

January 12, 2023

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, January 12, 2023, at 6:30pm with Mayor Pro-Tem Mull, and Aldermen/women Hamlett, Proctor, and Shepard present, the following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Pro-Tem Mull called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Pro-Tem Mull stated that Mayor Smathers was on vacation. The Manager, Assistant Manager/Clerk, and Town Attorney were present.

C. Pledge

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

D. Approval of Minutes: December 15, 2022

Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to approve the December 15, 2022, minutes as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Pro-Tem Mull thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Mull asked those in attendance to respect a moment of silence for Linda Smathers, wife of long-time employee Phil Smathers.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Shepard thanked the employees for all their hard work during the frigid temperatures.

G. Public Comments

N/A

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Scheuer commented that the Finance Officer, Natalie Walker had strep throat and to keep her in their prayers, and he would have a cash report at the next meeting.

Manager Scheuer made the Board aware the Town had closed with Champion Credit Union and now owned the two properties for the future Town Hall located at 138 Academy Street and the Police Department located at 401 Main Street.

Manager Scheuer made the Board aware that 3 Requests for Qualifications were open for the Colonial/Armory, Town Hall, Fire Department, Police Department, and the All-abilities Playground.

Manager Scheuer updated the Board on the progress at Chestnut Mountain with the overlooks being constructed and two new trails that would be open soon. Manager Scheuer stated that this year was the worst year for trail closings due to the trails not being impacted yet but hopefully this would be limited to really bad weather in the future.

Manager Scheuer reported that the Town received the ARC grant for the Water Treatment Plant upgrades, and he was waiting on one more grant approximately next month to report back to the Board.

I. New Business

1. Co-Sponsorship: Mike McClean and Haywood County Historical Commission

Mr. McClean presented his request to the Board for approval (see attached). Mayor Pro-Tem Mull asked Assistant Manager Stinnett to explain the staff report and recommendation for the event (see attached). Assistant Manager Stinnett explained the best compromise for the two entities to allow the event to proceed as well as being financially responsible at the same time. Assistant Stinnett recommended the approval of the Plott-Toberfest as presented in the staff report. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the co-sponsorship. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. The Board asked the group if the recommendation worked for their group? Mr. McClean agreed that they were excited to work with the Town and provide a great event hopefully for years to come. The Board thanked the Assistant Manager for all her efforts to provide a solution that worked for everyone as well as thanking the group for coming to Canton and showcasing the local heritage. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Resolution: Paved Trails Feasibility Grant

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with a resolution to approve the feasibility grant (see attached).

Alderman Hamlett made the motion to approve the resolution as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Work session Date Set

Manager Scheuer asked the Board to set a date for the yearly visionary work session with the Board in place of the regularly scheduled meeting. Alderman Shepard made a motion to set the work-session for February 9, 2023, at 11:00am.

Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Petition for Non-Contiguous Annexation

Manager Scheuer stated that the Board had been presented with a petition for voluntary non-contiguous annexation for 208 Painter Stret (see attached). Manager Scheuer stated that if the Board wished to accept the petition, they would need to adopt the Resolution to instruct the Town Clerk to investigate sufficiency. Alderman Hamlett asked to be recused from any discussion or vote on the subject due to conflict of interest. Alderman Shepard made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented to instruct the Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the request for annexation (see attached). Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Alderman Shepard and Alderwomen Mull and Proctor vote in favor with Alderman Hamlett abstaining from the vote. Motion carried.

5. Budget Amendment

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with a budget amendment to purchase a storage building for the water department to store their equipment as well as the base for the Christmas tree (see attached). Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

J. Closed Session: Pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a)(4)(6)

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter closed session at 7:14pm pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) personnel. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

After a lengthy discussion with no action taken, Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter open session at 7:36pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Hamlett made a motion pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4) at 7:36pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

After a very brief discussion, Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter open session at 7:40pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

K. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall located at 85 Summer Street, Canton, NC 28716. There being no additional business, Mayor Pro-Tem Mull adjourned the Meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk