

## **December 15, 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, December 15, 2022, at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers, 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, Deputy /Finance Officer were present and Assistant Manager Stinnett was out sick.

### **C. Pledge**

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

### **D. Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes will be tabled until the next regular meeting.

### **E. Mayor Comments**

Mayor Smathers placed a call to the Assistant Manager at home to thank her for all the decorations and her ideas of what would make a difference, especially the lights and photo booth along with the huge tree. The nostalgia of the overhead lights seemed to be a huge hit. Alderman Hamlett added that he hoped she felt better soon.

Mayor Smathers stated that bad weather was headed our way and encouraged everyone to start acting now to conserve water, insulate pipes, and check on your neighbors. Mayor Smathers stated that this was going to hit during the Christmas holidays, and everyone would be able to keep water if we started to prepare now.

Mayor Smathers asked if any plans had been made to replace the dance floor on turner stage? Manager Scheuer stated that no plans were in place at this time.

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

Alderwoman Mull stated that the Town looked great, and she had received nothing but compliments. Alderwoman Mull

thanked staff for a job well done.

Alderwoman Proctor commented that the parade was great as well as the lights in the Town. She commented that it was a great collaboration of all employees to make this great for everyone. Alderwoman Proctor wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

Alderman Shepard thanked the staff for the lighting and the wonderful tree lighting ceremony to kick off the season. Alderman Shepard stated that he thought the new parade route worked well.

### **G. Public Comments**

N/A

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

Manager Scheuer presented the cash report and the tax report.

Manager Scheuer thanked staff for a job well done on the tree lighting ceremony and the parade.

Manager Scheuer stated that he had reached out to our Industrial partners and customers to conserve water and report any leaks that arise immediately.

Manager Scheuer stated that the Fire Department ceremony had been postponed until a future meeting.

Manager Scheuer reported that the basketball courts had been paved and striped to date. The goals, nets and fencing for pickle ball had been ordered.

Manager Scheuer reported that the Town was very fortunate to receive \$250,000 dollars from Golden Leaf for Rhoda Street repairs and \$130,000 dollars for the Skyline culverts. The Town will also be applying at the next round of funding for the Meadowbrook.

Manager Scheuer reminded the Board that the closing for Town Hall and Police Department would be January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Manager Scheuer updated the Board that a request for bids had been advertised for the Armory, Colonial Theater and Annex and the Town had received a lot of interest in these projects. Alderwoman Proctor asked if the Board would be involved in the planning and visioning for these projects. Manager Scheuer stated that a work session would be scheduled in January for the annual visioning meeting for these projects as well as the

upcoming budget.

Alderman Hamlett asked for a playground update. Manager Scheuer stated when the project was awarded, the Board would get an update.

Alderwoman Proctor stated that a yoga studio would be opening soon and asked about a ribbon cutting for this new business. Manager Scheuer stated that we would reach out to this business.

## **I. New Business**

### **1. 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Audit Reports**

Mrs. Sheila Gahagan presented the audit reports for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 audits (see attached). The Board thanked Mrs. Gahagan for the reports. Mayor Smathers asked Mrs. Gahagan if the Board needed any information going into the new budget year? Mrs. Gahagan stated that a travel policy needed to be put into place. Mrs. Gahagan told the Board should be updated at least quarterly as a lot of flood recovery monies are coming in and out. Mrs. Gahagan stated that she can not imagine the amount of work that has taken place and stated that Finance Officer, Natalie Walker has done a tremendous job, and this was a great accomplishment to pass two audits during a major disaster was quite the accomplishment. Finance Officer, Walker commented that it was a great team effort and that Wanda Lurvey and Sandy Owens had helped her tremendously. Mayor Smathers inquired if the OPEB affected everyone? Auditor Gahagan stated that at some point an in-depth discussion on the OPEB needed to be had by this Board.

### **2. Water/ Wastewater**

Manager Scheuer updated the Board on the two major projects with the water and wastewater. Manager Scheuer updated the Board that new pumps, replacement of the clear well, relocation of the water intake had been awarded to McGill Associates and the Board needed to approve McGill moving forward with this project. The timeline for this project was approximately 24 months also to include the reclassification of the watershed and permitting. Alderwoman Mull made the motion to approve McGill Associates to move forward. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **3. Chestnut Mountain Plan Update**

Manager Scheuer stated that the PARTF scenic overlook location was changing from original plan and that any change

needed to be approved by the Board. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the change as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion approved.

#### 4. Pigeon River Garden Club Proposal

Mr. Carroll Jones present a proposal for a flagpole at the recreation park (see map). Mr. Jones stated that an estimated cost of \$15,000 for the proposal, which had been applied to Cruso Endowment for funding. Mrs. Marty Yates also stated that the proposal would take place in phases and submitted a drawing (see attached). Alderwoman Proctor asked if this would be allowed in the floodway. Manager Scheuer stated that it would be allowed. Mrs. Yates estimated a loss of 10 parking spots in the proposed area. Mrs. Yates also expressed interest that the Town provide power and water to the area. This plan would have raised beds of fruit as well as fruit trees that will be able to be utilized for public consumption. Mrs. Yates inquired about restrooms. Mayor Smathers stated that would have to be investigated in the future by certainly a port-a-jon could be placed in the area. Alderwoman Proctor asked for clarification that the requested shed would be moveable to meet the flood regulations. Alderman Shepard stated that this would give the area a new look to this vacant lot. Mayor Smathers asked Chief Sluder to clarify that this would not impair parking for football games or events. Mrs. Yates stated that they wanted to make this a community gathering place. Consensus was to allow the use.

#### 5. Budget Amendment

Manager Scheuer asked the Board to table the amendment until a special called meeting could be set.

Alderman Hamlett asked the Manager to check into zoom meetings during Covid and Flu outbreaks.

### **J. Closed Session: Pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a)(3)(5)(6)**

Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to enter Closed session to discuss personnel at 7:45pm seconded by Alderman Shepard. Motion carried. After a length discussion Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter closed session to discuss property acquisition. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried. After a lengthy discussion, Alderman Hamlett made a motion to leave closed session. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 8:36 pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**K. Adjournment**

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, January 12, 2023, 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 8:37 p.m.

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Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk