

September 26, 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, September 26, 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, 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 Mr. Nate Washington to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: September 12, 2019

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the September 12, 2019 minutes as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers inquired if the Level 1 Voluntary Water Conservation was still in effect and if staff was preparing for the Mandatory level if we continued to have low water levels. Manager Burrell stated that he would be meeting with staff on the following Monday, as well as meeting with Evergreen Packaging to discuss options as the water levels also impact production at the mill. Manager Burrell stated that the current water levels were holding in the same range and the ability to make water was steady, however, these levels were monitored daily and he would keep the Board informed on any status changes.

Mayor Smathers stated that the Canton Police Department did a good job with the pursuit in a high-speed chase that started in Haywood County and ended in the city limits of Canton with the apprehension of the suspect.

Mayor Smathers asked for an update on the recycling project. Manager Burrell stated that the cans were being ordered and that he had been working with the County to get the correct logo/information on the cans and once they were delivered, we would roll out a recycling campaign for the community.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Hamlett teased the Manager about his recent scooter mishap and an obvious skinned nose. Alderman Hamlett on a serious note stated that he noticed that the Pisgah banner at the Lamp Factory location had been taken, as well as the George Rogers Memorial sign at the intersection of Sorrells and Park. Manager Burrell stated that he would investigate both occurrences.

Mayor Smathers recognized Mr. Luke Weir with the Mountaineer, whom would be covering the Town of Canton Board meetings in the future.

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Alderwoman Mull also recognized Mr. and Mrs. Nate Washington for the dedicated service to host 911 emergency responder's recognition meal. Alderwoman Mull stated that this was a very good event and she appreciated all that they did to organize and host the event.

Alderwoman Smith thanked everyone for coming. Alderwoman Smith inquired about the Labor Day report. Manager Burrell stated that would be later in the agenda. Alderwoman Smith congratulated Mayor Smathers on the announcement of a baby Smathers in March and wished he and his wife well on this joyful occasion.

G. Public Comments

Mr. Cecil Yount of the Haywood County Toy Run thanked the Board for their support of last years event. Mr. Yount reported that the event distributed \$11,000 dollars to several 501c3 non-profit organizations in Haywood County, as well as provided toys to kids in the County that would otherwise might not have any presents for Christmas. Mr. Yount reported to the Board that the plans for this year's Haywood County Toy Run would have the event ending in Canton at Bearwaters Brewery. Mayor Smathers thanked Mr. Yount for all they have done over the last 27 years to help those that are less fortunate than others and

giving back to Haywood County communities and that was greatly appreciated. Mayor Smathers also thanked Mr. Yount for alternating the end of the route in Canton to help with the economic benefits of the event.

Mr. Nate Washington stated that the 911 emergency responders' event was a great event and that he appreciated all the help from the Town of Canton to make that possible. Mr. Washington stated that more people should attend this event to appreciate these men and women who put their lives on the line daily to help and protect the citizens. Mr. Washington stated that their work day was never a "normal" day as they never knew what they would face and if they would even return home and that they should be recognized and appreciated for their dedicated service to Haywood County. Mr. Washington thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Mull for attending and speaking on behalf of the board at the event.

Mr. Robert Clontz of Wesley Street addressed the Board about a continued sewer issue at his residence (see attached letter). Mr. Clontz stated that he was very pleased with the response from the Town as it was a very quick response and he appreciated that, however, he feels as if the problem was originating on the Town side of the sewer in the street where a sink hole had started and until this was fixed, he still had the possibility of sewage coming back into his house. Mr. Clontz stated that he had been contacted by the Town Manager and he felt as if this issue would be addressed and he appreciated his time. Mr. Clontz stated that it was a shame that the Boardroom was not full of Citizens taking an interest in their Town. Mayor Smathers thanked Mr. Clontz for his correspondence stating that this is how the process was supposed to work and he appreciated him coming to the meeting to make the Board aware.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report.

Manager Burrell asked the Board to look over the past themes of the Christmas parade and bring ideas to the next meeting as we already had inquiries on a theme.

Manager Burrell updated the Board on the Newfound Street sidewalk project stating that the Town crews were doing a great job and in 2020 would be back on the streetscape in the downtown area.

Manager Burrell stated that rubberized mulch had been ordered for the playground at the Recreation Park.

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 called on Town Clerk Lisa Stinnett to provide a preliminary report on Labor Day. Clerk Stinnett reported that roughly a thousand more attendees came to the festival this year bringing the totals to around 21,000 over the two days. Clerk Stinnett stated that 40 craft/farmers market vendors, 13 food trucks, and 2 churches participated in the festival this year. Clerk Stinnett explained that surveys were taken at the festival to report to the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority and the surveys indicated that people from GA, TN, NY, IN, SC, FL, NE, and NC folks from Oak Island to Murphy attended the festival. Festival attendees reportedly stayed at local hotels, Air B&B's, and Bed and Breakfast's in the Haywood County area. Clerk Stinnett stated that she had been contacted by several attendees wanting vendor information to order more products, as well as wanting to sign up for next year. Clerk Stinnett thanked the Board for their support and the village of employees that it took to make the event possible.

I. Old Business

J. New Business

1. TDA 1% Report: Director Lynn Collins

Mrs. Lynn Collins of the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority reported to the board with reference to statistics and revenue (See attached). Mrs. Collins gave a brief overview of the information and answered questions from the Board. Mrs. Collins congratulated the Town on a very successful Labor Day event. After a brief discussion, Mayor Smathers thanked Mrs. Collins for her report and the valuable information she presented to the board and all of her efforts to help Haywood County but most importantly her support for Canton.

2. Co-Sponsorship Request: Lifeworks

Manager Burrell presented the Board a co-sponsorship request from Lifeworks for use of the Armory facility and staff. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to waive \$470.00 facility and staff fees for the event. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Alderwoman Mull stated that she attended this event in the prior year and that it was a really good event and that every penny raised goes back into the non-profit. Alderman Hamlett asks the Manager if a discussion could be had to talk about protocols, rate schedule, and policy of future events. Manager Burrell agreed. After this brief discussion all members voted in favor of the motion.

K. Closed Session: Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5)

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter closed session at 7:36 p.m. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. After discussion and no action taken, Alderwoman Smith made a motion to enter open session at 7:48 p.m. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

L. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 26, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7.49 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk