

October 22, 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, October 22, 2020 at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women Hamlett, Mull, 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 Shepard to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: October 8, 2020

Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve the October 8, 2020 minutes as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that he looked forward to the Veterans Day Ceremony. Mayor Smathers stated that the event would be a virtual only livestream this year due to the Covid19 restrictions and safety due to the increase in cases in North Carolina.

Mayor Smathers stated that the Christmas parade would be a deconstructed parade or drive-thru parade due to the Governors restrictions on parades that are still in place. Mayor Smathers asked for a consensus to let staff organize the event with all the safety concerns in place.

Mayor Smathers read an email to the Board that was received from Chief Gaddis. Alderman Hamlett requested that the email be saved and read aloud when the media was present and possibly attendees.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Smith reminded everyone to keep following the safety protocols for covid19 to help keep the spread and illness

to a minimum. Alderwoman Smith reported to the Manager that several post at the playground needed attention. Alderwoman Smith commented that the Boat/kayak launch looked great as did the work being done on the dog park.

Alderwoman Mull stated that political signs from her yard had been stolen and that the Police department was helpful and understanding with her complaint.

Alderman Shepard reiterated the importance for the 3 w's and urged all to continue to be diligent to help prevent the spread of the corona virus.

G. Public Comments

N/A

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report and the tax collection rate.

Attorney William Morgan joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m. due to traffic jam on I-40.

Manager Burrell reported that the construction of the dog park was underway, and the concrete installation should be finished next week.

Manager Burrell reported that the Kayak/tube launch was finished and that a walkthrough had been performed and a small punch list of things would be completed in the next week or so at the conclusion of the project.

Manager Burrell updated the Board on the continued progress on the updating of the code of ordinances stating that the Planning Board would be meeting in the next couple of weeks to clean up the permitted and non-permitted uses as previously discussed. For example, furriers and sale of furs, beach bingo, and other types of businesses that were still listed as uses although no longer relevant or conducive to the areas. Manager Burrell stated that the next issue to be considered by the board would be whether to strictly enforce the code in the ETJ areas. Manager Burrell stated that these violations had not been strictly enforced in these areas in the past but could be beneficial in these areas to be able to keep the corridors coming into Town clean and free of junk to help boost the economic value to the Town and especially the appeal for the new Chestnut Mountain park project that would be presented in the new business segment.

I. Old Business

N/A

J. New Business

1. Chestnut Mountain Project Presentation: Kim Williams from Equinox Designs

Ms. Kim Williams from the Equinox firm presented the proposed plans for the Chestnut Park (see attached). Ms. Williams explained each phase and the contributors to the project. Mayor Smathers stated that this was an epic concept and a game changer for Canton's recreation offerings. Mayor Smathers stated that this was a legacy project and commended the Board for having the courage and commitment to see this project to fruition.

Alderwoman Smith stated that she was excited about this project stating that recreation was one reason that her family chose to live in Canton. Alderwoman Smith thanked staff for their work on this project. Manager Burrell stated that this was by far the largest recreation project to have regional interest. Manager Burrell stated that Assistant Manager Scheuer had done a great job on this project.

Alderwoman Mull stated that she was amazed at the plan and thanked everyone for a beautiful job.

Alderman Hamlett commented that the presentation was a celebration of the professionalism of all who worked on and developed this project.

Alderman Shepard stated that the potential this project had for the community and all the components that the project has to offer is amazing.

2. Visitors Guide Ad

Manager Burrell presented a request for an ad in the TDA Visitor Guide publication. Manger Burrell stated that in the past Canton had used the Colonial Theatre in the ad but encouraged the Board to increase the size of the ad and use this space to promote all the new offerings that Canton provided. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve a 1/2 page ad in the visitor's guide. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

3. Taxes

Manager Burrell presented the 10-year tax releases, the Tax Settlement, the order to Collect, and Tax Releases to the board for their consideration (see attached). Manager Burrell stated that the tax year tax release history clearly showed how hard that Wanda Lurvey works to keep the unpaid taxes to a minimum. Manager Burrell stated that since 2010 the uncollected amount had gone from \$180,348.43 dollars owed down to only \$32,886.69 dollars owed, which was a significant amount and a testament to Wanda's work ethic. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the 10-year Tax Releases, the Tax Settlement, The Order to Collect, and Tax Releases as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion approved.

K. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Walter Clark Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk