

January 23, 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, January 23, 2020 at 6:30pm with Mayor Pro-Tem Mull and Aldermen/women Hamlett, Smith, and Shepard present, the following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Pro-Tem Mull called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Pro-Tem Mull stated Mayor Smathers was attending a seminar for expecting parents and would not be in attendance. Mayor Pro-Tem stated that the Manager, Assistant Manager, Town Clerk, and Town Attorney were present.

C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pro-Tem Mull called on Mrs. Pam Kears for the Invocation. Mayor Pro-Tem Mull called on Alderman Hamlett to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: January 13, 2020

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the January 13, 2020 minutes as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Pro-Tem Mull reported that the Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast was a great event and she enjoyed it. Mayor Pro-Tem welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Smith stated that she agreed with Mayor Pro-Tem Mull regarding the Prayer Breakfast stating that this is a great event. Alderwoman Smith thanked Town Staff for distributing the recycling carts and hoped everyone would participate in the program.

Alderman Hamlett encouraged everyone to get a flu shot not only to protect themselves but others around them.

Alderman Shepard thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reiterated that the Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast was a great event and he was proud to represent the Town of Canton.

G. Public Comments

N/A

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report.

Manager Burrell stated that the Town would be delivering recycling carts for the next week with the necessary documentation for the recycling program. Manager Burrell explained to the Board residents would utilize blue bags until February 1, 2020. After February 1, 2020 the carts must be used and that blue bags would no longer be picked up. Manager Burrell stated that with new programs issues always pop up, however, this would be a good program for Canton, surrounding towns, and the environment.

J. Old Business

N/A

K. New Business

1. Canton Police Department Employee Recognition

Manager Burrell recognized Chief Shawn Gaddis. Chief Gaddis thanked the Board for their continued support for the Police Department. Chief Gaddis introduced Sergeant Neal Swanger and his family. Chief Gaddis presented Sergeant Swanger with his Advanced Law Enforcement Certification and thanked him for his dedicated service to the department. Sergeant Swanger thanked his wife, family and work family for their support while he worked to achieve this goal. Alderman Hamlett congratulated Sergeant Swanger on his achievement also commenting that he had taught one of the required classes for Sergeant Swanger. Alderman Hamlett stated that his dedication and achievement speaks well of him as an officer in the police department. Alderman Hamlett asked those in attendance to stand in ovation for Sergeant Swanger. Alderman Shepard thanked Sergeant Swanger for his dedication to and willingness

to strive to be better in his field.

2. Shelia Gahagan CPA: Town Audit

Manager Burrell introduced Mrs. Sheila Gahagan to present the annual audit for the Town of Canton. Mrs. Gahagan stated that Town staff had done a really good job to control and cut spending, which allowed monies to be put back in the general fund from the annual budget. Mrs. Gahagan that the Town needed to adopt a Procurement and Conflict of Interest policies to meet federal funding guidelines and she was impressed that Manager Burrell and CFO Natalie Walker already had these prepared and ready for adoption at this meeting. Mrs. Gahagan also, as in years past, reminded the board that the debt liability with retiree benefits needed be on their radar and that steps had already been taken in 2011 to cut this liability with the employee coverage changes, but she still had to mention these to the Board because they would show until the grandfathered retirees phased out. Mrs. Gahagan stated that the Town was in good shape financially and that staff was doing a good job managing the budget.

3. Pisgah Band Donation Request:

Manager Burrell presented a donation request from the Pisgah High school Band Boosters for their consideration. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to donate \$500 dollars to the Pisgah High Band. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

4. Canton Middle School Annual Funding Request

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the amount of \$150.00 to help supply annuals to students that could not afford to purchase one. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

5. Bike and Pedestrian Plan Amendment

Manager Burrell explained that this amendment to the Bike and Pedestrian Plan would allow the Town to apply for additional funding through NCDOT when available. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve the amendment as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

6. Procurement and Conflict of Interest Policies

Manager Burrell presented the Procurement and Conflict of Interest policies to the Board. Manger Burrell stated that these policies needed to be adopted to meet the federal guidelines for funding and recommendation of the Town auditor. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the policies as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Manager Burrell reminded the Board of the Plunge that would be February 1, 2020 at the Champion Credit Union Aquatics Center and the Elected Officials Reception that was scheduled for Thursday, January 30th by the Haywood Chamber of Commerce.

L. Adjournment:

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Walter Clark Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Pro-Tem Mull adjourned the Meeting at 7.28p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk