

September 24, 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 24, 2020 at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women 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. Mayor Smathers reported that Alderman Hamlett would not be in attendance as his had to be transported to the hospital 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 called on Alderman Shepard to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: September 10, 2020

Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the September 10, 2020 minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that during the recent tragic fire at Evergreen Packaging the emergency response from all local agencies exemplified teamwork and skill. Mayor Smathers stated that the Town of Canton Fire Department did a great job and ultimately saved lives.

Mayor Smathers made everyone aware that a nice article about the Town of Canton was in Our State Magazine and the article could be obtained online.

Mayor Smathers stated that rumors regarding vandalism in area churches was targeted by activist groups. Mayor Smathers wanted to make it clear that no evidence suggested that this was from any outside group and that this was a rumor.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Smith inquired if the Manager was going to update the Board on the Park Street Apartment report and the Speed Abatement policy? Manager Burrell stated that he would update the Board on the progress of the inspections reports later in the agenda and that staff was still working on the speed policy. Alderwoman Smith wanted to bring awareness to Suicide Awareness month. Alderwoman Smith remarked that this was a real thing that happens way to often. Alderwoman Smith stated that for more information or help you could visit nami.org.

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for their prayers and support for her husband during his recent heart attack and surgery. Alderwoman Mull stated that he was doing well, and all the thoughts and prayers were greatly appreciated. Alderwoman Mull thanked the Manager for all his communication during tragic events at the Evergreen Packaging plant.

Alderman Shepard thanked all the emergency personnel for their quick and professional response to the recent event at the mill. Alderman Shepard stated that it was good to see all agencies throughout the County work efficiently and seamlessly during an intense situation. Alderman Shepard also, thanked the Manager for his communication during the tragedy,

G. Public Comments

Ms. Regina Mathis of 109 Park Street Apartments inquired if any of the inspections had been complete and what was going to be done to help with the continued bug and safety issues at these apartments. Ms. Mathis stated that she feared for her life and was very afraid of the retaliation from the owner Tom Parham. Manager Burrell stated that the preliminary report showed that fleas were in the apartment but no sign of bed bugs. Ms. Mathis stated that it was bed bugs and that the health concerns was a major issue for her. Manager Burrell stated that the Canton Fire Department had installed smoke detectors to help make the complex safer for the residents but the inspection issues were being reported to the owner and he would be given a time-frame to complete the violations. Ms Fowler a friend of Ms. Mathis stated that she had to bring the regulations to the Fire Chiefs attention and that it was very easy to google and get information. Manager Burrell commented that the Town of Canton staff had went above what they were required to do trying to help with the situation and that he would go to bat for his employees. Manager Burrell reiterated to both ladies that the inspections fell under several County departments which were in the process of completing their final reports and whatever the findings were

was out of the control of the Town of Canton, however, he was happy to be the liaison for them. Mayor Smathers explained to Ms. Mathis that Town staff were doing their do diligence to help foster the investigation as much as we they could, however, they needed to understand that the issues would not be fixed overnight. Ms. Fowler thanked everyone for all of their help in the matter.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report.

Manger 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 also made the Board aware that several change orders would be brought before them before the projects was complete.

Manager Burrell stated that Assistant Manager Scheuer was moving forward with the Dog Park project stating that meeting was underway with fence contractors and staff staked out the layout to be excavated soon.

Manager Burrell asked Assistant Scheuer to update the Board on the Chestnut Mountain Park. Assistant Scheuer stated that he was working with Equinox to apply for several grants for the park as well as would be presenting preliminary plans in the next several weeks for them to look at.

I. Old Business

N/A

J. New Business

1. TDA 1% report: Director Lynn Collins

Manager Burrell turned the floor over to Mrs. Collins for her report. Mrs. Collins stated that the wayfinding signs should start going up in the next two weeks in Canton. Mrs. Collins gave the 1% percent report (see attached) to the Board stating that shortfalls were not as bad as projected during the pandemic shutdown. Manager Burrell thanked Mrs. Collins for her hard work and the update to the Board. Manager Burrell made the Board aware that Mrs. Collins also need an appointment to the TDA Board from the Town of Canton. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to re-appoint Alderwoman Mull to the

position. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Casting for Recovery sponsorship request

Manager Burrell presented a sponsorship request for the casting for recovery event that is held each year at Lake Logan for cancer survivors. No motion was made.

3. Manager Burrell presented the Board with a contract with Withers and Ravenel to perform the State mandated update to the Town Ordinance section 160D. Manager Burrell explained to the Board this was basically mandated language changes and that it would be more efficient if this was contracted out rather than inhouse due to the time frame to be completed. Alderwoman Smith made the motion to approve the contract with Withers and Ravenel to complete the 160D changes to the Town Ordinance as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Request for Alcohol to be served from a keg at the Canton Armory

Manager Burrell presented a written request to have alcohol served from a keg at an event at the Canton Armory. Manager Burrell explained that the policy prohibits the use of kegs except by prior approval by the Mayor and Board. Manager Burrell stated that this would be serviced by a professional business that would get alcohol from a keg and serve to participants but would not be like a "kegger" you hear about in college. Manager Burrell reminded the Board that they had issued one permit thus far and required additional police officers for the event. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the use of kegs with two additional police officers at the event. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

K. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Walter Clark Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk