

October 10, 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, October 10, 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 6:32 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers stated that the 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 Mull to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: September 26, 2019

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the September 26, 2019 minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers read a letter from Elijah a 2nd grader at North Canton Elementary School requesting that the basketball courts be repaved. Mayor Smathers stated that he would gladly respond to Elijah and let him know that his is a subject that is currently being discussed and thank him for his input.

Mayor Smathers stated that the Town of Canton's Bearwaters Brewery was featured in an article in the NC Business Journal and it was good to see the Town getting positive press and feedback with regard to economic development and show case the quality of life that the Town has to offer.

Mayor Smathers stated that it had been announced that the vacant seat that was formerly occupied by Mr. Markey would now be an unopposed race as one of the candidates had moved outside of Town. Mayor Smathers stated that he looked

forward to working with Mr. Shepperd in the future.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Hamlett stated that he looked forward to serving and sitting next to Mr. Shepperd soon.

Alderman Hamlett stated that it was great to have Bearwaters Brewery in Town and congratulated them on their recent award they had received and wished them well on the second location in Maggie Valley. Alderman Hamlett also stated that he was very proud of this forward-thinking Board and the cooperation to help this business locate in Canton even with some of the negative push back.

Alderman Hamlett inquired about the current water levels and ongoing water conservation efforts. Manager Burrell reported that the levels were at a lower level than normal but still within operating standards and he would continue to monitor and keep the Board aware of any changes. Manager Burrell stated with the forecasted rainfall over the next several days that hopefully the levels would improve.

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Alderwoman Mull also commented that Canton was moving forward in a progressive manner and reminded everyone that the pool/billiard hall would be opening soon.

Alderwoman Smith thanked everyone for coming. Alderwoman Smith reminded everyone that it was Mental Illness Awareness Day and to keep those families affected by Mental Illness in their thoughts. Alderwoman Smith inquired if the Town could send out an Everbridge to make them aware of the benefit concert for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Haywood as well as possibly reminding citizens to continue to conserve water. Manger Burrell stated that the voluntary conservation really had not had an impact on water levels and hopefully the projected rainfall would have an impact. Manager Burrell also stated that since the benefit concert was a co-sponsored event that an Everbridge, website, and social media push would be scheduled.

G. Public Comments

Mr. Mike Caldwell stated that he wanted to compliment whomever was doing the landscaping and decorating job. Mr. Caldwell stated that the Town was clean and decorated

beautifully and it was appreciated. Manger Burrell commented that Alex Johnson a current Town employee had assumed these responsibilities and he was doing an outstanding job and he would convey Mr. Caldwell's compliments to him.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report.

Manager Burrell reported to the Board that the Round-about Project schedule had changed a bit and that it was projected that the area would be useable by December 1, 2019 and then completed sometime in early March 2020.

Manager Burrell made the board aware that the swearing in ceremony had been requested to be moved from December 12th to December 9th if everyone was in agreement to do so. After a short discussion the Board by consensus agreed to the December 9, 2019 swearing in date.

Manager Burrell stated that "Kick Off to Christmas" event would be held in the Colonial Theatre on December 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. with Legacy Dance Center, visits with Mr. and Mrs. Santa, silent auction to support the Back-Pack Program, with free hot chocolate and cookies for all who attend.

Manager Burrell informed the board that it did not seem as if the Roundabout project would be complete by November 1st and that he would get in contact with the NCDOT for an updated time frame.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that the Veterans Day Ceremony would start at 3:00p.m. at the Pisgah Memorial Stadium on Sunday, November 10th. Manager Burrell stated that Ms. Laura Murray would be producing the event as in the past and thanked her for all her work in organizing this great event.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that it was time to start scheduling the Picking in the Armory series that benefitted the Senior Center if they chose to do so, however, he had heard that the center would be closing. Manger Burrell stated that he had reached out to Patsy Dowling but had yet to be able to connect with her to verify the status of the Senior Center. Manager Burrell suggested that they table this issue until more information could be obtained and brought back to the next meeting. Alderman Hamlett agreed he would want all the

information before discussing the topic. All members agreed to table this request.

Mayor Smathers stated that he would like to compliment the Street Crew for the sidewalks on Newfound Street. Mayor Smathers stated that they had done a very nice job and he was sure that the citizens would be thankful.

I. Old Business

1. Rides 4 Vets Request

Manager Burrell submitted a request from the Rides 4 Vets for a donation to help with the purchase of a new van to be used to take Veterans to and from the VA and other medical appointments. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve a \$500.00 donation contingent on the organization receiving a grant that they had applied for to assist with the purchase of the van. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

2. Christmas Parade Theme/ Grand Marshall

Alderman Hamlett stated that Alderwoman Mull had several ideas about the theme promoting togetherness, family, and being home together. After a brief discussion, the Board by consensus instructed Town Clerk Stinnett to pick a theme with that in mind. Mayor Smathers stated that he would like to nominate Mr. Richard Reeves (Have you hugged your kids today?) promoter and retired teacher be the Grand Marshall for all he done over the years to help the youth of Haywood County. The Board agreed that Richard Reeves be the Grand Marshall if interested.

J. New Business

1. Haywood County Toy Run Road Closure Ordinance

Manager Burrell presented an ordinance that was required by the NCDOT to allow for a road closure for an event. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

2. Taxes

Manager Burrell presented the Board the annual array of tax information with regard to taxes (see attached). Manager Burrell stated that the Board would be approving the 10-year Tax Releases, Tax Settlement, Order to Collect Taxes, Tax Releases and the yearly appointment that Jason Burrell remain as Tax Collector and Wanda Lurvey remain as Deputy Tax Collector for the following year. Manager Burrell stated that Wanda Lurvey had done a remarkable job on collections of both current and past due taxes. Manger Burrell stated that Ms. Lurvey was very diligent to keep citizens paying their taxes and to keep them from entering foreclosure if possible, but would proceed if necessary. Alderman Hamlett complimented Ms. Lurvey on a job well done. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the tax information as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

3. Casting for Recovery Donation Request

Manager Burrell presented the Board with a request to donate to the Casting for Recovery event (see attached). For lack of a motion, the request was denied.

4. Façade grant Application 24 Park Street

Manager Burrell presented and Interior and Exterior Façade Grant Application for 24 Park Street (Martins Drug Building). Manager Burrell introduced Mary and Sam Burrus, owners of 24 Park Street. Manger Burrell stated that he had given the Board a list of approved items for the façade grants, however the monetary amount would change depending on which awning the Burruss's decided to use, either cloth or metal. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the Interior Façade Grant as presented (see attached) with supporting documentation as required and to table the Exterior Façade Grant until a decision on which awning type was made and then bring back to the Board for approval. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Alderman Hamlett thanked the Burrusses for coming and being willing to renovate their building for a new business to occupy. Mayor Smathers stated that he was grateful for the many years of service that Martin's Drug Store has given the Citizens of Canton and the willingness to give the building new life for a new tenant. Alderwoman Smith commented that this was exactly what these grants were in place for and thanked the Burrell's for helping to locate a new business to Canton. After

this brief discussion, all members voted inf favor of the motion.

5. Pisgah Theatrical Program Donation Request

Manager Burrell submitted a request of Ms. Judy, Director of the Pisgah High School Theatrical Program, requesting a donation to help offset the programs operating costs. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve a \$250.00-dollar donation to the Pisgah Theatrical Program. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Alderman Hamlett requested that in the future he would like for Ms. Judy to come and talk about her program and let the Board understand all the theatre program consisted of. Alderwoman Smith stated that she was happy to help support the local arts of the school. All members voted in favor of the motion.

K. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7.37 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk