

## **January 18, 2021**

At the Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held in the Town of Canton Boardroom, January 18, 2021 at 11:00 am 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 9:00 a.m.

### **B. Roll Call**

Mayor Smathers stated that the Manager, Assistant Manager, Town Clerk, and were present.

### **C. Pledge of Allegiance**

Alderwoman Smith led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **G. Public Comments**

N/A

### **H. Reports from the Manager**

Manager Burrell stated that he wanted to hear the Boards vision so that work can begin on the upcoming budget. Manager Burrell led the discussion off by stating that during the difficult circumstances that the Town had done well during the financial uncertainties and several projects had come to fruition and that the Board should be proud of their accomplishments this year.

#### **Infrastructure**

Alderman Shepard stated that his main goal for the upcoming budget year would be street and sidewalk repair. Alderman Shepard stated that many streets were in extreme disarray and he would like to focus on the infrastructure. Manager Burrell stated that he would agree this should be a priority.

#### **Recreation Park**

Manager Burrell stated that the Recreation project was to be complete in phases and with the dog park being complete he wanted to hear the vision for the tennis court area, playground, and recreation park walking trail. Alderman Hamlett stated that he agreed with the plans to remove the old fencing and make

the basketball court area more inviting. Alderwoman Smith expressed that she would like some type of fencing barrier to keep kids from the traffic coming in and out of the parking area. Manager Burrell stated that his plan was to resurface the tennis court area and keeping the basketball area, possible redesigning the skateboard park area, and having either pickle ball or other types of recreation on the other section. Alderman Shepard agreed that the skateboard park needed better design as well as installing a pickle ball court. Assistant Manager Scheuer stated that he had been approached by a resident of Haywood County that was willing to help with the design of the park and possibly helping with community sourcing to offset some of the expense to make it nice for those wanting to skate. Alderman Hamlett stated that his only direction would be if you do the skateboard park that it be done right and be what the kids wanted not just makeshift. If we are going to do it lets do it right. Alderwoman Smith agreed that it should be designed and completed with the correct design. Alderwoman Smith stated that the current park equipment was donated by Pinnacle Church and has been greatly appreciated but over time has broken and needs replaced. Alderwoman Smith asked the Manager to reach out to Pinnacle and see if they would want the equipment back before any disposal took place. Manager Burrell stated that the resurfacing and fence removal would be the next step for that specific area along with possibly moving the walking trail back some due to erosion, adding dirt and fixing the baseball field, and bigger picture investigating some type of lighting on the dark areas of the trail in the future.

### **Sorrells Park**

Manager Burrell stated that Sorrells Street Park improvements would be in the works hopefully some completed this summer. (see attached plans). Manager Burrell stated that power and water upgrades, shade shelters, and splash pad would be the first big ticket items for the park. Manager Burrell explained that this project would be phased based on money.

### **Chestnut Park**

Manager Burrell updated the Board on Chestnut Park progress and turned over the discussion to Assistant Scheuer. Assistant Scheuer stated that the YouTube video has been a success and the YouTube independent contributor should start his trail construction in April at no cost to the Town. Assistant Scheuer stated that he would like to see the Town do a parking lot, a prominent sign at the entrance, walkway to trail approximately ¼ of a mile, and overlook spot that connects to trail.

**Streetscape**

Manager Burrell reported that he planned to continue the streetscape from Adams and Academy with trees, sidewalk, etc. to tie into the already completed portion of the project.

**Marketing**

Alderswoman reported that she was looking to add marketing information on the website for the Colonial, Armory, and Annex. Alderswoman Smith stated that she felt that the space dimensions, capacity, and equipment availability would help those that were looking to rent space. Professional photography and videos would be beneficial on website as well.

**Decorations**

Alderman Hamlett stated he would like to see money in the budget to expand and improve the Christmas decorations. Manager Burrell stated that he and staff were in the process of planning adding larger decoration over time as they are very expensive.

Mayor Smathers introduced Representative Mark Pless. Representative Pless stated that he would like to hear from the Board on any large projects for that he might could help with.

Manager Burrell thanked everyone for attending and giving their input early and stated that he would come up with a preliminary plan and bring back to the Board for their input.

**L. Adjournment:**

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in Walter Clark Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 11.43 a.m.

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Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk