

December 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, December 10, 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 Shepard to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: October 22, 2020

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the November 11, 2020 minutes as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers thanked TDA, Town Staff, and others for the correction on the wayfinding signs to Memorial Stadium.

Mayor Smathers inquired if the Manager had any statistics on the recycling effort since the issuance of carts to citizens? Manager Burrell stated that he did have that information and would forward to the members via email.

Mayor Smathers stated that he had received an overwhelming amount of positive comments and cards from the citizenry for the Christmas parade. Mayor Smathers commended staff on a job well done in very different and difficult times.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull thanked Lisa Stinnett and staff on a great job organizing the parade also stating that it was humbling to hear all the kids that thanked them during the parade for the event.

Alderman Hamlett stated that he was skeptical of how the parade would be received and any doubts he had were erased

immediately. Alderman Hamlett stated that the little kids and their parents were so thankful for the event. Alderman Hamlett thanked Lisa Stinnett and Natalie Walker for all their efforts.

Alderman Shepard thanked all that were involved in making the parade a success. Alderman Shepard stated that it was good to see such teamwork among staff. Alderman Shepard stated that he wanted to thank the Street and Water Departments for the jobs they did fixing leaks and streets along with the decorations throughout town.

Alderwoman Smith stated that it was heart warming to hear all the positive remarks during the parade especially in such an insane year. Alderwoman Smith commented that the Town was doing good for the community and great things could be accomplished when everyone works together.

G. Public Comments

Mrs. Debbie Trull stated that she had several comments regarding the spending of Town funds. Ms. Trull stated that she would like to see lighting on the walking trail for safety reasons. Manager Burrell stated that the walking trail was targeted for relocation back from the riverbank as well as some aesthetics to tie it in with the other recreation upgrades that were in progress. Ms. Trull stated that she wanted all the potholes and sidewalks repaired throughout Town that it was a disgrace the condition they were in. Ms. Trull stated that she worked for a non-profit and that people were hurting all over the County and a large amount of homeless people were residing in Town under the bridges and other various places. Ms. Trull encouraged the Board to spend money on tiny house villages for these people to reside on Town owned properties that were vacant. Mayor Smathers thanked Ms. Trull for her concerns and agreed that the pothole near her home was on a State maintained road and asked the Manager to report to NCDOT for repairs. Manager Burrell stated that he would be glad to pass the information along but commented that this had been reported in the past for repair requests. Mayor Smathers stated that he agreed that homelessness was an issue all over the County and ask the Manager to have the emergency personnel reach out to these individuals and let them know where in the County they could receive assistance.

Alderwoman Smith thanked Ms. Trull for coming to the meeting and caring about her community.

Mr. Carl Cortright stated that the boat launch project looked great and inquired if any posts or gates would be installed? Manager Burrell stated that no additional posts or gates would be constructed as this was designed for public use. Mr.

Cortright inquired as to what surface would be used at the dog park site. Manager Burrell stated that mulch was scheduled to be delivered to the area in the next few days. Mr. Cortright stated that he had seen a business near the International Paper Sports Complex that constructed tiny home that could possibly be used for the homeless. Manager Burrell stated that although he appreciated the eagerness to alleviate the homeless issue that the idea of putting tiny homes on vacant Town property was against Town code due to the fact they are viewed much like a camper and that did not meet the criteria to have Town services.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report.

Manager Burrell reported that the construction of the dog park would be come to fruition in the next couple of weeks.

Manager Burrell stated that the Public Works staff did a great job making and hanging the decorations throughout Town and staff did an amazing job with the parade, but also thanked the Board for their willingness and push from the Board to be progressive and think outside the box.

Manager Burrell asked the Board for a consensus to allow the Polar Plunge event to be held at the Champion Credit Union Aquatic Center again this year. Manager Burrell stated that the event would be very different due to Covid19 protocol, but he felt that Haywood Waterways had a plan that would address all their concerns and he would keep them apprised of the event as it developed. All members gave their consensus to allow the event.

Manager Burrell stated that he needed the Board consensus to broker the funds between the Downtown business and the Cruso Endowment Fund to promote the shop downtown event on Saturday. A consensus was given by the Board.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware of the holiday schedule for staff except for those services that were required. Manager Burrell stated that the employee meal would be cancelled due to the Covid19 safety concerns, however, staff would be given a half day off on December 23rd and all day off on the 24th, 25th, and 28th for the Christmas Holidays per the personnel policy. Alderman Hamlett asked the Manager to make sure that the employees understood that the Board truly appreciated all that the employees do for this Town.

I. Old Business

N/A

J. New Business

1. Audit Report: Sheila Gahagan CPA

Auditor Sheila Gahagan presented the Board with a full audit report as well as a smaller summary of the audit (see attached). Mrs. Gahagan stated that Finance Officer Natalie Walker and Town Manager Burrell did a great job with the budgetary requirements and the oversight of taxpayers' dollars. Mrs. Gahagan stated that she caught an issue with the ABC audit and brought that to their attention and it had since been corrected but she needed to report since that audit fell under the Town. Manager Burrell thanked Mrs. Gahagan for her audit and her professionalism with he and staff during the audit process. Mayor Smathers thanked everyone for a great job managing Town monies and protocols.

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

Alderwoman Smith made a motion to enter a public hearing at 7:50pm. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Manager Burrell asked Assistant Manager Scheuer to present the recommended changes to the Code of Ordinances (see attached). Assistant Scheuer 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 which were all included in the presented document. Mr. Carl Cortright stated that he thought the food truck ordinance should be relaxed to allow food trucks in more places to allow for more variety. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to close the public hearing at 8:02 pm. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the recommended changes as presented to the permitted and non-permitted uses in all zones. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Manager Burrell reminded the Board that more proposed changes would be coming as the Planning Board would be taking this in smaller sections rather than the entire code book at one time.

3. Traffic Calming Policy

Manager Burrell presented the Board with a traffic calming policy for them to review and call him with any questions or

concerns before the next meeting at which time it would be brought for discussion.

4. Offer to Purchase parcel #8656888963 (117 Pisgah Dr)

Assistant Manager Scheuer presented the Board with an offer to purchase the property owned by the Town which is a vacant lot located at 117 Pisgah Drive (8656-88-8963) near the new roundabout from Mr. Steve Pressley. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to table this item until a future date for time to review the exact property. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted to table the item.

K. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in Walter Clark Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk