

May 26, 2022

At the Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at the Town Hall at 85 Summer Street, May 26, 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 6:31 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers stated that the Manager and Finance Officer were present.

C. Pledge

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

D. Approval of Minutes: May 12, 2022

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the May 12, 2022, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that the devastating news of the school shooting in Texas was horrible, and we need to do more for our kids. Mayor Smathers asked for a moment of silence for the lost children in the school shooting in Texas. Mayor Smathers stated he had talked with other leaders, and everyone agrees that as a community we need to do more to protect the children in the schools.

Mayor Smathers commented with the current rain totals and the river nearing its banks the next few hours would be critical. Mayor Smathers stated that we could not be more prepared other than prayers for no flooding.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull commented God bless us all and all we can do is pray.

Alderman Hamlett reiterated Mayor Smathers comments adding that we must do better as a Nation. Alderman Hamlett stated that deaths by handguns is more than wrecks for the children.

It also does not make sense that you must be 21 years old to buy alcohol, yet an 18-year-old can buy an assault weapon. Alderman Hamlett stated that he is angry and hopefully others will be angered enough to affect change.

Alderwoman Proctor commented that she grew up with active shooter drills and it was unfortunate and wished we had no need for these today. Alderwoman Proctor stated she wished that everyone could get together and talk about the issues.

Alderman Shepard stated that he felt for the folks that resided or worked along the river as well as emergency personnel that must deal with the current threat of flooding. Alderman Shepard also commented that as a teacher the drills and training just quieted the issues, however change needed to be affected to protect the children in schools. Alderman Shepard stated that his daughter was the same age as the victims, in a community of the same size and that no community should have to endure what the parents in Texas are going through.

Chief Sluder commented that the response and planning had come along way since 2003 with cross training and working with other agencies but obviously more needed to be done to try and prevent these issues everywhere.

G. Public Comments

Mr. Todd Bledsoe resident of 12 Smathers Street commented that with training he felt that volunteers within the teachers should be allowed to be armed with concealed carry certifications. Mr. Bledsoe stated that he would be comfortable with his child's teacher being armed.

Mayor Smathers commented that training and any security implementations would come from the Haywood County school System.

Mr. Bledsoe commented that other schools advertised that their teachers were armed.

Alderman Hamlett stated that his wife was a teacher, and he would be scared for her to be armed as an amateur with a handgun against someone with an assault weapon.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Scheuer presented the cash report and the tax report. Manager Scheuer commented that Wanda did a fantastic job collecting taxes.

Manager Scheuer updated the Board that being removed from the old Town Hall allowed the Police Department to help the community early today without fear of their building and equipment flooding. Manager Scheuer stated that from the current time until 12am would be critical as to how much flooding would occur. Manager Scheuer stated that he felt that the staff was better prepared as well as the business owners in the critical areas.

Manager Scheuer reported that Public Works did a fantastic job responding to the water issues from the high storm waters making it impossible to intake and filter water at its current location. Manger Scheuer stated that the 9.2 million allocated from the State would allow the intake to be moved to a better location to alleviate these problems.

I. New Business

1. Public Hearing for the 2022-2023 Proposed Budget

Alderwoman Mull made amotion to open the public hearing for the presentation of the proposed 2022-2023 budget at 6:59pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. Finance Officer, Natalie Walker presented the proposed budget. With no questions or concerns from the Board or the public, Alderwoman Mull made amotion to close the public hearing at 7:40pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Budget Amendments

Manager Scheuer presented several budget amendments (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made amotion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Amendment to the Audit Contract

Manager Scheuer presented a contract amending the audit contract. Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to approve the amended contract as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Set a Special Called Meeting for June 30th at 6:30pm.

Manager Scheuer explained that due to the flood issues it would be necessary to have a special called meeting on June

30th at 6:30pm to finalize the year end budget amendments for the 2021-2022 budget year. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to set a special called meeting for June 30th at 6:30pm for the year end budget amendments. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

J. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the new temporary Town Hall located at 85 Summer Street, Canton, NC 28716. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk