

November 12, 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, November 12, 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 Alderman Hamlett to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: October 22, 2020

Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the October 22, 2020 minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers passed around a copy of the Southwest Commission publication for all to look at.

Mayor Smathers inquired about the traffic calming policy progress. Assistant Scheuer stated that the pedestrian crossing sign was on back order and he and the Manager were still working on the comprehensive policy.

Mayor Smathers reported that the lights were out at the Museum monument and flagpole.

Mayor Smathers suggested that Tammy Ensley be the Grand Marshal for the Christmas Parade. All Board members agreed to ask Mrs. Ensley to be the Grand Marshal.

Mayor Smathers thanked everyone that is working to make the standing still parade a success.

Mayor Smathers thanked staff for a successful Veteran Day Ceremony, especially Laura Murray for organizing the event.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Smith thanked staff for fixing the posts at the playground. Alderwoman Smith also commented that the Veterans event was great, and she had also had positive feedback for trying to think outside the box for the Christmas parade.

Alderwoman Mull stated that Laura Murray did a great job on the Veterans Ceremony.

Alderman Hamlett reminded everyone that the Covid19 cases were dramatically increasing and he encouraged everyone to do their part by wearing a mask and using safety protocols.

Alderman Shepard thanked all that were involved in making the Veterans Day ceremony a great event. Alderman Shepard also commented that his classes had already utilize the boat launch for his classes.

G. Public Comments

Mr. Caleb Lawson introduced himself to the Board stating that he moved here from Florida and would be opening a concrete design studio at 16 Main Street. Mr. Lawson stated that he already has a successful business in Florida and that this would be his second location. The business would be Lawson Designs and they would be doing concrete work such as counter tops etc. The Board welcomed Mr. Lawson to Town.

Ms. Jean Parris stated that First Baptist Church was hosting a coat drive starting at 9am on November 19th and encouraged all to donate any items they could.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report.

Manager Burrell reported that the construction of the dog park was almost complete and ready to be utilized. Alderwoman Mull asked what the plans were for the basketball court. Manager Burrell stated that this part of the project would not start until the next budget year.

Manager Burrell reported to the Board that the employee Christmas bonuses would be given out in the next week however, due to the covid19 restrictions, the employee Christmas meal would be cancelled but employees would still receive a half of day off on December 23rd as well as would be off on December 24th, 25th and 28th for the Christmas holidays.

I. Old Business

N/A

J. New Business

1. Road Closure Ordinance: Christmas Parade

Manager Burrell presented an ordinance that must be sent to the North Carolina Department of Transportation to allow the roads to be closed for the annual Christmas parade. Alderwoman Smith made the motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

2. Planning Board Recommendations on Permitted and Non-permitted uses in all zones.

Manager Burrell stated that the Planning Board had met and discussed permitted and non-permitted uses in all zones as well as deleting items that were no longer relevant in this day and time as instructed by the Board for the past several years. Manager Burrell instructed the Board to read the recommendations and deletions also stating that this was an effort to clean up the code of ordinances so if an item is listed in one section it would automatically be allowed in other zones therefore they would see it removed in several places although still allowed but not repeating the language over and over. Manager Burrell reminded the Board that the Planning Board would be making recommendations in different sections of the code to make it easier for the Board to digest as the last overhaul of the code book was in the 1970's. Alderman Hamlett asked that the word "morals" be eliminated from Section 9-4001. Manager Burrell stated that a public hearing would need to be held to allow citizens the right to hear and comment on the suggested changes. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to set a public hearing for December 10, 2020 at 6:30pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

3. Meeting Cancellations

Manager Burrell suggested that the Board cancel the November 26th and December 24th meetings due to the holidays. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to cancel both meetings as suggested. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

K. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Walter Clark Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk