

## **July 23, 2019**

At the Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at the Walter Clark Board Chambers, July 23, 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 6:31 p.m.

### **B. Roll Call**

Mayor Smathers stated that the Manager, Assistant Manager, Finance Officer, 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 11, 2019**

Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve the July 11, 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 thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Mull for running the last meeting in his absence. Mayor Smathers commended the Board on the work and compromise for the new pool/billiard business also stating that he thinks this will be a good addition to the business community. Mayor Smathers congratulated Alderman Hamlett and Alderwoman Mull for running unopposed, also stating that he welcomes the new ideas from whomever wins the vacant seat of Alderman Markey. Mayor Smathers encouraged everyone to attend the Folkmalt event on Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup> in Sorrell's Street Park. Mayor Smathers commended the water department for a job well done on the expediate restoration of water after a main line break. Mayor

Smathers also, thanked Evergreen Packaging and the mill Manager for their willingness to help during this time. Mayor Smathers thanked Manager Burrell for working to establish a working relationship with Evergreen Packaging staff.

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

Alderwoman Smith stated that Folkmoot was performing across the street at the Colonial Theater and encouraged those in attendance to step across after the meeting to enjoy the performance. Alderwoman Smith thanked staff for the communication during the water outage and stated that she was sure that they would be hearing about the water mapping, infrastructure, paving, and the likes. Manager Burrell stated that it was underway and that the field data was ongoing.

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Alderman Hamlett thanked Lisa Stinnett for her service to Canton even during an appendicitis also asking the Manager to convey his appreciation for her dedication. Alderman Hamlett stated that so many employees sacrifice for the betterment of the Town and stated that Richard Hodge was in neck deep water trying to repair the broken water line to restore service to the Town residents.

Alderman Hamlett stated that although Facebook has its place it was no fault of the Town of Canton for misinformation that was distributed on the website.

Alderman Hamlett stated that he will be taking his daughter to graduate school in New Jersey and will not be able to attend Folkmalt but hopes it is a great success.

### **G. Public Comments**

N/A

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

Manager Burrell presented the cash report.

Manager Burrell updated the Board that the Assistant Manager and himself were working on the Newfound Street sidewalks

and that will go out for informal bid on August 5<sup>th</sup> to get an idea of what that project will cost and allow them to decide if it is cost effective to contract out or to continue to utilize Town Staff for the project.

Manager Burrell stated that Asset Management Plan is still underway, as well as the Spruce Street Project.

Alderwoman Smith inquired if the sidewalk project will be able to be completed this year. Manager Burrell stated that he was not sure at this point and that it would depend on bids and plant production.

Manager Burrell added that the pool season has been going well, however, life guards at the end of season may be challenging, so if you know of anyone interested please ask them to contact the Town.

Alderwoman Mull inquired about the Roundabout Project. Manager Burrell stated that he had inquired to be better informed of public service announcements.

Assistant Scheuer stated that he was still working on the crosswalks at Pisgah High School and Main Street with more striping and other precautionary measures.

Alderwoman Mull inquired about any Billiard Hall updates. Manager Burrell stated that Lisa Stinnett had scheduled the public hearing notice for August 8<sup>th</sup> and the proposed ordinance changes were available for the public viewing.

## **I. Old Business**

N/A

## **J. New Business**

### **1. Recognition and Promotion of Steven Moore**

This item was tabled for the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting when the Town Clerk could be present.

### **2. Labor Day Street Ordinance**

Manager Burrell presented the Labor Day Street Closure ordinance that is a formality that must be submitted every year.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Smathers inquired if the parking lot would be vacated by Evergreen for the Labor Day Festival. Manager Burrell stated that Lisa Stinnett had been in contact with Evergreen for that request.

### 3. Mountaineer Ad Request

Manager Burrell presented a request for a fall sport guide that are requesting support in the form of an ad. Alderman Hamlett inquired if any of the proceeds go to the local schools or if any of the distribution sites are in Canton? Manager Burrell stated he did not have an answer but could find out and report back to the Board. No motion. Request is denied.

### 4. Façade Grant Request: Dr. George Freeman

Dr. Freeman stated that several years ago he applied and received a grant on another building and presented pictures. Assistant Manager Scheuer stated that he was approached for a grant to make improvements to 141 Main such as liquid vinyl siding, awnings, painting the exterior, and filling façade at the top of the building. Attached with the application is several quotes from different contractors for the work. Dr. Freeman is requesting \$5,000 dollars. Alderman Hamlett asked Dr. Freeman for his information as to what guarantee that he will not pass the cost of this grant to a leasee or purchaser since this was tax payer dollars. Dr. Freeman stated that he did not see the importance since he was spending \$30,000 dollars of his money and he is also a tax payer. Alderman Hamlett asked if he had potential renters or buyers for this building. Dr. Freeman stated that he had several ladies interested in the building. Alderman Hamlett stated that he serves the public and he wanted to assure that tax payers dollars are spent in their best interest. Dr Freeman stated that he could withdraw request and sell the building. Mayor Smathers stated that they must report on jobs created and why we have empty buildings such as the 141 building, as well as the A&P building. Manager Burrell stated that the Town cannot demand guarantees for potential renters. The application does meet the requirements of the grant and when work is completed it makes the building more marketable. Alderwoman Mull inquired as to the amount of time that the building must be rented after improvements are completed? Assistant Manager Scheuer stated that he would have to be listed. Manager Burrell stated that this keeps owners from sitting on the property. Alderwoman Smith asked

if Dr. Freeman understood the stipulations. Dr. Freeman stated that he did understand. Mayor Smathers asked Dr. Freeman if it would be better to come back at a later time in case a renter has other requested improvements that they would like to see other than his choice? Dr. Freeman stated that prior interested parties wanted their own customizations. Alderman Hamlett asked Dr. Freeman if it would trouble him if he tabled the request? Dr. Freeman stated that it would not trouble him. Attorney Morgan suggested consensus to table and discuss at a future date would be needed. Dr. Freeman inquired if he improved the building and brought in a renter could he apply for the interior grant? Manager Burrell stated that that could be done as well with property owner permission. Alderman Hamlett stated that he would be more comfortable with that approach. Manager Burrell stated that it would be brought back during old business later to be determined.

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

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 at 7:36 p.m. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

After a lengthy discussion, Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter open session at 10:25 p.m. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to increase the salary from \$25.36 an hour to \$30.43 an hour for Melisa Stinnett for her performance as Town Clerk in addition to duties as executive assistant, special events coordinator, and other duties assigned. 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 10:26 p.m.

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Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk