

## **March 12, 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, March 12, 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, Town Clerk, and Town Attorney were present.

### **C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Smathers called on Mrs. Pam Kearse for the Invocation. Mayor Smathers called on Alderwoman Mull to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **D. Approval of Minutes: February 27, 2020**

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the February 27, 2020 minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

### **E. Mayor Comments**

Mayor Smathers commented on the press release regarding the purchase of 450 plus acres by the Southern Appalachian Conservancy to be donated to the Town of Canton. Mayor Smathers stated that this was a great opportunity for outdoor recreation for the entire County and that the County Commissioners were on board and partnering with the Town to see this project to fruition. Mayor Smathers stated that the Town was working with numerous partners to make this an outdoor space to include mountain biking, hiking, and much more.

Mayor Smathers stated that Town staff have implemented every precaution to help keep everyone as safe as possible from the coronavirus. Mayor Smathers stated that every life was important. Mayor Smathers stated that staff would continue to work and provide service for the citizens and urged residents not to be driven by fear but use caution. Manager Burrell stated that all guidelines from the Governor were being

adhered to as well as extra precautions such as closing Town Hall except for the drive thru and Fire personnel would no longer answer routine medical calls. Manager Burrell stated that he would suggest closing the Theatre, Annex, Armory, Camp Hope and the playground at the Recreation Park. Manager Burrell stated that all cancellations mandated by the Town of Canton would be reimbursed at 100 percent of fees if the Board so chose to approve this policy. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to cancel all reservations for the Town venues. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Alderman Hamlett stated that we needed to remind ourselves to take precautions but not out of fear. Alderman Hamlett stated that fear causes irrational behavior, and this is a humanitarian pandemic. Alderman Hamlett stated that we are a community of people and we should embrace one another during these uncertain times. Alderwoman Smith stated that citizens should take every precaution and that she was glad that as a Town we are aligning ourselves with the guidelines being set forth by the Governor. All members voted in favor of the motion.

#### **F. Aldermen/women Comments**

Alderman Shepard encouraged everyone to wash their hands and use the guidelines that the CDC was recommending.

Alderwoman Smith stated that she is very excited about "project 450" thanking everyone for the time spent on this project by all involved and that this would be a great outdoor recreation opportunity for all.

#### **G. Public Comments**

Water and Sewer Superintendent of the Town of Canton stated that he was contacted by the State prior to the meeting and wanted to make everyone aware that the drinking water was safe, and that the virus did not have any adverse effects on the water.

#### **H. Reports from the Manager**

Manager Burrell presented the cash report.

Manager Burrell inquired if the Board had any issues with Relay for Life using the Board chambers three nights a month for their meetings. The consensus of the Board was they had no issues if it did not interfere with anything else Town related.

Manager Burrell informed the Board that the Town would be implementing 911 addressing with the County over the next two years at an estimated cost of \$12,000 dollars that would be implemented in the next budget year. Manager Burrell stated that Mr. Joey Webb from the IT Department from Haywood County would be at the next meeting to explain the process.

### **Old Business**

1. Manager Burrell presented the request from Mountain Projects for a donation of \$3,000 dollars to offset the operating cost at the Senior Nutrition Center. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve the \$3,000 donation as requested. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Mayor Smathers stated that he would like to see an itemized statement of the costs/ items that the donation would cover. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to table this request until itemized documentation was presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Alderpersons Mull, Hamlett and Shepard voted in favor of the motion with Alderwoman Smith voted against the motion. Motion carried 3-1.

### **New Business**

1. Façade Grant: B.H. Graning 114/116 North Main Street

Manager Burrell presented the application for a façade grant for the location of 114/116 North Main Street. Manager Burrell asked Assistant Manager Scheuer to explain and answer any questions regarding the application. Assistant Manager Scheuer explained to the Board that the application met the requirements for funding and the business would jobs as well as improve the area. Mayor Smathers thanked Ben Graning for coming to Canton and wished him well in his endeavors. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve \$15,000 for the façade grant as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

2. Façade Grant: Sam and Mary Burrus 24 Park Street

Manager Burrell presented the façade grant application from Sam and Mary Burrus to replace awnings at 24 Park Street. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve \$3,325 as requested. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### 3. Mrs. Lynn Collins, Haywood County TDA

Manager Burrell introduced Mrs. Lynn Collins, Executive Director of the Haywood County TDA. Mrs. Collins presented the Board a packet of information regarding the 1% funding revenue and disbursement for all the different zip codes in the County (see attached). After a brief presentation the Board thanked Mrs. Collins for all she did to help promote Haywood County and Canton.

### 4. Community Kitchen Golf Sponsorship Request

Manager Burrell presented a request to sponsor the Community Kitchen annual golf tournament. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the \$300 dollar sponsorship as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1 with Alderman Hamlett voted nay. Motion carried.

### **L. Adjournment:**

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Walter Clark Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:33 p.m.

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Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk