

October 14, 2021

At the Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held in the USW Local 507 Building October 14, 2021, at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers, Alderman/Alderwomen 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.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers reported that the Manager, Town Clerk, and Town Attorney were present.

D. Invocation/Pledge

Alderwoman Mull led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Approval of the Minutes: September 28, 2021

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the September 28, 2021, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers thanked everyone involved with the production of the Balsam Range concert that benefitted the flood recovery efforts in Canton. It was awesome to see everyone relax with smiles on their faces if only for a little while during the event. The event raised over 36,000 dollars to help flood victims recover and is so appreciated by all.

Mayor Smathers stated that he would like to see anyone wanting a ribbon cutting for a re-opening after the flood have that opportunity to celebrate the reopening of their business and the perseverance and resiliency of our community!

Mayor Smathers reminded everyone that the "Remembrance Event" that Ellen Pitt always hosts at the Colonial would not be here this year, but he still encouraged everyone to attend this very moving event. Mayor Smathers stated that he told Mrs. Pitt that she must return to Canton when our facilities were back open as we loved to host this event in our Town!

Mayor Smathers read a thank you note from Appalachian Petroleum thanking everyone involved for the grant monies that

he received to help get his business back open and on track. They were awarded \$3,000 dollars from the Mountain Biz Works grant for flood relief that was donated by Duke and Apollo Flame for small business flood recovery.

Mayor Smathers asked that staff continue to request help with the unsightly, unsafe, mentally draining, health hazard piles of debris located throughout Town. He asked that all stops be pulled to try and get this picked up out of our Town. Manager Scheuer stated that he would continue to request but the answer has remained that this is the businesses responsibility to have removed with the help of their flood insurance or at their cost.

Mayor Smathers inquired if anyone was in the gallery to complain about the recent discharge from the mill that covered vehicles in the area. Although none were present, Mayor Smathers asked Mayor Pro-tem Mull if she had any comments. Mayor Pro-tem Mull stated that car washing was available if they contacted the mill directly. Manager Scheuer stated that he had been in contact with mill staff and the process was to call the main gate security at 646-2109 to report and get help with car detailing.

H. Aldermen and Alderwomen Comments

Alderman Shepard echoed the thankful words from Mayor Smathers regarding the Balsam Range concert. Alderman Shepard thanked Town staff for all the fall decorations throughout town.

Mayor Smathers stated it was good moving forward to have some normalcy and the decorations were a testament to how the small things can make you feel better.

Alderwoman Mull thanked Balsam Range for their willingness to help the flood victims of this community. Alderwoman Mull stated that B.H. Graning and Town staff were doing a good job with the flowers and holiday decorations.

Alderwoman Smith stated that the Balsam Range concert was great, and she thanked everyone involved. Alderwoman Smith asked the Manager on an update on recreation at the next meeting. Alderwoman Smith announced that Cold Mountain ceramics would be opening back up in the coming weeks. Alderwoman Smith asked staff to be thinking of ideas to encourage others to support local and push out the small business Saturday shopping for the holidays.

I. Public Comments

N/A

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Scheuer presented the Board a current cash report.

Manager Scheuer reported to the Board that due to Tropical Storm Fred the addressing project had been postponed, however, would now implement on November 3rd to comply with the State mandates.

Manager Scheuer asked the Boards pleasure on the Christmas parade route and theme. The Board by consensus agreed to the expand (old) route due to the covid concerns and asked to table the theme decision until the next meeting.

Manager Scheuer reported that the addressing change was back on schedule and would go into effect on November 3, 2021. The County letters giving everyone their new address will go out the first of the week to all Canton Citizens.

Manager Scheuer inquired if the Board wanted to forgo the swearing in reception and just have a simple swearing in for the legality requirements due to all facilities being closed. Mayor Smathers stated he would like to think about this and get back to staff. Assistant Stinnett reminded the Board that during the holiday's venues were very hard to book and if they were going to request a formal reception then she needed to know sooner rather than later.

Manager Scheuer recognized the Interim Chief, Scott Sluder, congratulated him on his new position and wished him well.

Manager Scheuer announced that the Recreation Director, Ben Williams, would be hosting the first outside movie with the new giant movie screen for Halloween. The movie will be kid friendly and hosted in Sorrells Street Park at 7:30pm for free thanks to the Haywood County TDA and Cruso Endowment for their contributions to make this happen.

Manager Scheuer stated that FEMA was still doing site inspections this week and next week and the process was slow and tedious but necessary.

I. Old Business

1. Resolution: Road and lane closure for the Haywood County Toy Run and Motorcycle Parade

Manager Scheuer presented the Resolution to have lane and road closures for the Haywood County Toy Run and Motorcycle parade. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded. Motion carried.

J. New Business

1. Public Hearing: Explanation and description of the 2021 Fiscal Year North Carolina Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant Program

The public hearing was opened at 6:49pm with a motion by Alderwoman Mull and a second by Alderwoman Smith with all voting in favor of the motion.

Karen Kiehna, Client Relations-Funding for McGill Associates PA was present to discuss the purpose of the public hearing was to present the North Carolina Department of Commerce CDBG programs. Karen Kiehna stated that the public hearing was to obtain citizen's views and to respond to funding proposals and answer any questions posed by citizens.

Ms. Kiehna stated that the North Carolina Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is part of the Rural Economic Development Division. CDBG program includes the Building Reuse program for Economic, Demolition Grants, Disaster Recovery Fund, including support to assist communities dealing with the VOCID19 coronavirus and Community Housing Grants.

The purpose of the CDBG funds is required to benefit low to moderate- and moderate-income persons, eligible activities, and plans to minimize displacement and provide displacement assistance as necessary.

Ms. Heather Boyd, Mountain Projects Representative explained how to the County was in extreme need of affordable housing and the type of housing that would be placed if the grant is received.

With no public comments or questions, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:55pm. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

2. Public Hearing: This hearing is to solicit public input on local community development and needs in relation to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for a project in the community.

Karen Kiehna, Client Relations-Funding, for McGill Associates PA was present to discuss the proposed Community Development Block Grant-Neighborhood Revitalization application that the Town of Canton will submit to the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

Karen Kiehna, Client Relations-Funding for McGill Associates PA was present to discuss that the purpose of the public hearing was to present the North Carolina Department of Commerce CDBG programs. Karen Kiehna stated that the Town of Canton proposes requesting funding from the NC Department of Commerce CDBG-NR program for the Harkins Avenue Housing Subdivision Infrastructure project. The proposed project will meet the following Housing and Urban Development (HUD) National Objective: Benefit to low-and moderate-income (LMI) person making improvements to critical infrastructure to support the development of new affordable housing.

The project will include installation of public infrastructure that will support the housing development of 18 single-family housing units, which includes construction of public water and sewer with all appurtenances, sidewalks, streets, flood, and drainage with a total grant cost of \$750,000. If funded, the CDGB-NR grant will be matched by Mountain Projects/Smokey Mountain Housing Partnership in the amount of \$124,620.00 with a total Project Budget of \$874,500. The proposed project site is located on an approximate 6.0-acre parcel off Harkins Avenue, Haywood County North Carolina. Proposed Budget Activities would be Public Infrastructure \$675,000, Planning \$3,500, Administration \$71,500, Total CDGB-NR Budget \$750,00, Matching Funds \$124,500, for a Total Project Budget of \$874,500.

Ms. Heather Boyd, Mountain Project, explained the process that an applicant must go through to be eligible for these homes. These homes will be single family homes consisting of 3 to 4 bedrooms. Alderwoman Mull asked about a timeline? The timeline from start to finish in the building process is approximately 4 months with good weather. Mayor Smathers asked if any concerns of availability? Ms. Boyd stated that they already had 250 applicants in the process. Mayor Smathers encouraged everyone involved to do a good job as this would be looked at if any future projects came back to this Board. Mayor Smathers thanked everyone for their efforts in this project. Alderwoman Mull made a motion at 7:10pm to close the public hearing. Alderman Shepard seconded. Motion carried.

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with a Resolution in support of the CDBG Funding (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the resolution as presented.

Alderman Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

K. New Business

1. Haywood County TDA Annual Report

Manager Scheuer recognized Mrs. Lynn Collins, Executive Director, of the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority to update the Board on the annual tourism report. Mrs. Collins stated that tourism in Haywood County and Canton had an extremely good year even during difficult times. Mrs. Collins gave the Board handouts (see attached) showing the 1 percent and 3 percent earning for the year. Mrs. Collins stated that during the flood, her team met with all the volunteers from all over the United States and gave them samples of what Haywood County had to offer and they plan to follow up inviting them back with their families for a thank you of some sort. Mrs. Collins surprised the Board with a poster showing that Canton was the cover for the NC State Magazine with the tag line "Get Back to A Better Place". Mayor Smathers and the Board thanked Mrs. Collins for all the work that the TDA does everyday for Haywood County but Canton specifically.

2. Proclamation: Kiwanis 70th Anniversary

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with a proclamation recognizing the 70th anniversary of the Kiwanis Club. Mayor Smathers read the proclamation aloud and thanked the group for all their effort in the school system and the community. Mayor Smathers urged the group to come do a project in Canton much like the playground in Waynesville that is all accessible and much needed in every community. Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented. Alderman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

3. Co-Sponsorship: Downtown Business Group

Manager Scheuer presented the Board a co-sponsorship request from the Downtown Business Group (see attached). Manager Scheuer stated that he would waive a fee of \$420.00 that would be for police personnel to help with intersections during the trick or treat event and marking off parking lots for some of their events. Alderman Smith made a motion to approve the request. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

4. Ordinance: Speed limit Pharr Street

Manager Scheuer presented the Board a recommendation from the Canton Police Chief to lower the speed limit on Pharr Street from the unposted limit of 35 mph to a posted speed of 15 mph for the safety of the children in this area. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to adopt the ordinance as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Ordinance: 4-way stop on Highland and Pharr

Manager Scheuer presented the Board a recommendation from the Chief Sluder to implement a 4-way stop at the intersection of Highland Street and Pharr Street. Alderman Shepard made a motion to adopt the ordinance as presented. Alderman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. RFQ Award Engineering Services

Manager Scheuer explained to the Board that he had sent out a RFQ for engineering services to help with all the flood project during the recovery process. Manager Scheuer explained that he did not have to bring to the Board, however, wanted to be transparent and keep them updated on the process. The Board thanked Manager Scheuer for his transparency and approved of the award to McGill Associates.

7. Façade Grant Policy Amendment

Manager Scheuer provided the Board with additional language to add for façade grant approval during emergency situations (see attached). Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve the amendment as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion passed.

8. Façade Interior and Exterior Grant Request

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with an interior and exterior façade grant request for Bear Waters Brewing (see attached). Manager Scheuer stated that it met all the qualifications and supporting documentation was attached. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve the request as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Alderwoman Smith stated that it was very important that we get the businesses back open and on their feet. All members voted in favor of the motion.

9. Employee Christmas Bonus

Manager Scheuer stated that after being instructed by the Board to reward the employees for their long hours of hard

work helping to restore this Town to some sense of normalcy. Manager Scheuer stated that he, Assistant Stinnett, and Finance Office Walker recommended that the Board raise the normal Christmas bonus to \$1,000 per full time employee to thank the employees for their hard work and missed time away from their families during the flood recovery effort. The Board all agreed and relayed their heart felt gratitude to the employees for the job that they have each done during these most difficult times. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the increase for this years Christmas bonus for the full-time employees. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

10. Shawn Gaddis Service Weapon Award

Manager Scheuer explained to the Board that Police Officer that retire from service have the opportunity by general statute if the Board so chose to award the officer their service weapon in lieu of the other retirement gifts they might receive. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to give Shawn Gaddis his service weapon in lieu of the other retirement gift options. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

L. Closed Session N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4)(5)(6)

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session at 8:07pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 8:49pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. No action taken.

M. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at the Local 507 Union Hall. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk