bluegrass music? Manager Burrell stated that the people in charge of the event booked all entertainment for the event.

Ed Underwood inquired if blue bags would still be required with the new recycling cart? Manager Burrell stated that the carts would take the place of the blue bags. Mr. Underwood asked if items had to be separated in different bins? Manager Burrell stated that the items would be separated later at the facility.

With no further questions, Alderman Hamlett made a motion to close the public hearing on the 2019-2020 proposed budget. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

### 3. Canton First Baptist Community Garden Lease Agreement

Manager Burrell introduced a proposed lease agreement with Canton First Baptist Church to lease a parcel of property owned by the Town if Canton to have a community garden to benefit the community and the Community Kitchen.

Alderwoman Smith made a motion to open the public hearing to discuss the proposed lease agreement with Canton First Baptist Church for a community garden. Alderman Markey

seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Manager Burrell affirmed that no propitiation, improper signage, and a clause to break the lease if rules were not followed were all addressed in the lease. Assistant Manager Scheuer stated that the raised beds would be an allowable use according to flood regulations.

Manager Burrell also stated that the expense of the water account and yard hydrant would be at the Churches expense.

Mayor Smathers inquired if all concerns had been addressed. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to close the public hearing. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Alderman Markey asked to be recused from the vote as he is a paid employee of Canton First Baptist Church. Alderman Hamlett and Alderwomen Mull and Smith voted in favor of the motion.

#### 6. Offer to Purchase 78 Charles Street

Manager Burrell presented an offer to purchase 78 Charles Street in the amount of \$2,000.00 dollars. Manager Burrell explained to the Board that the property was obtained in foreclosure for the amount of \$19,000.00 dollars. Manager Burrell explained to the Board that the lot was only .08 of an acre and was a non-conforming lot per town code, however asked for permission to negotiate with the adjacent property owner on price. The Manager received consensus from the board to negotiate the price for the property located at 78 Charles Street.

#### 7. Audit Contract Proposal

Manager Burrell presented the Board with a proposal from Mrs. Sheila Gahagan to perform the audit for the Town of Canton for \$24,100.00. Manager Burrell stated that Mrs. Gahagan worked seamlessly with staff and was extremely knowledgeable with local government and he recommended accepting her proposal. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to contract with Sheila Gahagan CPA for the audit contract. Alderman Markey seconded the motion. All member voted in favor of the motion.

## 8. Budget Amendments

Manager Burrell presented year end budget amendments (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

## L. Adjournment

There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:55 p.m.

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Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk