

August 27, 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 27, 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 Alderwoman Smith to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: August 13, 2020

Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the August 13, 2020 minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that considering the recent hacking issues with Haywood County Schools computers he would like to make sure that the Town of Canton is prepared for this type of threat. Manager Burrell assured the Mayor that the Town had a very secure site along with a security system that backs up often that would allow the Town to be able to be back in operating procedures within a 4 hour block if ever hacked as well as insurance that would assist with these issues. Manager Burrell stated that another security measure could be added that he was working with Electronic Office to implement to make the system stronger.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Shepard commented that Louisiana and Texas was in his thoughts and prayers due to the devastation from the hurricane.

Alderwoman Smith stated that she had continually been in contact with her family that resided in Texas and that she

continued to pray for all those affected by the storm. Alderwoman Smith asked the Manager to please update the board on economic development at the next meeting.

G. Public Comments

Mr. Justin Greene introduced himself to the Mayor and Board and asked for their support during the upcoming election for the District Court Judge position. Mr. Greene thanked the Board for their service also commenting that his Great Uncle Ted Woodruff served on the Board for many years in Canton and he hoped to serve Haywood County and others as well as Mr. Woodruff had done in the past.

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 in a timely manner with visible progress already noticeable.

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

Manager Burrell stated that he and Assistant Scheuer were currently working on the traffic calming policy that would be brought to the board in the future for approval.

I. Old Business

N/A

J. New Business

1. Haywood County tax Reevaluation Report

Ms. Stephanie Parkins from the Haywood County tax assessor's office reported that the reevaluation process should be complete in January 2021. Ms. Parkins stated that over 30,000 parcels had already been visited out the 50,000 parcels located in the County. Ms. Parkins made it clear that the County would be working with citizens to help them with the appeals process if they chose to appeal.

2. Contract B.H. Graning Landscape Services

Assistant Manager Scheuer presented the contract for landscape services with B.H. Graning a local landscape contractor (see attached). Manager Burrell stated that the watering and decorating would still be performed by Town employees but all the planting and maintenance of the beds etc. would be completed by B.H. Graning. Manager Burrell stated that the contracted service would still allow the Town to maintain the beautification with a savings of approximately \$25,000 by eliminating a full-time horticulturist position. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the contract to B.H. Graning for landscape services. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Alderwoman Mull inquired if the contract could be terminated if service was not acceptable. Manager Burrell stated that a clause would be in the contract that allowed for so many days' notice to delete the contract. Alderwoman Smith thanked staff for their work to secure a contract for these services. All members voted in favor of the motion.

3. Request to use the Armory for Candidate Forum

Mrs. Vicki Hyatt from the Mountaineer inquired if they could utilize the Armory for their candidate forum that they provided the community during each election. Mrs. Hyatt stated that the Boardroom was the venue they typically used, however due to covid19 distance restrictions that it would be better if the Armory could be utilized for the event. Alderman Hamlett inquired if a co-sponsorship form had been submitted? Manager Burrell stated that he did not feel it was necessary since they always used the boardroom free of charge and the Armory was a safer environment due to covid19. Alderman Hamlett stated that he did not like to break protocol and requested that Mrs. Hyatt fill out the sponsorship request and submit to staff as a condition of approval for the event. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the usage of the Armory for the candidate forum at no charge once a co-sponsorship application had been submitted. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

K. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Walter Clark Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk