

## **February 24, 2022**

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, February 24, 2022, at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women Mull, Hamlett, Proctor 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 stated that the Manager, Assistant Manager/Town Clerk, and Town Attorney were present.

### **C. Pledge**

Alderswoman Proctor led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **D. Approval of Minutes: February 10, 2022**

Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the February 10, 2022, minutes as presented. Alderswoman Proctor seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

### **E. Mayor Comments**

Mayor Smathers welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **F. Aldermen/women Comments**

Alderswoman Proctor that she was happy the Planning Board meeting went well and looked forward to working with them in the future. Alderswoman Proctor commented that she had been hearing a lot of great things about the Labor Day festival and Diamond Rio and was looking forward to the line-up announcement.

Alderman Shepard thanked all the staff for allowing the Pisgah Baseball and Softball teams to utilize the sports complex while their fields were still in the flood recovery process. Alderman Shepard also asked everyone to pray for Ukraine.

### **G. Public Comments**

Mr. Carl Cortright asked everyone to share the survey link and to take the survey to be utilized by the Planning Board decisions for the new Land Use Policy.

## **H. Reports from the Manager**

Manager Scheuer presented the cash report and the tax report.

Manager Scheuer updated the Board that the Planning Board would begin meeting monthly along with Withers Ravenel to develop a new Land Use policy and Subdivision Ordinance. This group is wanting to add a few members to develop a steering committee to help with this process as well.

Manager Scheuer reported to the Board that agreements have been obtained from the property owners in the ETJ portion near Chestnut Mountain Park to help with the storm debris clean-up before the park opens and to get the code enforcement in that area a jump start.

Manager Scheuer reported that the pool remediation would begin on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> and hopefully the pool, barring no major issues, would be able to open in the summer.

Manager Scheuer stated that he had several contracts that he wanted to make the Board aware of for transparency as well as get their blessing on. The first one would be the temporary offices to be located at the garage on Summer Street in the amount of \$106,472.60 to Wilscot. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Manager Scheuer presented the pool restoration contract in the amount of 132,594.18. Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Manager Scheuer presented the black aluminum fencing contract for All Star Fence in the amount of \$48,000 and all other fencing to Asheville Fence company as listed: Dog Park \$18,111.98, Ballfield \$19,347.72, Playground \$13,344.67, Riverview fence \$13,765.50, pump station Asheville Hwy \$5,733.33, Pump Station Penland \$621.97, Pump Station Park Street \$5,003.68. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve all fencing contracts as presented. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

## **I. New Business**

1. Introduction of the Fire Chief and Police Chief

Manager Scheuer introduced the new selection for the Fire Chief and Police Chief positions. Manager Scheuer stated that these individuals interviewed in front of a panel of individuals some not from the area, had no relationships with any employees, and Town management. Manager Scheuer stated that the Town Management did not offer a score until after the panel had submitted their panel without prejudice. Manager Scheuer stated that the score cards were unanimous for both candidates. Mayor Smathers congratulated Mr. Kevin Wheeler on being named the Fire Chief also stating that he remembered Mr. Wheeler from elementary school when he was Sparky the Fire Dog doing fire Safety to small children in the school system. Mayor Smathers stated that this was well deserved, and he wished Mr. Wheeler well. Mayor Smathers also congratulated Mr. Scott Sluder for the Police Chief appointment stating that numerous employees had expressed their hope that the Interim Chief would get the job as the department was almost to capacity and operating better than ever. Alderwoman Mull thanked both individuals and wished them well. Alderman Hamlett stated that they both should be proud as they both were chosen by non-bias panel earning the jobs on their own merit. Alderman Hamlett stated that he taught Chief Sluder around 2004 and had watched his leadership grow over the years and although he did not know Mr. Wheeler personally, he looked forward to working with him in his new role. Alderwoman Proctor thanked both individuals for their long-time service and leadership also stating that they both had the support of the Board. Alderman Shepard thanked both individuals for the past and future service to the community. Fire Chief Wheeler thanked the Board for their kind words stating that he wanted to work hard to make the department better than ever and that he would already put his staff up against anyone when it came to fighting fire. Police Chief Sluder thanked everyone for their well wishes and he was humbled and honored to lead a great team.

## 2. Caroline Ponton: Canton Historical Museum

Manager Scheuer introduced Mrs. Caroline Ponton the curator of the Canton Museum for her presentation. Mrs. Ponton thanked the Board for the opportunity to share the plans for continuing to promote the history of the Town. Mrs. Ponton presented the Board with a sample of a treasure chest that could be customized for different topics and taken to the schools, libraries, etc. to showcase Canton's history. Mrs. Ponton stated that she still had very active volunteers even with the museum being closed because of the flood. The Board encouraged Mrs. Ponton to continue to think outside the box to help promote the history of the Town without being able to be in the building. Mrs. Ponton thanked several businesses for allowing them to store precious artifacts in their basements and

attics to help preserve them from the mold and humidity in the building. Mayor Smathers inquired if the movie for poet Lariat Fred Chapel movie was being shown nearby? Mrs. Ponton stated that the entire film would be shown at UNCA, but a smaller version would be shown at the Canton Library for all others to view. Mayor Smathers thanked Mrs. Ponton for the update and presentation stating that our history was a very important part of who we are and that it was very important to the Town. Mayor Smathers encouraged Mrs. Ponton to continue to take history to others until the Fema process was finished and the restoration of the museum was determined.

Manager Scheuer made the Board aware that the Planning Board would be meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the comp plan with Withers and Ravenel. Manager Scheuer stated that this was a very important process to help shape the future of the Town.

### 3. Resolution: Record Retention Schedule

Manager Scheuer presented the Board a resolution that adopted the 2021 record retention schedule and dispositions schedule for Local Government for documents (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. all members voted in favor of the motion

### 4. Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4)(5)

Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to enter closed session at 7:10 pm. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 7:45pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

No Action taken.

## **J. Adjournment**

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the USW Local 507 office located at 111 Park Street, Canton, NC 28716. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:47 p.m.

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Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk