

November 17, 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, November 17, 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 Assistant Manager/Clerk, Finance Officer, and Town Attorney were present. Mayor Smathers stated that the Manager was out sick and wished him a speedy recovery.

C. Pledge

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

D. Approval of Minutes: October 27, 2022

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the October 27th, 2022, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers thanked Town staff and especially Laura Murray for a wonderful Veterans Day Ceremony. Assistant Manager Stinnett stated that all the work and planning was done by Laura Murray and that she deserved the recognition.

Mayor Smathers stated that long time Chairman Kirk Kirkpatrick lost his seat during the election and that he thanked him for his service and hoped that he continued to stay active in a leadership role for the County.

Mayor Smathers also added that the Festival of Trees event to benefit K.A.R.E. was a great event and a wonderful organization.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull stated that the Christmas decorations were looking great going up all throughout town.

Mayor Smathers interjected that the J Creek Cloggers and Zeb Ross would be at the tree lighting event as honored guests.

Alderwoman Proctor agreed that all the decorations going up looked great and encouraged everyone to Shop Small on Saturday, November 26th to help all the local businesses in the area. Alderwoman Proctor also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Alderman Hamlett stated that the look and feel of the decorations in Town reminded him of the past and he was excited about the tree lighting ceremony. Alderman Hamlett stated that the Veterans Day Ceremony was a gracious event for all those that serve and have served this great Country.

Alderman Shepard commented that the Veterans Day Ceremony was very well done, and he appreciated all the Veterans. Alderman Shepard also commented that the NJROTC inspection was a great event, and the staff and cadets did an outstanding job.

Alderwoman Mull reminded everyone that the Tour of Homes started December 4th from 1-5pm with all proceeds going to the Haywood Educational Foundation.

G. Public Comments

N/A

H. Reports from the Manager

Assistant Manager Stinnett asked Finance Officer, Natalie Walker, to give the cash report.

Assistant Manager Stinnett presented the Board with the current tax collection report. Assistant Manager Stinnett stated that Wanda Lurvey worked tirelessly on tax collections and the numbers reflected her efforts.

I. New Business

1. Haywood County Mitigation Update

Mr. Cody Grasty with Haywood County Emergency Services gave the Board an update on the hazard mitigation process to date. Mr. Grasty explained to the Board that this was a slow process, and he did not have a timeframe for completion, however did make the Board aware that a 90 day complete time-frame would be necessary for demolition to grass once the process started. Mr. Grasty stated that on the residential side

that OBSM was still accepting applications, and anyone interested should visit tsfred.nc.gov for more information. The Board thanked Mr. Grasty for his hard work and the update.

2. Pigeon River Garden Club

Assistant Manager Stinnett introduced Mrs. Marty Yates, representative for the Pigeon River Garden Club. Mrs. Yates talked about an idea to have an orchard on Town property that would be constructed and maintained by the club for the public. Mrs. Yates stated that the fruits would be for public use. Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to table this issue until they had more information on site plans and flood permit issues before discussing the request. All members agreed to table the request.

3. Source Water Resiliency Response Plan

Mark Jones, Filter Plant Operator stated that a source water resiliency plan was required by the State. The board thanked Mark for his hard work and efforts to give the Citizens safe, clean drinking water as well as preparing this plan for the State.

4. Co-Sponsorship Request: Jamie Pendergrass

Assistant Manager Stinnett introduced Mr. Pendergrass. Mr. Pendergrass stated that he was seeking a co-sponsorship with the town of Canton to hold a 5k event that would help to bring awareness of Cerebral Palsy and other disabilities. After an emotional discussion Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to co-sponsor the Cerebral Palsy Awareness 5k run walk. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The Board thanked the Pendergrass's for hosting the event in Canton and being the Champion for those with disabilities. Alderman Hamlett commented that the son that was in attendance was a great example of what people should be. He consoled his mother when she got upset speaking and that showed great character. Alderman Hamlett also commented how young people often could be cruel to anyone that looked different than hem and that this young man made the world a better place.

5. Adoption of additional language to the procurement policy to add Historically Underutilized Business Requirements (HUB).

Assistant Manager Stinnett presented the Board with the additional language to be added to the existing procurement policy (see attached). Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to

approve the additional language as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. Budget Amendments

Finance Officer, Natalie Walker presented the Board with necessary budget amendments (see attached). Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. Ordinance: Road Closure for Christmas Parade

Assistant Manager Stinnett asked the Board to approve the annual Street Closing Ordinance for the Christmas parade to submit to NCDOT (see attached). Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the Street Closure Ordinance as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. Meetings to be Cancelled and Set Meetings

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to cancel the November 24th, December 8th, and December 24th meetings due to the holidays. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to have a Special Called meeting on December 15, 202 at 6:30pm so that any Town business would not suffer due to lengthy meeting delays due to the holidays. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9. Water Treatment Plant Renovations and New Water Intake Agreement for Engineering Services

Assistant Manager Stinnett stated that the Board would need to approve the agreement for Engineering Services for this project. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the agreement. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to (a)(6) personnel at 7:54pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

After a lengthy discussion with no action taken, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 8:17pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

K. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 15, 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 8:18 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk