

August 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, August 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, Town Clerk and Town Attorney were present.

C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smathers called on Alderman Shepard to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: July 9, 2020

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the July 9, 2020 minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that he and Alderman Shepard had attended the prayer service at Silver Bluff nursing home for all those that were affected by the COVID19 outbreak. Mayor Smathers asked for continued prayers for the patients, family members, and staff during this scary difficult time.

Mayor Smathers stated that he had been contacted by a citizen regarding speeding on Locust Street. Manager Burrell stated that he would like to devise a traffic calming policy for the entire town that would address these issues as the Police Department did not have enough employees to be stationed numerous places for speeding issues.

Mayor Smathers inquired if the lights at the Veterans monument could be looked at, stating that he had received a complaint that the lights were not working at the memorial.

Mayor Smathers inquired if any contract had been negotiated regarding the landscaping and maintenance for the Town. Manager Burrell stated that he would turn the conversation over to Assistant Scheuer as he was in negotiations with B.H.

Grading at this time. Assistant Scheuer stated that the maintenance contract was basically finished, however, the materials for plantings were still being discussed as to what the Town would like to be implemented in the flower beds during different seasons. Assistant Scheuer stated that once this information was obtained, he would then be able to present a possible contract for service.

Mayor Smathers complimented Street Superintendent Johnny Gibson and staff for a job well done on the sidewalks on Newfound Street.

Mayor Smathers stated that he was happy to announce that even though the Labor Day events had to be cancelled that Cruso Endowment has scheduled an air parade for Labor Day to perform over Canton around noon on Monday, September 7th. Mayor Smathers stated that even though the parade was in the air instead of the ground it was still a celebration for all the laborers that work every field to make this community a wonderful place.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Shepard reiterated Mayor Smathers statement regarding the prayer service at Silver Bluff stating it was a moving event and he was happy to participate.

Alderman Hamlett made everyone aware that flu shots were available for free at all the local pharmacies and encouraged everyone to get one to protect themselves. Alderman Hamlett encouraged everyone to wear a mask to protect themselves and others.

Alderwoman Mull encouraged everyone to continue to pray for the Country and each other during these difficult times.

Alderwoman Smith stated that safety was a top priority and encouraged everyone to do their part. Alderwoman Smith made everyone aware that Father Tim sent a thank you note for the recognition by the Board thanking them for their kindness. Alderwoman Smith stated that she was excited to see the Chestnut Mountain Park in the news also thanking staff and partners for their diligence to make this project come together to be enjoyed by all.

Mayor Smathers thanked Assistant Scheuer for his hard work on this project.

Mayor Smathers also made everyone aware that it the Town Manager's 40th Birthday wishing him a great day.

G. Public Comments

Mrs. Tiffany Cortright 15 Allen Street stated she had complaints about the watery sludge that was dripping from the garbage trucks that had just been noticed over the last couple of months and inquired if anything could be done to prevent this? Manager Burrell inquired what streets or areas this was occurring in and if was the same every time. Mrs. Cortright stated that she believed it was first, fourth, and the top of High Street. Manager Burrell stated that during heavy rainfall times you would have a lot of smelly water that drained from these trucks due to the water that accumulated in the cans and bags that could not be avoided. Street Superintendent Gibson stated that with the amount of rainfall over the last several months this could not be avoided and the plug in the hoppers had to remain open otherwise you would have a bed full of water. Manager Burrell stated that he would see if anything could be done to help alleviate the issue.

Mrs. Cortright also inquired about any measure for traffic calming in the downtown area. Manager Burrell stated that this had been discussed prior to Mrs. Cortright's arrival and that the Board had approved staff to develop a Town wide traffic calming policy to be brought back to the board for approval. Manager Burrell also stated that a flashing pedestrian sign was being investigated and a pedestrian delineator would be installed soon in the area of the Southern Porch to help alleviate speeding until something further could be achieved.

Manager Burrell also updated Mrs. Cortright on a previous complaint regarding cats in her area. Manager Burrell stated that as the ordinance read since its modification in 2015, there were no limit on number of dogs or cats a citizen could have. Manager Burrell stated that cats did not have to be leashed or confined by Town of Canton ordinance, but he would contact the Haywood County Animal Control section to see what was in place at the County level. Manager Burrell suggested that the Board revisit the animal ordinance to include more specific numbers as was previously adopted in 2003 until changed in 2015.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report.

Manager Burrell updated the Board on the Boat Launch project stating that the process was moving forward, and the week of August 17th they would begin to see construction and tree removal in that area.

Manager Burrell stated that Assistant Manger Scheuer was moving forward with the Dog Park project as well as the Sorrells Street Park Project.

Manager Burrell reported to the board the Champion Credit Union Aquatics Facility would operate on weekends only from August 16th through Labor Day.

Manager Burrell reported to the Board that the tax collection rate was at 99.58% and Wanda Lurvey continued to work hard to collect delinquent taxes.

I. Old Business

Manager Burrell presented an offer to purchase property parcel #8667-11-0807 .01 acre in the mount of \$500 dollars. Manager Burrell explained that the bid was posted in the paper with no upset bid. At this time the purchaser had been contacted regarding required services to obtain a deed and record at the Haywood County Courthouse at their expense. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to accept the offer as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

J. New Business

1. Resolution Merger/revitalization Feasibility Study for Water Infrastructure.

Manager Burrell presented a resolution to authorize the merger/revitalization feasibility study for water infrastructure in the amount of \$50,000 dollars. Alderwoman Smith made the motion to approve the resolution as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

2. McGill Scope of Work for the Feasibility Study on Water Infrastructure.

Manager Burrell presented the scope of work agreement for the merger/revitalization water infrastructure study to be performed by McGill Associates. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to accept the scope of work as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

**K. Closed Session: Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11
(a)(5)(6)**

Aldерwoman Smith made a motion to enter closed session at 7:05 pm. Aldерwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

After a lengthy discussion, Aldерwoman Mull made a motion to enter open Session at 7:51 pm. Aldерman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

L. Offer to Purchase

1. Offer to Purchase #8667-81-7696

Manager Burrell presented an Offer to Purchase 3.3 acres from tract # 8667-81-7696 located at 1951 Asheville Highway for \$150,000 dollars. This property will be purchased to allow ingress, egress, and parking for the Chestnut Mountain Park. Aldерman Hamlett made a motion to approve the offer to purchase as presented. Aldерwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

2. Budget Amendment

Manager Burrell asked the Board to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$150,000 dollars to purchase 3.3 acres from parcel #8667-81-7696 located at 1951 Asheville Highway. Aldерman Hamlett made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$150,000 dollars. Aldерwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

M. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Walter Clark Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk