

July 14, 2022

At the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at the Town Hall at 85 Summer Street, July 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 6:33 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers stated that the Manager, Assistant Manager/Clerk, and Town Attorney were present.

C. Pledge

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

D. Approval of Minutes: June 23 and June 30, 2022

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the June 23 and June 30, 2022, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers thanked town staff for the opening of the splash pad, aquatics center, and the fireworks show. Mayor Smathers thanked Ben Williams for the music and his DJ skills at the Fourth plus one event.

Mayor Smathers reported that he had been approached by several people regarding the need for bathrooms at the splash pad. Mayor Smathers asked the Manager to investigate options for this area with it being in the floodway. Mayor Smathers also wanted to confirm that shade shelters would be constructed soon. Manager Scheuer stated that was correct.

Mayor Smathers stated that he had been approached by Pisgah High regarding the painting of the underneath part of the bridge at the recreation park. Mayor Smathers stated that this was popular in other areas and that hopefully it would help remediate the graffiti that plagued this bridge.

Mayor Smathers suggested that we beef up our ordinances on violations giving the code enforcement officer stronger enforcement options to help alleviate the habitual violators.

Mayor Smathers asked everyone attending to have a moment of silence and to keep the former Alderman Ed Underwood family in their thoughts and prayers with the passing of their son.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Alderwoman Mull stated that Ben Williams, Recreation Director should be proud of his accomplishments with getting the recreation opportunities open and available for the public. Alderwoman Mull thanked all department heads for the job that they do every day.

Alderman Hamlett commented that when the Aldermen/women ran for office, they ran with the slogan they had a vision for the Town. Alderman Hamlett stated unlike some politicians this Board meant that and that this Board was served by good hard-working people that made this vision come to fruition. Alderman Hamlett stated that it was amazing to drive through town and see the families having a good time. Mayor Smathers added that so many positive stories are happening in Canton and the Board is happy to work with great people.

Alderwoman Proctor thanked everyone for attending. Alderwoman Proctor stated that even though it had been a hell of a year, it was good to work with amazing people that work together to achieve the same goals.

Alderman Shepard thanked everyone for attending. Alderman Shepard stated that the July 4 plus one was no doubt the best show in Western North Carolina. Alderman Shepard thanked all the staff that made this event happen and it was very impressive that staff had worked so hard to get everything back to normal in a short time and he thanked all employees for their work.

Mayor Smathers also wanted to read a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Ross of 477 Wesley Street regarding the Town and her people. (See attached).

G. Public Comments

N/A

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Scheuer presented the cash report and the tax report.

Manager Scheuer recognized all staff for their work during the flood recovery on top of their day-to-day tasks. Manager Scheuer stated that the employees were hard working great people.

Manager Scheuer explained to the Board that all the rain closures for Chestnut Mountain and Berm Park were necessary until the trails became established. Manager Scheuer stated that it was imperative to maintain the trails to help keep their integrity to keep the park at its best. Manager Scheuer reported that two new trails should be open by August 20th.

Manager Scheuer reported to the Board that the questioned activity of surveyors from the State near Exit 31 was for bridge projects that are scheduled in the next several years.

Manager Scheuer stated that it had been reported that the State included \$8.3 million dollars in their budget to help the Town recover from the devastation from the flood and this would be extremely helpful getting the Town back to the operating state before the flood.

Manager Scheuer explained to the Board that the trees along Pisgah drive near the ABC Store needed extreme trimming or removal. The Board unanimously gave the Manager instruction to remove the trees when new trees could be planted in their place. In the meantime, trimming would be fine if the trees did not appear to be butchered.

Manager Scheuer asked the Boards pleasure in memorializing the anniversary of the flood. The Board gave consensus for staff to develop an event with the compassion and reverence for the ones that lost their lives in this flood.

Mayor Smathers asked Chief Sluder on any update regarding the option to have SRO officers in all schools. Chief Sluder explained that funds were being sought by the county and the town would work with and help in anyway possible to help keep all children safe in school.

I. New Business

1. Haywood County Pathways/Community Kitchen Sponsorship Request

Alderwoman Proctor recused herself from this discussion as she serves on the Haywood Pathways Board. Manager Scheuer presented a sponsorship request (see attached). Alderman Hamlett made a motion to sponsor the \$500 level for the golf tournament to benefit the Haywood Pathways and Community

Kitchen organizations. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Variance 86 Jay Drive

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with the Planning Board recommendation to grant the variance request to provide city sewer from Haywood County for 86 Jay Drive due to flood damage that was out of the property owner's control. After a brief discussion, Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the variance as requested. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Gold Award: Amanda Teague

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with a request to partner with Ms. Amanda Teague for a project to obtain her Gold Award with the Girl Scouts. Manager Scheuer played a video and a PowerPoint presentation from Ms. Teague (see attached). The Board thanked Amanda's mother, Denise for attending the meeting in place of Amanda as she was working at the girl scout camp and was unable to attend. The Board all stated that Amanda should be proud of her accomplishment and the role model that she was for all girls and women that you can achieve anything if you work hard. Alderman Hamlett reiterated that she was the example for other girls to follow. The Board gave the consensus for Ms. Teague to have her project at the recreation park and to provide the in-kind services that she needs to complete the project.

4. Proclamation National Night Out

Manager Scheuer presented National Night Proclamation. Chief Sluder stated that it was going to be a great event for the entire County and encouraged everyone to attend. Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to approve as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion passed.

5. Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3)(5)

Manager Scheuer reported that he did not foresee any action being taken by the Board. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter closed session at 7:24pm. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried. After a lengthy discussion on section (a)(5) Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 7:49 pm. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session to discuss (a)(3) at 7:49pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the

motion. After a lengthy discussion of options and understanding, the Board gave the Manager consensus to work with the town attorney to find options and return to the Board. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 8:05pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

J. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall located at 85 Summer Street, Canton, NC 28716. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk