

April 14, 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, April 14, 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, Finance Officer, and Town Attorney were present.

C. Pledge

Alderman Shepard led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: March 24, 2022

Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the March 24, 2022, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mayor Smathers stated that it was exciting to have a flooded business back open and participating in a ribbon cutting for the Kluttered Closet, as well as the new business that opened downtown, Grateful Table, owned by Jeanne Forrest. Mayor Smathers also thanked the Canton Fire Department for their quick response to the fire at the Southern Porch restaurant, keeping the damage to a minimum.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Shepard thanked the employees for making the Town look good and clean. Alderman Shepard stated that it was great to see the dog park back open and everyone out with their dogs enjoying the park.

Mayor Smathers stated that it is very important for citizens to see progress and he was happy to say that Canton is making progress with flood projects as well as projects that were already in the queue.

Alderman Hamlett reported that he had seen several social media posts bragging on town employees, most recently the police department. Alderman Hamlett stated that it was nice to see positive notes on employees as often only complaints were noted, and the employees worked tirelessly for the public and should get more positive comments.

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for attending.

Alderwoman Proctor thanked everyone for all the work going on to get Chestnut Mountain Park off the ground and open in the coming week. Alderwoman Proctor stated that she is ready to discuss and finalize the upcoming budget.

Mayor Smathers Stated that the National Day of Prayer would be held at the Community Kitchen this year on May 5th.

G. Public Comments

Mr. Wadham of Trammell Avenue asked the Board to implement regulations regarding swimming pools in the town ordinance to prevent anyone getting hurt or drown in pools that are not properly fenced. Mayor Smathers thanked Mr. Wadham for his comments. Manager Scheuer responded to the request stating that pools are subject to North Carolina law and is enforced by the Haywood County Building Inspections, however the pool that was Mr. Wadham concern did not follow this process and was now in the process of pulling permits and getting inspections. Manager Scheuer also stated that he would check into adding the North Carolina law in the ordinance update that was in the current process. Alderman Hamlett thanked Mr. Wadham for his concern and input.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Scheuer presented the cash report.

Manager Scheuer updated the Board that the Easter Egg Hunt would be moved to the following weekend, due to the rain forecasted for Saturday.

Manager Scheuer stated that all Town crews were working hard to have the ETJ cleaned up and everything clean and ready for the grand opening of Chestnut Mountain Park on April 23rd. Manager Scheuer stated that he was excited to let everyone see how great the trails are.

Manager Scheuer updated the Board that the second portion of the Splash pad would be poured the following Wednesday weather permitting.

I. New Business

1. CDC: Mr. Patrick Bradshaw

Manager Scheuer asked Patrick Bradshaw from Civil Design Company to address the Board with his request to see if water and sewer would be available for a project that he was working on. Mr. Bradshaw explained that it would be 54 lots in the County but was asking if the Town would allow the new housing project to access city water and sewer. Mr. Bradshaw also made the Board aware that potentially a request for annexation would follow if the project was approved and completed. Mayor Smathers reiterated that the property was in the County and that the Board would be stating the potential for water and sewer extension as well as possible annexation. Alderman Shepard inquired if Town crews could handle the protection and services that would be required for this facility. Chief Sluder, Richard Hodge, and Chief Kevin Wheeler all stated that they had no issues with the possible extension. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve a potential water and sewer extension in this area. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, all voted in favor of the motion.

2. TDA 1% Report: Executive Director, Lynn Collins

Manager Scheuer introduced Mrs. Lynn Collins to give her presentation on the Tourism Report (see attached). Alderwoman Proctor thanked Mrs. Collins for all the information and for continuing to help Canton reach her potential with grant funding. Mayor Smathers and other Board members also thanked Mrs. Collins for the report.

3. Façade Grant Request: Jonathan Barrier

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with a façade grant request (see attached) from Mr. Jonathan Barrier owner of 392 and 394 Main Street. Mr. Barrier stated that he had a florist that would be moving into the bottom and a tax business moving into the top of the property. Alderman Shepard commented that he appreciated the investment in Canton. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve \$10,000 dollars in façade grant monies. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. After a brief discussion regarding the amount to be awarded, Alderman Hamlett amended his motion to an amount of \$5,000 in grant monies. Alderwoman Mull seconded the amended motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

4. Volley Buff Marketing Sponsorship Request: Pisgah High

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with a request from the Marketing Class at Pisgah High School to sponsor a Volley Buff event. Alderman Shepard made a motion to sponsor in the amount of \$150.00. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

5. Proposed Budget Work Session

Manager Scheuer asked Finance Officer Walker to present the proposed budget (see attached). Manager Scheuer stated that this was the time to question, change, and ask Department Heads for their input. Finance Officer Walker stated that she would go as fast as she could but would happily stop at any point to discuss. Finance Officer Walker stated that the main emphasis of this proposed budget was employees, Infrastructure, and recovery.

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

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session at 9:40pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion

After a brief discussion and no action taken, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 9:47. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

J. Adjournment

The next Special Called meeting will be on Thursday, April 28, 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 9:48 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk