

August 26, 2021

At the Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at the USW Local 507 Union Hall, August 26, 2021, at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers, Alderman/Alderwomen 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 reported that the Manager, Assistant Manager/Town Clerk, Town Attorney, Finance Officer, and Recreation Director were present.

C. Pledge

Alderwoman Mull led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Smathers asked for a moment of silence for the flood victims.

D. Approval of Minutes, July 22, 2021

N/A

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers thanked staff for an amazing job stating that they were truly humble servants and at some point, he would like to show the entire Boards appreciation for their efforts. Mayor Smathers wanted to thank Governor Cooper and other representation for coming to visit the devastation and their help to try and get this area as much help as they could.

Mayor Smathers gave Attorney Morgan some paperwork he received in the mail for the next step in the opioid lawsuit and ask him to follow up on the matter.

Mayor Smathers asked that a budget amendment be added to the agenda under new business.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull stated that the Town did not have enough money to pay the employees their worth, but she wanted to express that she felt they were exceptional.

Alderman Hamlett stated that he wanted to reiterate Alderwoman Mulls statement.

Alderwoman Smith thanked staff and administration with their response to the devastation to this community. Alderwoman Smith stated that it was beautiful to see the love that was being shown in the community. Alderwoman Smith asked for an update on the pool. Manager Scheuer stated that Recreation Director Ben William would update later in the agenda.

Alderman Shepard thanked all Town staff stating it was amazing that the flood work along with normal work were taking place simultaneously without hesitation.

Mayor Smathers reiterated that the Labor Day parade of Remembrance and Resilience was still being planned and if anyone wanted to sign up with the phone systems down could do that by email at dholcombe@cantonnc.com.

Mayor Smathers introduce Mr. Jason Walls from Duke Energy to speak. Mr. Walls stated that he had been watching the Town start to grow from 2013 until today and he was impressed and thrilled to see this community flourish and be successful with numerous small businesses that opened and began to thrive. Mr. Wall quoted Hellen Keller "alone we can do so little but together we can do so much" and he was proud to offer the Town of Canton 28716 zip code a grant check in the amount of \$50,000 to be used for small businesses get back on their feet. Mr. Walls stated that he would allow the Town of Canton to govern and put the parameters together for the grant. Finance officer Natalie Walker stated that the grant could be used for interior, exterior, beautification but not contents or inventory and that she would be discussing the legalities with the auditor and working with the Board to put the parameters in place.

Alderman Hamlett thanked Mr. Walls and Duke Energy for being a part and helping this community heal.

Alderwoman Smith thanked Mr. Walls and Duke Energy stated that this would help be a catalyst to help put the small businesses back where they need to be.

Alderman Shepard thanked Mr. Walls and Duke Energy that this was a wonderful thing, and he was thankful for the gift to the community.

G. Public Comments

N/A

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Scheuer presented the cash report.

Manager Scheuer commented that staff had been remarkable with their response with no ill words, complaints, or issues.

Manager Scheuer stated that numerous insurance adjusters were on site reviewing all the damage to Town facilities, the cleaning crews were working around the clock cleaning out the mud and debris from town properties. Manager Scheuer reported that he was in the process of negotiating a contract with McGill Associates to administer all the flood permitting for the Town of Canton. Mayor Smathers asked if the information regarding the pool could be added to the website etc. to alleviate the concerns from some Citizens.

I. Old Business

N/A

J. New Business

1. Storm Update

Manager Scheuer stated that he had covered the storm relief update during Manager's concerns unless they had other questions. Mayor Smathers inquired if security had been an issue for Town facilities. Manager Scheuer responded that to date the Town had no issues with security. Alderman Hamlett stated that at his residence he could attest that neighbors were keeping a closed eye on each other and that looting had not been a problem. Alderman Hamlett stated that it was a team effort by the community to take care of each other and help restore all that had been lost.

Manager Scheuer called on Recreation Director, Ben Williams to update the Board on the pool condition. Mr. Williams stated that the pool looked horrible, however, chemicals were in the water to keep the mosquitos and bacteria from growing. Mr. Williams stated that he had been in contact with the company that designed and installed the pool and they advised him strongly not to drain the pool until the water levels had time to go down otherwise the pool would rise to the top when the water was drained, and the pressure was alleviated. Mr. Williams stated that he would follow all recommendations for the care and maintenance of the pool from the manufacturer to ensure the pool was properly maintained. Mr. Williams stated that numerous volunteers had been working in the recreation

park all week and great progress had been made to clean up the grounds for cleanliness and safety.

2. Budget Appropriation

Manager Scheuer presented a budget appropriation for Tropical Storm Fred storm damage (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the budget appropriation as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

L. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk