

## **April 26, 2021**

At the Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held in the Board conference room April 26, 2021 at 6:00pm 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 6:09 p.m.

### **B. Roll Call**

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

### **C. Public Comments**

N/A

### **D. Reports from the Manager**

Interim Manger Scheuer presented 2021-2022 proposed budget (see attached PowerPoint).

Alderman Hamlett inquired if the fund balance was healthy? Interim Scheuer stated that the Town did have a healthy fund balance.

Alderwoman Smith thanked Natalie for her work on the budget. Alderwoman Smith inquired how numbers for the pool were determined? Interim Scheuer stated that Natalie forecasted these number from past years due to the covid protocols that were in place to limit numbers last year.

Alderwoman Mull inquired if the Interim Manger was happy with the performance of B.H. Granning on the landscaping contract. Interim Scheuer stated that B.H. Granning was doing a great job and that a few more areas would be added to the scope of work.

Alderman Shepard inquired if a new sign could be obtained and erected at the flower bed at Kobe since the current one in place was in disarray. Interim Scheuer stated that a new sign would be ordered.

Alderman Hamlett inquired about Camp Hope projects for repairs was included in the budget? Interim Scheuer stated that monies were in the budget to allow for some maintenance

and repair.

Alderwoman Smith inquired if the economic development monies were still placed in the budget to help with façade grants? Interim Scheuer stated that the same amount was put in this budget as in years past.

Alderman Hamlett asked if money was in the budget to purchase a digital projector for the Colonial Theatre? Manager Scheuer stated that it was not, but he could look at the cost and then he would certainly give it consideration.

Mayor Smathers asked for the timeframe for the upgrades to Sorrells Street Park? Interim Scheuer stated that the walkways, splash pad, and electrical/water outlets would be the first phase to be completed in this budget year and if monies allowed then shade sails would be purchased. The next phase would be the next budget year. Mayor Smathers stated that he felt it was important for residents to see results of the project getting underway.

Mayor Smathers asked about the Streetscape project? Interim Scheuer stated that it would most likely be planters along academy and possibly the fence at Mears.

Alderman Hamlett asked if money was allocated for better Christmas decorations? Interim Scheuer stated that some money was allocated for decorations.

Mayor Smathers inquired thoughts on Labor Day. Interim Scheuer asked Town Clerk Stinnett to talk the Board through their options. Clerk Stinnett stated that she recommended two options for the Board. The first option would be to scale down to events throughout town and some local bands through the downtown corridor along with the parade if the Governor did not open the attendance regulations to avoid a negative impact on the budget. The second option would be to move ahead as normal with the understanding that sponsorships and vendors may not be at normal numbers due to the pandemic impact to them and that could possibly cause the event to go over budget a bit. Clerk Stinnett stated that she felt as if this would be a great time to come back bigger and better with the desire from the majority to be able to get out and enjoy an event with their families and friends with a small risk of limited attendance due to covid. Clerk Stinnett stated that with contract legalities she would advise the Board to go all local with no festival concert or go all in with the normal two-day event. After a brief discussion Alderman Hamlett made a motion to proceed with Labor Day as normal. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Interim Scheuer made the Board aware that a new TDA

2percent tax resolution pushed by Representative Mark Pless that was being discussed for municipalities to be able to collect this tax from within their corporate limits comparable to the 1 percent TDA funds that was in place now but different because this would only be for inside the corporate limits instead of the entire zip code. Alderwoman Smith asked for more discussion on this topic at the next meeting before she considered the additional 2 percent tax.

## **K. Adjournment**

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

---

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk