

July 9, 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, July 9, 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 asked Father Tim McRee to lead the invocation.

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

D. Approval of Minutes: June 25, 2020

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the June 25, 2020 minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers thanked Champion Credit Union for the spectacular fireworks display on July 5th. Mayor Smathers stated that even though it was not the conventional way to enjoy the show it still gave folks something to enjoy and celebrate this great Country.

Mayor Smathers made everyone aware that Mr. Nate Washington had announced that due to the Covid19 regulations that the emergency workers meal would be postponed until it was safe for the event. Mayor Smathers stated that Mr. Washington worked tirelessly to give back to his community and this was one example of that work.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Shepard thanked Champion Credit Union for the

fireworks display that they sponsor for the community. Alderman Shepard also thanked Town staff that cooked and presented the meal for the employee lunch.

Alderwoman Smith stated that the Fireworks display was great and well received in the community.

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for attending the meeting also adding that it was good to see faces in the audience. Alderwoman Mull also thanked staff for the food for the employee meal.

Alderman Hamlett stated that North Carolina was doing better than most states with the covid19 pandemic because of the precautions set forth and encouraged everyone to do their part. Alderman Hamlett also added that wearing masks was an effort to protect others as well as yourself and hoped everyone would do their part until the pandemic was under control.

G. Public Comments

Mr. Carl Cortright 15 Allen Street stated that during the pandemic he and his wife had the opportunity to walk more through town and that he noticed that the traffic speed near Toki Tattoo and the Southern Porch was at dangerous levels. Mr. Cortright inquired if any calming measures could be added for safety in this portion of road? Manager Burrell stated that this was a NCDOT maintained Street and he would make contact to see if any measures could be addressed.

Mrs. Tiffany Cortright 15 Allen Street stated that people shooting fireworks at random times was a problem in her neighborhood not only from the noise aspect but the terror it was causing the animals. Mrs. Cortright stated that her dogs were terrified and that even when it was a holiday that people were shooting the illegal types of fireworks and asked what could be done? Manger Burrell stated that the Police Department had done some investigating and the fireworks that were in question were being shot outside the corporate limits. Mrs. Cortright asked if an announcement before a holiday could be broadcast reminding people of the law regarding fireworks. Manager Burrell stated that would not be an issue. Mrs. Cortright also stated that beautification measures should be handled quickly as to not undo all the work that had already been completed.

Mr. Steve Crawford 29 Northridge Drive stated that he was having issues with people parking in the road blocking traffic and that he reported this to the last Manager Seth Hendler-Voss

and Chief Whitner and had still not received any help on the matter. Mr. Crawford stated that the person(s) continued to tantalize people in the area as well as lie to the police about the condition of the vehicle. Mayor Smathers thanked Mr. Crawford for attending the meeting and assured him that the issue would be investigated. Manager Burrell stated that he would have staff investigate the issue and try to remedy the problem.

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 they should see progress in the next two months.

Manager Burrell stated that he had met with BH Graning to obtain a contract on the landscaping and beatification of the Town. Assistant Scheuer stated that a scope of work and a map of locations had been completed and he was working to get the process complete.

Manager Burrell reported to the board that he had received an email with regards to the bridge abutment project stating that he had cancelled the project from Carroll Jones. Manager Burrell stated that he wasn't sure were Mr. Jones received that information but that the project was slated to be completed in the new budget year with funding from the Cruso Endowment Fund.

I. Old Business

Manager Burrell presented an offer to purchase property parcel #8667-11-0807 .01 acre in the mount of \$500 dollars. Manger Burrell also presented a resolution authorizing bids on parcel # 8667-11-0807 .01 acre. Manager Burrell explained that the bid would be posted in the paper to allow for an upset bid which would continue until no upset bids were received within 10 days from the last bid. At this time the purchaser would be required to have any required services performed to obtain a deed and record at the Haywood County Courthouse at their expense. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

J. New Business

1. Proclamation honoring Father Tim McRee

Manager Burrell presented a proclamation honoring Father Tim McRee for all of his service and kindness to the Canton community over the last 25 years. Mayor Smathers read the proclamation aloud. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Alderwoman Smith thanked Father McRee for the culture that he created not only in the church but the Canton area as a whole.

Alderwoman Mull thanked Father Tim for his contribution to the Canton community. Alderwoman Mull stated that Father Tim exemplified kindness and community service over the last 25 years.

Alderman Hamlett stated that Father Tim is a man that not only speaks his faith but lives it daily and should be commended for his works.

Alderman Shepard thanked Father Tim for coming to be recognized and thanked him for his many years of service to his church and the community.

Mayor Smathers stated that Father Tim presented himself to all with kindness and respect and he had affected many in the community but that he and the church had helped so many kids with the backpack program and it was a service that continued on for those that needed help.

Mrs. Bonnie Stamey stated that her late husband and past Town Manager, Bill Stamey was very fond of Father McRee and that she attended women's bible study at this church and that she wanted to thank him for his years of service to this community on both of their behalf.

2. E911 Addressing: Joey Webb

Manager Burrell introduced Mr. Joey Webb from Haywood County. Mr. Webb explained to the Board that due to guidelines from the State of North Carolina that to better serve and to comply with current standard that the addressing in Canton would need to be revisited. Mr.

Webb explained that even and odd numbers on the same side of the street, half numbers, and other issues were never an issue in the past because in rural communities everyone knew each other so landmarks were used a lot in directions for emergency services. Mr. Webb stated that this was no longer the case and that emergency services were having issues in response with not being able to locate addresses due to these issues. Mr. Webb stated that this would not affect everyone, but it would affect some, however, it had to be completed to not only comply with the State but that every second in some cases was the difference in life and death. Manager Burrell thanked Mr. Webb for the update and explanation and assured the Board that the public would be well informed and notified by the County when the process began. Manager Burrell stated that this project would begin in approximately 6 months.

3. Meeting Cancellation

Manager Burrell stated that he had been approached by several members regarding not being available for the next meeting. Manager Burrell asked the Boards pleasure as to the cancellation or rescheduling the next meeting. Manager Burrell also reminded the Board that an emergency meeting could be held if something had to be addressed. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to cancel the next meeting for July 23, 2020. Alderwoman Mull 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)

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session at 7:30 pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

After a brief discussion, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open Session at 7:55 pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

L. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Walter Clark Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk