

October 10, 2022

At the Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at 85 Summer Street, Canton NC, October 10, 2022, at 4:00pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women Mull, Proctor and Shepard present, the following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Smathers called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m. Alderman Hamlett was unable to attend.

B. Roll Call

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

G. Public Comments

N/A

I. New Business

1. Work-Session

Assistant Manager Stinnett explained to the Board that it was time to decide the genre and other important issues regarding Labor Day so that she could proceed with the planning for the 115th Festival. Assistant Manager Stinnett asked for a consensus on having one day or two event, Food Trucks inside or outside the gate, charge one day or both days, beer vendor to remain one or open to having a beer garden, larger kids' area, expanding to two headlining acts, Admission limits (kids) and incorporating local heritage back into the festival. Alderwoman Mull asked what Ms. Stinnett would recommend? Assistant Manager Stinnett stated that she felt that it should remain a two event with a focus on local entertainers and heritage on Monday, a major headlining act on Monday, much larger kids' area, and beefing up the line-up on Sunday as money allowed also staying in the country Bluegrass genre with some addition to beach/oldies music that she considered feel good music during the day. Other than those suggestions, the Assistant Manager stated that she would proceed with the Boards vision, however time of was of the essence with booking entertainers. Mayor Smathers stated that he first wanted to thank every employee that stood in the rain for two days trying to deliver a quality festival for everyone. Mayor Smathers reported that he was approached by a couple of

people that were not happy that they could not enter to get to the food trucks without paying after the parade. Mayor Smathers asked if there was a way to open the gates after the parade then close them back, if they could all be located outside the gate, or any ideas that the Board had to offer. Alderwoman Mull asked if this was not settled after the first Labor Day Festival with the food trucks? Assistant Manager Stinnett explained that after the very first event in Sorrells Street Park the food trucks came to a meeting upset about being on the outside of the gates of the event. The food trucks requested to be inside the gated area during the event. Assistant Stinnett stated that she was happy to gate it either way but whatever decision was made needed to be adhered to that changing things in midstream created a nightmare for staff at the gates and that even with as few that attended during the rain it was a battle to start charging in mid-stream. Alderman Shepard and Alderwoman Proctor both commented that the price was very affordable for the entertainment that was provided. Mayor Smathers asked if everyone could be asked to evacuate then re-enter. Assistant Stinnett stated they had tried that as well in previous years and once people enter without police force it was near impossible to get everyone out and then others complained because they were having to pay. After a very length discussion, a consensus including Alderman Hamlett's emailed input was reached to have a two-day event, charge both days, bring back heritage, stay in the country bluegrass genre mixed with oldies, and 12 and under free of charge. The Board asked that other issues be determined at a work session to be scheduled the first of the year.

J. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at 85 Summer Street, Canton, NC 28716. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk