

November 14, 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, November 14, 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 asked for a moment of silence in memory of Town Employee Chris Rathbone. Mayor Smathers called on Mrs. Pam Kearse for the Invocation. Mayor Smathers called on Alderwoman Smith to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: October 24, 2019

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the October 24, 2019 minutes with the correction of the date in the adjournment portion of the minutes to reflect December 9th, 2019. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that he wanted to congratulate the reelected and newly elected officials. Mayor Smathers stated that he looked forward to working with them to keep Canton moving forward.

Mayor Smathers stated that Papertown Billiards was open for business and he wished them well.

Mayor Smathers asked Manager Burrell for an update on Sorrells Street Park. Manager Burrell stated that Cruso Endowment had allocated \$5,000 dollars to look at what could the property could be utilized for also allowing the Labor Day Festival and other current events to continue. Manager Burrell

stated that the property is in the floodway and this would allow for allowed uses, conceptual renderings and associated costs to complete suggested upgrades. Assistant Manager Scheuer also added that schematics and construction documents would be included as well.

Mayor Smathers stated that he and the Manager had been approached about the desire to light the Pisgah softball field. The Haywood County School System asked for a transfer of ownership with a reverted clause before investing in the lights. Manager Burrell stated that he would draft a resolution and bring to the Board in January for their consideration. Manager Burrell stated that he did not see any problems with this request.

Mayor Smathers stated that he looked forward to future work sessions so this Board could map out their goals for the next year.

Mayor Smathers stated that the Veterans Day event was a great success and thanked Ms. Laura Murray for the planning and production of the event. Mayor Smathers stated that this type of event allowed all to see the good in people.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Hamlett stated that he recognized Mr. Rufus Dale in attendance and that he attended Band Camp with Mr. Dale at Camp Hope when they were in school stating it was good to see him and thanked him for attending the meeting. Alderman Hamlett also thanked all those that voted for him and those that were in attendance for coming.

Alderwoman Mull thanked all the Citizens that voted for her. Alderwoman Mull agreed with Mayor Smathers that the Veterans Day event was a great event. Alderwoman Mull also thanked the Cruso Endowment for their donation to the Town to help with the production of the Miss Labor Day Pageant scholarship program. Alderwoman Mull stated that the annual ROTC inspection was awesome and that their hard work and dedication was evident during the event. Alderwoman Mull inquired about the completion of the round-a-bout? Assistant Manager Scheuer stated that the construction would be complete in December and the final paving would be in the early Spring.

Alderwoman Smith congratulated all the elected officials.

Alderwoman Smith stated that the Veterans Day event was great, and she was honored to participate. Alderwoman Smith thanked Ms. Laura Murray for a job well done. Alderwoman Smith inquired when the budget work sessions would begin? Manger Burrell stated that February would start the budgeting process and that the Board would need to start providing dates that would work well for them.

G. Public Comments

Ms. Jean Parris thanked the Board for the update on the Round-a-bout. Ms. Parris also announced that the Canton First Baptist Church would be having a coat drive and that children's coats were especially needed. Ms. Parris asked if the Mayor would bring doughnuts to the event. Mayor Smathers stated that he would gladly provide the doughnuts for the event. Mayor Smathers thanked Ms. Parris for all she did to help the community.

Mr. Carl Cortright complimented Chief Shawn Gaddis and the Police Department for organizing the community watch in the High Street and West Canton areas. Manager Burrell stated that during budget work sessions with the Police Department he would discuss implementing several other community engagement opportunities.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report.

Manager Burrell stated that the Town had received \$5,000 dollars from the Cruso Endowment Fund to purchase planters and add beautification on the Park Street side of Town that the Board will be seeing the implementation with winter flowers.

Manager Burrell reminded the Board of the Haywood Waterways Awards Ceremony stating that this organization does a great job and is a tremendous resource for the community.

Manager Burrell introduced the Museum Curator, Caroline Ponton. Mrs. Ponton addressed the Board reporting that the Museum was blessed with great volunteers and donors adding items to the Museum exhibits. Mrs. Ponton stated that she received numerous calls of new home owners wanting to know the history of their property. Mrs. Ponton stated that a volunteer designed and donated t-shirts to promote the

Museum and she graciously handed the Board t-shirts so they could wear them out and about to help promote the Museum as well. The Board and Manager thanked Mrs. Ponton for her tireless efforts and wonderful job she was doing at the Museum and the history of the Town.

J. New Business

1. Mountain Projects Update: Canton Senior Center

Manager Burrell introduced Mrs. Patsy Davis, Executive Director of Mountain Projects. Mrs. Davis thanked the Board for their support in past years and in the future with the Canton Senior Center site. Mrs. Davis announced that Mountain Projects funding for the Senior Center had been reduced by half and that they would no longer be able to fund the Canton Senior Center. Mrs. Davis stated that the site would only be utilized as a Nutrition Center from 8:30am to 12:30pm to help keep our Senior's fed with at least one hot meal either at the Center or by Meals on Wheels. Mrs. Davis introduced Mr. John Chicoine with Mountain Projects so that he might speak and answer any questions regarding operations. Mr. Chicoine started off by asking the Board to consider paying for the Wi-Fi, tv, and phone service at the center in the amount of \$2,800 dollars. Manager Burrell thanked both Mrs. Davis and Mr. Chicoine for their services in the past and future and their communication with Town staff stating that more talks about shared usage of the space in the future for maybe rental of the kitchen facility could be agreed upon by both parties. Mr. Chicoine stated that he did not see any issues with this request and welcomed any discussion in the future. Mayor Smathers stated that this was a big service that most certainly saved many people that would otherwise not be able to receive a hot meal. Alderwoman Smith thanked Mrs. Davis and Mr. Chicoine for the information and the work that they did for our Senior population. Alderman Hamlett thanked the pair for their work with the Canton Senior Center. Alderwoman Mull thanked them both for their willingness to discuss options and efforts to keep the center open.

2. Co-Sponsorship Request: Night to Shine

Manager Burrell provided a co-sponsorship request from Pinnacle Church to host the 2nd Night to Shine event in the Canton Armory. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the co-sponsorship request as presented. Alderwoman Mull

seconded the motion. Alderwoman Smith stated that even though this is a very worthy cause which she supports that the Board needed to be mindful of the co-sponsorship stipulations moving forward. Mayor Smathers agreed that the policy needed to be visited and tweaked in future work-sessions. Alderman Hamlett agreed that the guidelines needed to be set and adhered to for all moving forward instead of operating in a case by case basis. All voted in favor of the motion.

3. Pisgah Band Color Guard Request

Manager Burrell presented a request from the Pisgah Band Color Guard to use the Armory facility free of charge on a weekly basis. Alderman Hamlett made motion to allow the Color Guard to use the facility with negotiation of days, certificate of insurance, no heat, and a responsible party to check out a key and unlock, lock up, and return key to the police department each time of use. Alderwoman Smith stated that she felt that daily was a staff concern as well as others had been turned down for consistent usage and loss of potential revenue to the Town. Manager Burrell stated that the school system had numerous gyms and auditoriums on this end of the county and advised against the request as you could not allow one group and not another in the future. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to table the request until a possible compromise could be reached. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

4. ETJ Appointments

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to appoint Hanni Muerdter to the Rough Creek Watershed, Buncombe County Rep.; Ed Underwood, Rough Creek Watershed, Haywood County Rep.; Chris May, Asheville Highway; Jimmy Flynn, Pigeon Watershed. All these appointments are for 5-year terms upon approval by the Haywood County Commissioners.

5. Meeting Cancellations

Manager Burrell requested to cancel the November 28th meeting due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to cancel the meeting. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion to cancel the meeting. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Manager Burrell suggested that a Special Called meeting for the Swearing In/ Organizational meeting be set for December 9,

2019 at 6:30pm in the Colonial Theatre. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to set the Special Called meeting for December 9, 2019 at 6:30pm in the Colonial Theatre. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Manager Burrell suggested that the December 26, 2019 meeting be cancelled due to the Christmas Holiday. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to cancel the December 26, 2019 meeting. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

J. Old Business

1. Picking in the Armory

Manager Burrell asked the Board's pleasure on hosting Pickin in the Armory in 2020. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to produce Pickin in the Armory in 2020. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Alderwoman Smith stated that since this was originally a fundraiser for the Senior Center and since that service would no longer be provided that the number of times be cut to allow the Armory to be booked for other events that would generate revenue. Mayor Smathers stated that this was a community benefit and if allowed again could be used to evaluate the attendance and interest. Attendee Rufus Dale stated that he disagreed with the report of the drop of attendance the last couple of years due to his personal observations. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to provide 5 Pickin in the Armory events. Alderman Hamlett suggested that one be in January, two in February, and two in March as well as an evaluation of attendance which would give them more information to evaluate in the future. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

L. Adjournment:

The next Special Called meeting will be on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Colonial Theatre. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7.58 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk