

March 25, 2021

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 March 25, 2021 at 6:30pm 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 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 Mull to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: March 11, 2021

Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the March 11, 2021 minutes as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated it was great to hear that the Town would be receiving approximately 1 million in Covid relief monies from the Cares Act and the guidelines for usage would be forth coming.

Mayor Smathers stated that he was sorry to hear about the passing of Alderman Hamlett's mother and expressed his sympathies to Alderman Hamlett.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull extended her sympathies to Alderman Hamlett. Alderwoman Mull also stated that the Local 507 Union was in the process of electing a new president.

Alderman Hamlett thanked the Board and staff for their kind words and expression of sympathy for himself and his family. Alderman Hamlett stated that is one of the things that makes Canton special is the strong sense of community and caring.

Alderwoman Smith stated that she was excited that it is National History Month.

G. Public Comments

Mrs. Vicki Hyatt inquired if stimulus money could be utilized at Chestnut Mountain Park. Assistant Manager Scheuer stated that it was unknown at this time what the money could be allocated for, but it was expected to be released soon.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Burrell presented the cash report.

Manager Burrell asked the Board's pleasure on the Picking in the Park event. Mayor Smathers stated that he thought that it should be continued but was concerned about the Governor's orders and how to safely produce the event. Alderman Shepard inquired if we had a hard count of attendees? Manager Burrell stated that we did not have hard numbers. Alderwoman Smith suggested that we wait a little more time maybe into June before we make that decision to see how the pandemic is playing out. Alderman Hamlett agreed with Alderwoman Smith. Manager Burrell stated that if the Board were in consensus, he would bring this back to the Board in May. Manager Burrell stated that this would also allow more time for everyone to get vaccinated. The Board agreed.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that new banners had been quoted and should be purchased soon.

Manager Burrell reported that he had been in contact with Highland Mapping regarding the addressing project and it looked like at this point it would affect around 2,100 residents. Manager Burrell explained that the rollout would be a lot like the garbage notification as approximately 4100 letters are in the process of being mailed out to Citizens making them aware that WastePro would pick up on Fridays.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that it would be his plans to hire a new Recreation Director starting July 1st to oversee all the recreation facilities especially with the addition of Chestnut Mountain and programming opportunities moving forward.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that the addition of a google calendar on the website for all to view for bookings and availability was in the process of being installed. Manager Burrell stated that he would be investigating the cost of a recreation software for all facilities that he would discuss during

the budget work session.

Assistant Manager Scheuer made the board aware that he had received a 30,000 grant from the Haywood County TDA for the Gateway sign at Chestnut Mountain. Assistant Scheuer made the Board aware that the installation of the pedestrian crossing at Southern Porch would be soon. Assistant Scheuer also stated that the sidewalk/pedestrian project for Champion Drive to Ingles from the Community Kitchen was back on project list from NCDOT after being sidelined from the Covid19 ramifications.

Manager Burrell commented that a decision regarding the Labor Day event would need to take place soon. Manager Burrell stated that at this time the guidelines would be 50% capacity with guidelines of 6 feet spacing and masks were still a requirement.

I. Old Business

J. New Business

1. Community Educator: Lindsey Lauden, MA

Manager Burrell introduced Mrs. Lauden a community health educator from AmeriHealth Caritas to share her PowerPoint presentation (see attached). The Board thanked Mrs. Lauden for the information.

2. Offer to Purchase 102 N. Main Street

Manager Burrell presented the Board an offer to purchase the old town garage parcel located at 102 N. Main Street (#8667-04-7460 and #8667-04-7495) in the amount of \$25,000. Manager Burrell made the Board aware that Mr. Bridges had paid the required percentage to the Clerk and if the Board entertained the offer, it would be posted in the paper until no upset bids were made then returned to the Board for their approval. Alderwoman Smith made the motion to proceed with the offer to purchase as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Manager Burrell presented the Resolution for the upset bid process for the property located at 102 N Main Street (#8667-04-7460 and #8667-04-7495). Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

3. Smoky Mountain Housing Project

Manager Burrell presented a request for donation (see attached) from the Smoky Mountain Housing Project a section of affordable housing of Mountain Projects.

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve a \$1,500 donation. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

K. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk