

May 28, 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 by means of virtual Zoom Meetings, May 28, 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, Town Clerk, Town Attorney and Finance Officer were present.

C. Approval of Minutes: May 14, 2020

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the May 14, 2020 minutes as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

D. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that Pisgah High School and the Town of Canton would be working together to orchestrate all the downtown businesses that choose to decorate for the 2020 graduating Seniors to drive through Town as they exit the graduation procession. Alderman Hamlett inquired if students would be getting out of their cars? Manager Burrell stated that it was his understanding that they would be graduating in groups of 5 with their family members. Mayor Smathers stated that this was unprecedented times and it was the least we could do to make them feel honored on their special day.

E. Alderman/women Comments

Alderman Hamlett thanked staff for setting up the zoom meeting especially since the Covid19 cases were rising in the County and he felt this was the responsible way to meet.

Alderman Shepard thanked Town staff for helping to decorate town and encouraged everyone to come out and support the 2020 graduates.

Alderwoman Smith reiterated everyone's comments about the

graduation celebration and added that this was a time to celebrate something positive for the graduating class of 2020. Alderwoman Smith thanked staff for their work on the budget and ended by charging everyone to lead with compassion and kindness.

F. Public Comments

Luke Weir from the Mountaineer newspaper inquired if the pool would be opening. Manager Burrell stated that this would be covered under Manager's reports.

G. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell stated that the tentative opening day for the Champion Credit Union Aquatics Facility would be June 8, 2020. Manager Burrell advised the Board that times would remain the same, however, number of attendees would be limited due to Governor Cooper's orders during the State of Emergency. Manager Burrell explained to the Board that the total amount of people allowed inside the pool would be 161 with only 60 being allowed in the water at one time. Manager Burrell stated that all safety precautions would be taken by marking off spots to help with social distancing, an employee that walked around all-day sanitizing touched surfaces, and temperature checking before allowing anyone inside the gate to name a few. Manager Burrell stated that he had been in touch with other Managers across the State and he would continue to monitor closely during the pandemic. Alderman Hamlett inquired how the Town could provide a safe environment when data was showing that many were asymptomatic but were still infected with the covid19 virus. Manager Burrell stated that the Town would adhere to the standards set forth by the Governor if the Board chose to open the pool. Alderman Hamlett stated that he would like to discuss with the Board. Alderwoman Smith stated that she felt like current protocols were enough and the pool should open with these restrictions. Alderman Shepard stated that he thought the pool should open with the restrictions and if any issues arise then adjust at that point. Alderman Hamlett stated that he thought the Town should err on the side of caution despite loss of revenue to protect the citizenry. Manager Burrell stated that he was fine with either decision the Board made. Alderman Hamlett suggested to wait until the end of June to decide. Mayor Smathers stated that there was no clean-cut answer and a hybrid of protocols that can change as many times as needed could be put in place. Manager Burrell stated that he needed direction to proceed. Alderwoman Mull stated that she would not want to send her child due to the virus. Alderman Hamlett stated that he had major concerns

being the virus is aerosol and spread through the air and feels the pool should not open. Mayor Smathers suggested that maybe a decision could be made on June 15, 2020 allowing a compromise. Manager Burrell warned the Board that lifeguards would not wait around for long before finding other summer employment. Mayor Smathers stated that the Board had a judgement call to make. Alderman Hamlett stated that he did not feel comfortable being a part of opening the pool when it could potentially put someone's life at risk, and he would rather not open the pool this year. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to open the Champion Credit Union Aquatic Center this year. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Alderman Hamlett suggested the Board wait until June 15, 2020 to have more time to examine data and decide. All members voted in favor of opening the aquatics facility this year.

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to consider the earliest opening date be June 15, 2020 for the Champion Credit Union Aquatics Facility pending more discussion from the Board. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Alderwoman Smith and Alderman Shepard stated that they would like to see the pool open on June 8, 2020. Alderman/women Hamlett and Mull voted yes with Alderman/women Smith and Shepard voting no. Mayor Smathers deciding vote was no. Motion denied.

Alderwoman Smith made a motion to open the Champion Credit Union Aquatic facility on June 8, 2020 based on the Manager's decision. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Alderman Hamlett stated he would like daily communication from the Manager on the aquatic facility. Mayor Smathers asked Attorney Morgan if the original motion would need to be amended. Attorney Morgan stated that it could be. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to amend the original motion to add that the Manager communicate to the Board in a timely manner the protocols at the pool. Alderman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion to open the aquatics facility June 8, 2020 with timely updates from the Manager on safety protocols.

H. New Business

Manager Burrell asked for a motion to enter the public hearing. Attorney Morgan stated that the budget would need to be presented first. Manager Burrell stated that the budget was presented in detail at the last meeting as well as the public hearing date being set and advertised as required. Attorney Morgan did not recall the setting of the public hearing. After a brief discussion the Manager moved to the next item.

1. Presentation of the Fiscal Year (fy) 2020-2021 proposed budget.

Manager Burrell presented the proposed fiscal year 2020-2021 budget. Alderwoman Smith thanked the Manager and staff for working hard to prepare the budget and being conservative with taxpayer's dollars. Alderwoman Mull thanked staff for their hard work preparing the budget. Alderman Hamlett inquired when the decision to change the public hearing would take place.

2. Public Hearing to discuss the proposed FY 2020-2021 budget

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter the public hearing at 8:08pm. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to extend the public hearing to June 11, 2020 in lieu of all the changing protocols with the covid19 pandemic. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

3. Budget Amendments:

Manager Burrell presented the Board with the end of year required budget amendments (see attached). Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the budget amendments.

4. Community Garden Lease: First Baptist Church

Town Manager Burrell presented the request to renew the lease with First Baptist Church for 1 year for the community garden located next to Riverview Farm and Gardens on Town property. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to renew the Community Garden lease for 1 year. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

I. Adjournment:

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Walter Clark Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk