

February 23, 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, February 23, 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 Smathers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. Roll Call

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

C. Pledge

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

D. Approval of Minutes:

N/A

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers commented that he the Manager and Mayor Pro-Tem Mull had been to Raleigh to the State Dinner and they had a great time and met with legislatures thanking them for all of the assistance that we received for the Tropical Storm Fred rebuild. Mayor Smathers wished the Pisgah girls basketball team good luck as they were currently playing in the second round of the playoffs. Mayor Smathers commented that it was great to have the Assistant Manager back after an unexpected illness.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Hamlett stated that it was great to see Assistant Manager Stinnett and Finance Officer Walker well and feeling better.

Alderwoman Mull stated that she had a great time at the State Dinner and meeting with the legislators and other colleagues.

Alderwoman Proctor commented that the polar plunge was a great event that benefitted a wonderful organization, and it was great to have some warmer weather.

G. Public Comments

Ms. Racheal Austin of 517 Trammell Avenue commented that she was having issues with neighbors parking in front of their mailbox, and she was unable to get her mail and packages delivered due to this. Ms. Austin stated that she had met with the police department, and they informed her that they could not do anything about the issue at this time. Ms. Austin requested the Board to put no parking signs on the street to prevent this from happening. Alderman Hamlett inquired if our ordinances addressed this issue. Manager Scheuer stated that it did not. Alderman Hamlett asked the Manager to check into this situation to see what could be done. Mr. Aytes also of 517 Trammell avenue stated he was also having issues with people parking too close to his driveway and he could not get his truck and trailer out of his driveway. Mr. Aytes stated he needs at least 8 feet to be able to swing out and make the turn and this was going on now for 3 years with his neighbors.

Also in attendance was Rachel an intern student Western Carolina attending for her class requirements and that she resided in East Asheville and she was happy to attend the meeting.

H. Managers Reports

Manager Scheuer presented the cash report.

Manager Scheuer updated the Board on the IMT training that took place this week with a mock incident at the mill and it was extremely helpful for all involved.

Manager Scheuer stated that Chestnut Mountain was back open today and hopefully the weather would cooperate.

Manager Scheuer updated the Board that the award letters had been mailed to the two firms that were selected by the Board at the last meeting and once that was received a meeting with staff would be scheduled to go over the needs and have a scope and fee prepared.

I. New Business

1. Charter of Freedom Presentation

Mayor Smathers introduced Mr. David Streater and Mr. Ron Lewis from the Charters of Freedom. Mr. Streater gave a slideshow presentation. Alderwoman Mull asked where they wanted to locate these settings? Mr. Streater stated that in front of the Museum was their pick, but the Board also had input. Alderman Shepard asked when the project would be started? Mr. Lewis stated that they could begin as early as March weather permitting with a completion date of no later than 3 months. Mayor Smathers stated that this was an honor for the Town to host this project. Mayor Smathers stated that this could be just for Alderman Hamlett as he was a retired Dr who taught this subject for many years and the constitution was very dear to his heart and he always handed out pocket constitutions on constitution day. Alderwoman Proctor stated that she loved the educational proponent that this brings to the County for all the kids. Alderwoman Mull thanked them both for thinking of Canton to place these settings. Mayor Smathers thanked the group for not making it political or religious and it was just about the documents and our history. Alderman Shepard asked the Manager if he anticipated any issues. Manger Scheuer stated that he did not see any issues with the project. Manager Scheuer stated staff would do some in-kind work for the project with sidewalks and the installation of electrical. Alderman Hamlett commented that this would honor our Town, County, and the Nation. The Preamble of the Constitution was not written as a statement with a close but to complete a more perfect union. All people are equal together. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the setting placement of the Charters of Freedom. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Big Brothers Big Sisters Sponsorship Request

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with a request for sponsorship for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve a \$500.00 sponsorship. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. ABC Commission Appointments

Manager Scheuer presented a list of people and term limits (see attached) for the Boards consideration. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve Marty Phillips for 3 years, Charles Underwood for 2 years, and Neal McCracken for 1 year terms. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Haywood Pathways Sponsorship Request

Manager Scheuer presented sponsorship request from Haywood Pathways (see attached). Alderwoman Proctor recused herself from the vote as she is a board member for Pathways. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to sponsor \$500.00 for the Empty Bowls Haywood Pathways. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Opioid Wave 2 Resolution

Manager Scheuer reported to the Board that several other entities were being sued for the opioid abuse lawsuit wave 2. Manager Scheuer stated that this documentation just attached the Town to the lawsuits (see attached). Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. Budget Amendments

Finance Officer Walker presented several budget amendments to the Board for their consideration. The first amendment is for the site plan for the new Fire Department for several locations. Mayor Smathers stated that we were locked in with the Town Hall and Police Department and he wanted to make sure that we have the money to complete these two projects before we start the Fire Department. Manager Scheuer stated that we have the monies coming in. Mayor Smathers asked when the money would be needed for the land. Alderman Shepard asked if this money was for boring and site sketch? Alderwoman Proctor stated that she would be more comfortable waiting until the new budget year to expend the money. Alderwoman Mull stated that this was necessary before any land could be purchased. Manager Scheuer stated that there were many pools of money to pull from for the construction. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented for the site plan for the fire department. Alderman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finance Officer Walker presented several budget amendments that are year end that move money around within the departments that is normal this time of year. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the amendments as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. Add Presidents Day to Employee Holiday Schedule

Manager Scheuer stated that he would like to add Presidents Day to the employee holiday schedule. Alderman Hamlett

made a motion to add Presidents Day to the holiday schedule. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. Canceling June 22, 2023, meeting and adding Special called meeting for June 29th, 2023

Manager Scheuer asked the Board to cancel the June 22, 2023 meeting and add a Special Called meeting for June 29, 2023 to allow for all year end budget amendments to be brought to the Board without having to add an extra meeting. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to cancel the June 22, 2023 meeting and add a Special Called meeting on June 29, 2023. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9. Resolution setting Public Hearing for Voluntary Annexation of 208 Painter Street

Assistant Manager Stinnett explained that this resolution would set a public hearing that is required by law on the request for non-contiguous voluntary annexation of 208 Painter Street for March 23, 2023. This notice will be posted on the property, in the Mountaineer, in the Town Hall lobby, and on the Town website. Alderman Hamlett recused himself from the vote. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to set the public hearing for the annexation of 208 Painter Street for March 23, 2023. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

J. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 9, 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 7:37 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk