

August 8, 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, August 8, 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 that the Manager, Assistant Manager, Town Clerk and Town Attorney were present.

C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smathers called on Mrs. Pam Kearse to give the Invocation. Mayor Smathers called on Alderwoman Smith to lead those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: July 23, 2019

Minutes tabled until next meeting.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers thanked all the participants of the "Battle of the Badges" stated that he was the emcee for the event, and it was a very good event.

Mayor Smathers commented that it was sad to see the deaths and injuries of the Texas and Ohio mass shootings. Mayor Smathers stated this show of violence needed to stop and that the National Night Out event was a good example of how to connect with young people and get them involved in the community. Mayor Smathers stated that he felt this event help to bridge the gap between emergency personnel and the community by educating and introducing our young kids to the people that might help them one day. Mayor Smathers thanked all emergency workers for the job that they do day in and day out.

Mayor Smathers stated that the Cruso Endowment Fund had

monies to be used for the community and asked the Board by consensus to allow the Town Manager to act on behalf of the Town of Canton to decide how to utilize and request some of the monies to benefit the community. Mayor Smathers asked for a work session to discuss the ideas and the vision the Board had for the Town and how they wanted to proceed with future projects. The Board by consensus agreed that the Town Manager had their blessing to move forward with trying to secure some of these monies from the Cruso Endowment Fund to benefit the community.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Hamlett commented that a discussion needed to be had with regard to how the actions of one person can affect so many. Alderman Hamlett stated that everyone should be kind to one another despite their differences. For example, at the National Night Out event we had some visitors from Turkey and they did not dress like people from here nor did they speak like people from here, however the community embraced them and welcomed them to the event. Alderman Hamlett stated that we are all different in some way or another, but we are still one people. Alderman Hamlett thanked the Police Department and Town staff for organizing such a good event for the community.

Alderwoman Mull thanked all in attendance for coming and their interest in the Town of Canton.

Mayor Smathers stated that he was sad to hear about the tragic drowning that transpired in the river yesterday and that his thoughts and prayers went out to all those involved.

Alderwoman Smith echoed this sentiment of the other Alderpersons commenting that the National Night Out event was a success and well attended. Alderwoman Smith stated that the dunk tank was a favorite of those in attendance and promised to take a turn in the dunk tank next year for the event.

Alderwoman Smith stated that she was sad the pool would be closing early this year but stated that she knew the Waynesville Recreation Center was also having the same issues retaining guards after the college and high schools started back into session. Alderwoman Smith thanked staff for being proactive for next year by offering more certification courses for those interested in becoming lifeguards.

Mayor Smathers stated that it was good to welcome Gazebo Farms to the downtown area and that he visited the store during ribbon cutting ceremony and the business was going to be a good addition to the Town.

G. Public Comments

N/A

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report.

Manager Burrell reminded the Board that they have been invited to attend the opening ceremonies for the Haywood County Fair at 5:30 on August 22.

Manager Burrell stated Town crews had been working to install a handicap ramp at Sorrells Street Park due to concerns from last year's festival regarding handicap access to the food court. Manager Burrell also reported that the sidewalks would be linked in this area soon to provide for easier access to the greenway.

Manager Burrell reported that the Street Department are finishing up sidewalks repairs on Pigeon Street to provide better and safer passage from the Pisgah High School, as well as Canton Middle School.

Manager Burrell reported that Informal bid requests have been sent out for the Newfound Street project and the pre-bid meeting would be August 20th.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that the new Payment Service Network was in place so that residents could access and pay their water or tax bills online or on a mobile device. Manager Burrell explained that this would cut down on paper billing, postage, as well as provide immediate credit to the accounts that were paid.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that Duke Progress Energy would be replacing power poles in the area.

Manager Burrell informed the Board that two new businesses (Pink Cactus Salon, Maria's Mexican Pueblo) would be opening

soon in the downtown area.

Manager Burrell reminded the Board that the Champion Credit Union Aquatic Center would be closing for the season on August 11, 2019 with exception of scheduled pool parties. Manager Burrell explained that this was due to the lack of life guards due to leaving for college or starting of the high school year. Manager Burrell stated that staff had exhausted every avenue to try to remedy the problem for the season, however found that Haywood, Jackson and Buncombe counties were having the same issues. Manager Burrell stated that staff had been in contact with Luke Kinsland, Director of the Waynesville Recreation Center, and that the plan would be to hold several certification courses in late summer and the fall to try and get more individuals that could would be certified to work.

I. Old Business

N/A

J. New Business

1. Public Hearing: Proposed Changes to the Pool/Billiard Hall Ordinance

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to open the public hearing at 6:55 p.m. to discuss the proposed ordinance changes to the pool/billiard hall ordinance. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Assistant Manager Scheuer presented the proposed changes to the ordinance as requested at the last meeting of the Mayor and Board. Alderwoman Mull asked that several misspellings from the original ordinance be corrected in the new version of the ordinance. Alderwoman Mull also ask that a portion of the ordinance that referred to a section on page 3 (second chance) that was taken out of the ordinance be removed due to confusion. Alderman Hamlett stated on page 5 the word through be corrected at the bottom of the page. Mayor Smathers stated that he was very supportive of the business also stating this was a great opportunity for Canton to provide entertainment for the area. Mayor Smathers stated that this had not been without controversy and wished success for Mrs. Alicia Putnam in her new business but encouraged her to succeed in the correct way. Mayor Smathers stated that he was very happy to have her in the Town of Canton. Alderman

Hamlett suggested that on page 5 that the Town Manager or designee be the person to approve or disapprove a request for a tournament. The Board by consensus agreed to this suggestion. Mr. Jim Cole stated that he had know Mrs. Putnam for several years and could speak to her good character. Mr. Kerry Hodges a current pool, hall business owner stated that he had run his business for over 40 years and felt that Mrs. Putnam would run her business within the law and in the correct manner. Mr. Stanley Crowe spoke in favor of the business and encouraged the Board to make the changes requested so that Mrs. Putnam could run her business as well as tournaments. Alderman Hamlett stated that the comments from Mr. Cole had been spoken to him throughout the community regarding Mrs. Putnam's character and that he wished her the best in her new business. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:11 p.m. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the motion. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the proposed pool/billiard hall ordinance (see attached) as presented with the suggested corrections. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the proposed pool/ billiard hall ordinance changes.

2. Big Brothers/Sisters Co-Sponsorship Request

Manager Burrell presented a co-sponsorship request from Big Brothers/Sisters Organization to use the Colonial Theatre and the Annex at no charge for a fundraiser for the organization. Manager Burrell introduced Representative Martha Barksdale Manager Burrell asked Town Clerk Stinnett to explain the fees that would be waived for the event. After a brief explanation, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to waive all fees as requested for the event. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

3. Haywood County Arts Council Co-Sponsorship Request

Manager Burrell presented a co-sponsorship request from the Haywood County Arts Council to us the Colonial Theatre at no fee for the presentation of the "Masque of the Red Death" for the local middle school kids. After a brief discussion, Alderwoman Smith made a motion to co-sponsor the event and waive all fees as requested. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

4. September 11 Celebration to honor First Responders

Manager Burrell stated that Mr. Nate Washington was unable to attend in person, however wanted to invite the Mayor and Board and all of Haywood County's First Responders to a celebration to honor them for the jobs they do. The event will be held in the Canton Armory from 10am until 12(noon) on Wednesday, September 11, 2019.

5. Memorandum of Understanding for Funding of Recycling Carts between the Town of Canton and Haywood County.

Manager Burrell presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Canton and Haywood County for the funding of recycling bins (see attached) for their approval. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the MOU as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

6. Feasibility Study: Wastewater Options for Canton, Clyde , and Waynesville Application

Manager Burrell presented the Board an application for funding with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Infrastructure for a feasibility study for wastewater (see attached). After a brief discussion, Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the feasibility study application as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

7. Addendum to the Town of Canton's Bike/Ped Plan to include a greenway spur connector along future Hwy 19/23 shared use plan.

Assistant Manger Scheuer presented and explained the addendum to the bike/ped plan to include a greenway spur connector along future Hwy 19/23 shared use plan to proposed recreation site.

K. Closed Session: Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a)(6)

Alderwoman Smith made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 at 7:40 p.m. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

After brief discussion, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 7:58 p.m. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to increase the salary from \$46.43 an hour to \$48.29 an hour for Jason Burrell for his performance as Town Manager. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

L. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7.59 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk