

May 13, 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 May 13, 2021 at 6:30pm with Mayor Pro-Tem Mull Aldermen/women Hamlett, Smith, and Shepard present, the following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Pro-Tem Mull called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Pro-Tem Mull reported that Mayor Smathers was out of Town and would not be attending the meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Mull stated that the Interim Manager, Town Clerk, Finance Officer and Town Attorney were present.

C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pro-Tem Mull called on Alderman Shepard to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes April 22nd and 26th, 2021

Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the April 22nd and April 26th as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Pro-Tem Mull stated that she did not have any comments at this time.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Smith thanked Finance Officer Walker and Interim Manager Scheuer for all their work on the budget presentation. Alderwoman Smith also reminded everyone that this was mental health awareness month and encouraged all to check on family, friends, and neighbors just to make sure they were ok especially since everyone has felt the stress of the pandemic this past year.

Alderman Hamlett reiterated Alderwoman Smith's comments thanking Finance Officer Walker and Interim Manager Scheuer for a job well done on preparing and presented the budget. Alderman Hamlett also encouraged everyone to get vaccinated stating that it was everyone's responsibility to do their part to

help control and protect each other from the covid19 virus.

Alderman Shepard thanked the staff for all their work on the budget preparation. Alderman Shepard also wanted to thank Chad Gentry for a job well done on the preparation and the upkeep of the ball fields. Alderman Shepard also encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mull inquired on the installation progress of the mural at Water Wheel Park? Interim Manager Scheuer stated that due to the gas shortage work had been halted but that he should be returning to work by the first of the week. Interim Manager Scheuer stated that he was doing a great job and should complete the project on time.

G. Public Comments

Mr. Roland Osborne thanked staff for fixing a large hole in the walking trail that had been there for some time.

Mr. Ray Shepard commented that the streetscape and the new banners throughout Town looked great and Town had never looked better.

H. Reports from the Manager

Interim Manager Scheuer presented the cash report.

Interim Manager Scheuer updated the Board that he had received several complaints about the cancellation of Little League games at IP Complex. Interim Manager Scheuer stated that the fields had too much water and use of these fields during these conditions would ruin them and every effort to allow Little League to utilize the fields was being taken but they would continue to be protected during inclement weather.

Interim Manager Scheuer reported that everyone would begin to see the new street signs and poles being erected in the downtown area thanks to Cruso Endowment. Interim Manager Scheuer stated that it should make a noticeable difference in the appearance of the downtown area.

Interim Manager Scheuer made the Board aware that NCDOT had been striping the roads throughout town and the crosswalks etc. would hopefully be painted in the near future.

Interim Manager Scheuer made the Board aware that Mr. Ben Williams had been hired as the new Recreation Director and was slated to start on May 18th. Interim Manager Scheuer

stated that Ben's top priority would be to operate the pool this summer and then he could begin adding programming and improving the other recreation facilities.

Interim Manager Scheuer made the Board aware that several news stations from the Charlotte area had contacted him wanting information to run a story about Chestnut Mountain Park which is great news. Interim Manager Scheuer stated that it was awesome to see the interest and the word spreading to larger markets regarding the park.

Alderwoman Smith asked the Interim Manager if he had any information of the speeding complaint and remedies on High Street. Interim Manager Scheuer reported that he did not have specifics but that he had been updated that cameras, informed warning citations, and neighbors reporting tag numbers for conversations had all taken place since the last meeting and hopefully this would help to alleviate the excessive speeding issue in this area.

I. Old Business

J. New Business

1. New Covenant Time Extension Request

Town Clerk Stinnett presented the Board with a request to extend the time at the Canton Recreation Park's Turner Stage venue from 7pm to 8pm for a concert presented by several churches for the community. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to extend the time limit to 8pm for this event. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Information Marquee use

Clerk Stinnett presented the Board with a request to utilize the marquee for the downtown business association to advertise their events. Mrs. Kelly Allred interjected that they wanted the information booth at the museum not the marquee. Clerk Stinnett clarified that the request she had been approached with was for the Colonial Marquee and she asked the Board's pleasure on possibly offering a co-sponsorship that would allow the Town to allow use of the marquee as well as help promoting the business associations events. Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the use of the information booth at the museum. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. After a brief discussion with an active member of the historical museum, Roland Osborne, regarding future plans for the information booth the motion was denied.

Alderman Shepard made a motion to give consent to move forward with a co-sponsorship option. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of consent to offer the co-sponsorship option to the business association for a future event if desired by the association. Applications will be brought to the Board for final approval at a later date.

3. First Baptist Church Garden Lease

Interim Manager introduced Ray Shepard of the First Baptist Church. Mr. Shepard presented the Board with the poundage of food that had been donated to the community kitchen and others during the last year. Mr. Shepard inquired if the Church could possibly erect a temporary moveable storage shed for their tools and supplies at the corner of the lot. Interim Manager Scheuer stated that this would be allowed as long as the structure was moveable and not permanent in this particular area and the Church realized they would be liable for any stolen or damaged items at/in the building and the building itself. Alderman Shepard made a motion to renew the community garden lease with the First Baptist Church for another one-year term. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Alderwoman Smith thanked Mr. Shepard for his hard work and his willingness to help others. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the placement of a temporary moveable storage building to store the Church's tools and supplies at the community garden area at their own risk. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Mayor Pro-Tem inquired if this would be ok with the Interim Manager and the flood requirements? Interim Manager Scheuer stated that it would be ok if the Board agreed with the understanding the building was mobile and the Town was not liable. All members voted in favor of the motion.

4. Resolution supporting 2% local occupancy tax

Interim Manager Scheuer presented the Board the resolution in support of a local 2% occupancy tax (see attached). Interim Manager Scheuer explained if the tax were to pass then a TDA 2% Board would be developed at that time. Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

5. Set Public Hearing for the Budget

Interim Manager stated that he would like to set the public hearing on the 2021-2022 budget to May 27, 2021 at 6:30pm. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to set the budget hearing to

May 27, 2021 at 6:30pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. Proposed FY 2021-2022 Budget Presentation

Interim Manager Scheuer presented the FY2021-2022 proposed budget (see attached).

Alderman Hamlett stated that he really appreciated the way the Interim Manager presented the budget and all the information associated with the budget in a streamlined and professional manner. Alderman Shepard and Mayor Pro-Tem Mull agreed and reiterated Alderman Hamlett's statement. Alderwoman Smith thanked Interim Manager Scheuer for the strategic goal direction and information that he presented to the board.

7. Closed Session: Pursuant to N.C.G.S.143-318.11 (a)(6)

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter Closed Session at 7:30 p.m. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Shepard made a motion to enter open session at 8:10pm Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Ralph Hamlett made a motion to accept Manager Jason Burrell's resignation letter. Seconded by Alderman Tim Shepard. Vote was unanimous. Speaking for the Board and in my position as Mayor Pro-Tem, we thank Manager Burrell for his years of service to the Town. Canton has made incredible strides during this time and we are eternally grateful for the hard work, dedication and sacrifice Manager Burrell has given for the many successes that we have seen during his tenure. We wish Manager Burrell the best in his future endeavors.

Alderman Ralph Hamlett made a motion, in consideration of Manager Burrell's service to the Town of Canton, to provide him with \$15,000 as severance in recognition to his contributions to the operations of our Town in his capacity as Town Manager. Seconded by Alderwoman Kristina Smith. Vote was unanimous.

Alderman Ralph Hamlett made a motion to change the status of Assistant Manager Nick Scheuer to Interim Town Manager for the Town of Canton serving as – at most – a six-month probationary period to determine the desirability and nature of a long-term association between the Town of Canton and Interim Manager Scheuer as permanent Town Manager for the Town of Canton. Alderman Tim Shepard seconded. Vote was unanimous. With no further business, Alderman Tim Shepard made a motion to adjourn the open session at 8:25 pm, seconded by Alderwoman Kristina Smith. Vote was unanimous.

K. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. There being no additional business, Mayor Pro-Tem Mull adjourned the Meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk