

September 23, 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 September 23, 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, Town Clerk, and Town Attorney were present.

D. Invocation/Pledge

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

E. Approval of the Minutes: September 9, 2021

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the September 9, 2021, minutes as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that during the flood that the New Hanover Swiftwater and Task Team II came and volunteered helping so many during very difficult times. The teams stated that they were overwhelmed by the sincerity of the people and the purest community spirit that they had ever witnessed. Mayor Smathers stated that was what made Canton so special was the people that live here and the community bonds that truly did exist.

Mayor Smathers stated that he and the Board wanted to thank the employees for a tremendous job and countless hours of service to this Town and the people that live here by measures other than words. The Board expressed interest in a monetary bonus or the like soon. Mayor Smathers asked staff to be thinking of a reward could be done for all employees soon.

Mayor Smathers inquired if the downtown trick or treat with the preschoolers was still going to be produced. Assistant Manager Stinnett stated that it would be, and that Denise Holcombe did a great job coordinated that event every year.

Mayor Smathers asked for an update on Rhoda Street. Manager Scheuer stated that he would update during Managers reports.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Shepard thanked the employees for a great job day in and day out, especially during the flood.

Alderman Hamlett stated that often we have people that make a difference in your life and he was happy to recognize/introduce his longtime colleague and friend, Mike Bruner. Alderman Hamlett stated that Mr. Bruner had stopped in to check on he and his family after hearing of the devastating flood. Alderman Hamlett thanked Manager Scheuer and Assistant Manager Stinnett for being here for the Town as well as him personally to help get things back on track after the flood. Alderman Hamlett thanked the Board members for their kind and encouraging words while he tries to navigate the flood recovery process.

Alderwoman Mull reported that someone had stolen her car from her residence, and she wanted to brag on the Canton Police Department and Captain Sluder for a great job in locating her car within 2 hours of it being stolen. Alderwoman Mull thanked the Police Department for their quick response and dedication to the citizens of this Town. Mayor Smathers added that the vandal that sprayed graffiti all over Town had been caught and prosecuted, but it was truly insult to injury for someone to vandalize the people that were suffering the most from the flood.

Alderwoman Smith thanked Town staff for doing a great job working on the flood projects while still maintaining daily job duties and services for the public. Alderwoman Smith made everyone aware that this was Ovarian Cancer Awareness and Suicide Awareness Month and encouraged everyone to seek help for mental health issues and to always utilize routine medical appointments to find and treat issues early.

G. Public Comments

Mr. Cecil Yount from the Haywood Motorcycle Parade and Toy Run reported to the Board that this was their 30th year holding the event. Mr. Yount stated that they would like for Canton to be the beginning staging part of the event and it would end in the Western part of the County. Mr. Yount asked that one lane be shut down on Main Street to allow the parade to line-up for the event on November 1, 2021. Mr. Yount stated that all the toys and monetary donations are always used in Haywood

County. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to provide Mr. Yount the support of a lane closure as requested. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Smathers thanked Mr. Yount and the club for all the assistance and help they provided for kids and those in need in this County. Mayor Smathers stated that this year with all the flooding that it was good to know that kids will not go without during Christmas because of individuals like Mr. Yount and supporters of this event.

Mrs. Kathy Walsh stated that she is requesting help with the Locust Field Cemetery flagpole. Mrs. Walsh gave a brief history of the cemetery and the significance of many who were buried there and their service to this Country. Mrs. Walsh stated that the former Manager had ordered the parts for the flagpole to be fixed and an old tree to be removed as requested. Mrs. Walsh stated that she had received a grant to have the pole painted and she wanted to purchase flags to be flown in the cemetery and put up by Town employees with the Towns permission. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the request. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Walsh inquired where all the flood debris was being hauled to? Manager Scheuer stated that the landfill on Dutch Cove had been approved by the State to use as a storm debris storage place during the flood recovery.

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 stated that Rhoda Street was in the engineering process and would be a large project costing near 1 million dollars to fix. Manager Scheuer stated that with the FEMA mitigation process this process would likely take near 6 months to complete the repairs. Mayor Smathers asked if this would repair personal property? Manager Scheuer stated that individuals would have to apply for IA with FEMA for help or rely on their insurance to repair personal property.

Manager Scheuer reported that at this time the Fire Department was back in their building, Town operations had been located at 118 Main street Suite A, Administration was in the temporary units in the Colonial parking lot, Police were located on Maple street beside First Baptist Church in temporary trailers. Alderman Hamlett remarked that Captain

Sluder had been amazing during the flood event and when thanked always gave the credit to someone other than himself. Mayor Smathers stated that he agreed and thanked Captain Sluder for all his many hours of service. Manager Scheuer stated that not only did he do his normal Police duties but was handling the majority of the it issues trying to get all services back on track.

Manager Scheuer reported the tax report and collection rate to date stating Wanda did a great job.

I. New Business

1. Proclamation: Big Brothers Big Sisters

Mayor Smathers presented a Proclamation to declare September Big Brothers and Big Sisters Month. Mrs. Louis Fulmer, Board Member of Big Brothers/Sisters, thanked the Board for the proclamation. Mrs. Fulmer reported that the organization was in great need for volunteers to help with these young kids to have positive role models in their life. Mrs. Fulmer encouraged others to get involved with the organization. Mayor Smathers stated that he knew this was a group that was dear to Alderman Hamlett's heart and that he had the opportunity to meet Mr. Dorian Palmer, a recruitment specialist, for the organization at BearWaters while they were helping with the flood clean up efforts. Alderman Hamlett stated that it was an honor for him to speak at this event. Mayor Smathers stated was a wonderful job Mr. Palmer was doing and commended the organization for what they did for the young kids in Haywood County. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Kiwanis Proclamation: 70th Year Anniversary

Manager Scheuer stated that this item would be added to the next meeting to allow members the opportunity to attend.

L. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at the Local 507 Union Hall. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk

