

February 13, 2020

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, February 13, 2020 at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women Mull, Hamlett, Smith, and Shepard 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, Finance Officer, and Town Attorney were present.

C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smathers called on Mrs. Pam Kearse for the Invocation. Mayor Smathers asked for a moment of silence in memory of Bill Owen and Bill Edwards for their years of service to the Town of Canton. Mayor Smathers called on Alderman Shepard to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: January 20 and January 23, 2020

Alderman Smith made a motion to approve the January 20, 2020 and January 23, 2020 minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers welcomed Marias Mexican Restaurant and Wildflour Blue Bakery to Town stating that they are both welcome additions.

Mayor Smathers commented that the Polar Plunge was a very good and well attended event that benefitted Haywood Waterways and that he looked forward to the event every year.

Mayor Smathers stated that the Night to Shine event is a wonderful event that touches many people and this event speaks volumes of the about the Town and community in which we live. Thank you to Pinnacle Church and all the volunteers that made this event possible.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Smith reminded everyone that Pickin in the Armory was being held on Friday. Alderwoman Smith commented that Wildflour Blue Bakery was operating in the downtown business district and encouraged all to stop in to try some baked goods. Alderwoman Smith congratulated Haywood Waterways on the Plunge being great event that also sponsored the "Kids in the Creek" program.

Alderwoman Mull stated that the Polar Plunge was a great event and thanked those that attended and participated. Alderwoman stated that the Night to Shine event was a wonderful event and thanked all the volunteers for making the event possible.

Alderman Shepard stated that the Polar Plunge event was a great event and he was happy to participate in the event. Alderman Shepard stated that the Night to Shine event was a great event and that he gets to see some of the kids that participated during school and they were excited about the event and he was happy that the Town sponsored the event.

G. Public Comments

N/A

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report.

Manager Burrell reminded everyone that they would see a \$2.00 increase in the garbage due to the increased cost associated with the contract with Henson Waste Service for the recycling program and operating cost.

Manager Burrell reminded everyone that March 25, 2020 was the last day to pay property taxes before your name would be advertised in the local paper for delinquent taxes.

Manager Burrell reported to the Board that the Friends of the Museum wanted to apply to the Cruso Endowment Fund for \$3,000 to install two historical markers and \$7,000 dollars for improvements to the bridge abutment. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the application to the Cruso Endowment Fund. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Alderwoman Smith inquired from the Manager if this would fit in with the greenway project and Sorrells Park plans. Manger Burrell stated that this would not be a large-scale project, that the

Friends of the Museum wanted to dress the area up and have a sitting area near the marker. All members were in favor.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that Evergreen Packaging had inquired if they could use an old 1974 Firetruck that we have decommissioned. Chief Carver did not have an issue with allowing them to use the vehicle. Manager Burrell stated that he and Finance Officer Walker were in the process of determining how to accomplish this either by lease or gift and then he would bring back to the Board for approval.

J. Old Business

Manager Burrell stated that he had received a call from Mr. Fred Underwood with the DAV Program. Manager Burrell stated that the Board had tabled the request until the organization finished their fundraising campaign. Mayor Smathers stated that the Board would like to see the financial documentation regarding the funds raised and the shortfall before voting on this request.

K. New Business

1. Donation to the Backpack Program

Mayor Smathers stated that Town Staff had a kickoff for the Christmas season in the Colonial Theatre and with the funds raised to be donated to the Backpack Program to help with the youth in the area that need help. Ms. Barbara Monahan was in attendance to accept the \$1200.00-dollar donation to the program from the Town and Legacy Dance Center. Ms. Monahan thanked all involved for the donation.

2. Pickin' in the Armory

Ms. Carolyn Phillips resident from Maggie Valley, is disappointed that the Board cut back on the number of Pickin' in the Armory events that is well attended by Senior Citizens and kids alike. Mayor Smathers thanked everyone that was in attendance to express their concerns. Mayor Smathers stated that the Board did not want to cut out the event but at the same time had received reports that attendance was not very high so with associated costs decided to cut down the number of events. Alderman Hamlett stated that the Board had to be cognitive of spending taxpayer dollars and adhere to the budget, however, chose to still provide a service but in a limited amount. Manager Burrell interjected that this is also the time that the facility would be rented for other events that are revenue generating events. Mayor Smathers stated that this Board had not discussed cutting Picking in the Park at this time. Ms.

Phillips stated that cake walks could generate money. Mayor Smathers stated that a non-profit group needs to organize and pay money for this event if they wanted to add events. Manager Burrell stated that it could be looked at to charge for attendance with a non-profit organization to run the event.

3. Pisgah Band Co-Sponsorship Request:

Manager Burrell presented a co-sponsorship request from the Pisgah High school Band Boosters for their consideration to use the Recreation Park sheds and stage at no cost. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve the co-sponsorship request as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

4. Pisgah Marketing Class Donation Request

Manager Burrell presented a request for donation to help with the Pisgah Marketing Class "Mr. Milltown Scholarship". This request died for lack of a motion.

5. Extension for Downtown Business District

Assistant Manager Scheuer explained that a new landscaping business was requesting that the downtown business district be extended to include a property on North Main Street to be eligible for the façade grants. Alderman Hamlett inquired if this had any zoning issues. Manager Burrell stated that there would be no zoning issues, and this would only include 3 to 4 parcels from Bridge to North Main. Assistant Manager Scheuer stated that this business would be providing numerous jobs as well as improvements to the property as well. Alderwoman Mull stated that she would like to see an aerial photo before voting on this extension. Manager Burrell stated that he would provide this information and bring back to the next meeting.

L. Adjournment:

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Walter Clark Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7.35 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk