

June 27th, 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, June 27, 2019 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 stated the Manager and Assistant Manager were away at a conference. Mayor Smathers stated that the Town Clerk, Town Finance Officer, and Town Attorney were present.

C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smathers called on former Alderwoman Carole Edwards to give 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 June 13, 2019 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 stated that the Town of Canton, Town of Clyde, and West Canton Baptist Church have worked together to fill a need for the AYSO Soccer organization for playing fields. Mayor Smathers thanked all those involved that made it possible for the AYSO leagues from 3 years of age to 19 years of age to have a place to play. Mayor Smathers thanked West Canton Baptist Church for allowing the organization to use their

property. Pastor Jonathan Blalock stated that the church was happy to help with this endeavor and entered into a 5-year lease agreement with the AYSO Soccer Organization. The coaches from Pisgah High School and Canton Middle School expressed their gratitude for the help with locating a place for the league. This will benefit them with a feeder system for future players and help to foster the growth of soccer in our area. Alderwoman Smith stated that she was excited that the agreement had been made for the kids to be able to have a place to play soccer and that this would also be a beneficial economic impact for Clyde and Canton. Alderwoman Mull inquired as to how someone could sign up? Roger Smith with AYSO stated that the website was www.ayso.org for sign-ups.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Hamlett and Alderwomen Smith and Mull thanked everyone for attending the meeting with no further comments.

G. Public Comments

Mrs. Carole Edwards, Representative from the Canton Senior Center Advisory Board, stated that the Canton Senior Center had held several fundraisers the past year but with State funding being reduced they were still \$10,000 short for their budget. Mrs. Edwards stated that she knew in the past that \$2,000 dollars was in the budget for this specific venue. Mayor Smathers stated that after meetings with Mountain Projects it was the understanding that all requested monies come from Mountain Projects not individual centers. Mrs. Edwards questioned if the \$2,000 dollars was not earmarked for the Canton Senior Center? Town Clerk Stinnett stated in several budgets it was earmarked but had not been earmarked in the last several budgets, meaning that if the Board decided to donate monies it would come from community promotions as all other requests to the Board. Mrs. Edwards stated that she felt that it was just as important to support the Seniors of the community as the youth. Mayor Smathers asked the Board's pleasure on the request. Alderwoman Smith stated that she agreed that it was very important to support the Senior population and offered her assistance to help the Canton Center work on a sustainability program for the future. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to donate the remaining balance of the community promotions for fiscal year 2018-2019 in the amount of \$1,300.00 dollars to the Canton Senior Center. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in

favor of the motion.

H. Reports from the Clerk

Town Clerk Stinnett asked Finance Officer Natalie Walker to give the cash report.

Clerk Stinnett reminded the Board of the employee picnic on July 3rd at noon at the Canton Recreation Park.

Clerk Stinnett stated that everything was ready for the Fourth plus 1 event and stated that it should be a fun filled afternoon.

Clerk Stinnett announced that she had been contacted by Gazebo Farms to do a ribbon cutting on August 1st at 129 Main Street. Clerk Stinnett stated that this business would be refurbished furniture, household décor, and gift shop.

Alderwoman Smith stated that she had been contacted by a Citizen that was impressed at the cleanliness of the Recreation Park and the way the employees did their jobs to keep the public safe as they trimmed and mowed the park. Alderwoman Smith asked that the Street Department be made aware of this compliment.

I. Old Business

1. Offer to Purchase 78 Charles Street

Clerk Stinnett presented an offer to purchase of \$4,000.00 dollars for a non-conforming lot located at 78 Charles Street. Clerk Stinnett made the Board aware that this lot did not meet the square footage requirement for construction. Alderwoman Mull ask the opinion of the Clerk. Clerk Stinnett stated that the Town had \$19,000 dollars in the demolition of the dilapidated unsafe structure along with attorney fees and other costs. Clerk Stinnett stated that the adjacent property owner wanted to make a driveway/parking place behind their home on the vacant lot. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to accept the offer of \$4,000.00 for the non-conforming lot located at 78 Charles Street. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Clerk Stinnett made the Board aware that this would be advertised for upset bids as required.

J. New Business

1. Pisgah High Football Program Ad Request

Clerk Stinnett presented a request to sponsor an ad in the Pisgah High School Football program. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to sponsor a \$200 ad in the Pisgah Football Program. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

2. Ordinance: Road Closure for Folkmalt Event

Clerk Stinnett presented an ordinance requesting permission to close portions of Main Street and Park Street for the Folkmalt event from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the ordinance for road closures for the Folkmalt event as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

3. July 25, 2019 Meeting Cancellation

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to cancel the regular meeting scheduled for July 25, 2019. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

4. Setting A Special Called Meeting

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to set a special called meeting on Tuesday, July 23, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

5. Request to Utilize the Colonial Theatre/Annex for the Haywood Rotary Induction Ceremony.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the free usage of the Colonial Theatre/Annex for the Induction Ceremony for the Haywood Rotary Club. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

6. Request to utilize the Colonial Annex for Literacy Classes

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the free use of the Colonial Theatre Annex on Thursday's in September for Literacy Classes sponsored by the Haywood Rotary Club and The Town

of Canton. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

7. Options for Filling a vacant Alderman Seat.

Town Attorney William Morgan explained to the Board that according to North Carolina General Statute 160A-63 the seat shall be filled in a reasonable amount of time. Attorney Morgan stated that there is no clear guidance as specific time frame, so the Board could either fill by appointment or leave vacant until election and let the voters appoint someone. Mayor Smathers stated that he felt that the seat should be filled until the election and then let whomever run for the seat but would respect and support the Board's decision. The Mayor ask the Board's pleasure. It was the Board's consensus to leave the seat vacant until the upcoming election.

K. Adjournment

There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk