

September 10, 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, September 10, 2020 at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women 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. Mayor Smathers reported that Alderwoman Mull would not be in attendance as her husband suffered a heart attack earlier in the day. Mayor Smathers stated that the family would be in his prayers.

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 for a moment of silence.

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

D. Approval of Minutes: August 27, 2020

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

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers thanked everyone at Ingles for helping the Town give back to the workers at the Canton Evergreen Packaging plant with cookies and coffee at the morning shift change on Labor Day.

Mayor Smathers thanked the Cruso Endowment Fund for sponsoring the Bandit Air show for the Labor Day holiday, also stating that even though during the pandemic Canton still finds ways to give back to the community even though it may not be traditional it was something special.

Mayor Smathers inquired if the B.H. Graning contract was complete? Assistant Manager Scheuer stated the contract was complete and he was looking forward to partnering with this new local company.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Shepard thanked all the Fire Department and EMS personnel stating that they work extremely hard in difficult situations, which he experienced recently firsthand with a family member, and he was grateful for their professionalism and care.

Alderman Hamlett thanked staff and Ingles for organizing the cookie hand out campaign for the "Mill Laborer's" on Labor Day. Alderman Hamlett expressed his apologies for not being able to attend and thanked other members for their efforts.

Alderwoman Smith stated that the Labor Day events were wonderful although very different than years past, however, stated that she was very appreciative for Cruso Endowment and staff for giving the community something to celebrate. Alderwoman Smith stated that she encouraged everyone to continue to practice the three w's (wash your hands, wear a mask, and watch your distance) with regard to the pandemic.

G. Public Comments

Ms. Leah Allen from Candler NC stated that she was concerned with the living conditions for tenants at 109 Park Street. Ms. Allen stated that her best friend was living in squaller conditions and the landlord Tommy Parham was unwilling to mediate the issues. Ms. Allen inquired if the Town of Canton had any ordinances regarding bed bugs, roaches, and the like? Manager Burrell responded that these issues would be investigated and reported to the several agencies that would govern these complaints.

Ms. Regina Mathis of 109 Park Street Apartments stated that the building had numerous health and safety violations such as, bed bugs, roaches, raw sewage in the basement, drug sales, drug usage, criminal activity with chop shop for bicycles, electrical work by unlicensed person, and no ADA compliance to name a few. Ms. Mathis stated that she had reported these issues to the Haywood County Inspections, Haywood County Health Department, Haywood County Social Service, Town of Canton Fire Department, and everyone always told her that it was someone else's responsibility. Ms. Mathis asked the Board for help and to investigate the living conditions of these apartments. Mayor Smathers assured Ms. Mathis that staff would report to proper authorities to see what could be done if these violations were in place. Manager Burrell stated that he would get with his staff and report to the County agencies for

their investigation.

Mr. Tom Wilson owner of American Cleaners located at 10 Penland Street across from 109 Park Street Apartments. Mr. Wilson stated that he had been in business for 32 years and that the conditions and activities in and around this location was horrific. Mr. Wilson stated that drug users were coming into his business at times, defecating outside at his dumpster, as well as leaving paraphernalia everywhere. Mr. Wilson stated that he had been involved in a verbal altercation with Mr. Tom Parham about these issues to no avail. Mr. Wilson asked the board to step in to see what could be done as the situation was out of hand at this location not to mention the wasted tax dollars that were being spent on constant police and medical calls at this location that could be utilized for the community. Mr. Wilson stated that the apartments had become a nuisance to the area and several businesses. Mayor Smathers thanked Mr. Wilson for bringing these issues to the Board's attention stating that these allegations would be investigated. Manager Burrell stated that he would investigate these allegations to see what could be addressed from the administrative side of things, however, stated some of these issues would have to be dealt with civilly if necessary.

Alderwoman Smith thanked everyone for coming to make the Board aware of the issues as quality of life was very important for all.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report.

Manager Burrell stated that the tax collection rate was 99.6%.

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 and the project was to be complete in October.

Manager Burrell stated that Assistant Manager Scheuer was moving forward with the Dog Park project stating that meeting was underway with fence contractors and the like.

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.

Alderman Hamlett inquired if the Champion Credit Union Aquatics facility was closed for the season? Manager Burrell stated that the facility closed for the season with Labor Day being the last open day.

I. Old Business

N/A

J. New Business

1. Memorandum of Understanding: Infrastructure
Beaverdam Industrial Park

Manager Burrell presented a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the infrastructure at the Beaverdam Industrial Park (see attached). Manager Burrell stated that the agreement would be that the County would provide the materials and the Town of Canton would provide the Labor to install the infrastructure. Manager Burrell stated that this was helpful when entertaining new business's as that they would have no wait period to be able to start a business due to the infrastructure not being in place. Build it and they will come was a more proactive approach than being reactive. Alderwoman Smith inquired if this would affect issues that might arise in the Town infrastructure? Manager Burrell stated that this would be completed on an as can basis not a scheduled deadline and that Town service would take priority. Mayor Smathers stated that being proactive was the way that you prepared for growth or "Smart Growth". Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

2. Proclamation Constitution Week

Mayor Smathers read aloud a proclamation (see attached) recognizing September 17th through September 23rd, 2020 as Constitution week. Alderman Hamlett stated that he had handed out copies of the constitution since 2013 to everyone that was in attendance. Alderman Hamlett reminded everyone that everyone should celebrate their responsibilities as we celebrate the freedoms that exist due to the National faith in the constitution. Alderman Hamlett stated that believing that in good we are and good we can be is the very decency the Country is based.

Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

K. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Walter Clark Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk