

## **May 11, 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, May 11, 2023, at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers, and 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, Assistant Manager/Clerk, and Town Attorney were present.

### **C. Pledge/Invocation**

Alderman Shepard led those in attendance in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

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

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the April 27, 2023, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **E. Mayor Comments**

Mayor Smathers reminded the Board of the Haywood Chamber dinner recognizing the members for all their work during the flood and mill closure at 5:30pm on May 18th as well as the Fallen Officer ceremony that starts at 5:00pm at the old courthouse on the 18<sup>th</sup> also.

Mayor Smathers asked the Board to attend a dinner at the Southern Porch with EdNC and BCBS on Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Mayor Smathers also recognized Mebin Rash and Cheryl B EdNC thanking them for all their efforts with their articles helping to provide resources and monies and sincere caring for the mill workers and families that have been detrimentally affected by the mill closure.

Mayor Smathers asked everyone to remember former Mayor Mike Ray in their thoughts and prayers as he was at Memorial Mission in serious condition with heart issues. Alderman Hamlett asked the Clerk to send a get-well card to former Mayor Ray on behalf of the Board.

## **G. Aldermen/women Comments**

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Alderman Hamlett stated that he was deeply concerned about the youth in this country as his wife taught elementary aged kids and she asked if any of them had ever held a newspaper in their hands? They all answered that they had not. Alderman Hamlett stated that this was a nationwide concern for our future.

Alderwoman Proctor stated that she had recently hiked at Chestnut Mountain and that his was a fabulous asset especially being so close to Town. Alderwoman Proctor also reminded everyone that May was mental health awareness month, and it was not just now but all the time important to check on friends and family to make sure they were okay. Mayor Smathers added that he was very proud of the effort that this Board had made to provide mental health resources for everyone affected by the mill closure.

Alderman Shepard thanked the Police Department for a job well done with the extravaganza event with the Easter Bunny providing a well-executed, safe, and free event for the community. This is a good community outreach.

## **H. Public Comments:**

Ms. Sharon Breedlove stated to the Board that she was dissatisfied with the treatment she had received from the Canton Police Department. Ms. Breedlove stated that she had asked for a copy of a report, was told it was available and then was told she could not have a copy. Ms. Breedlove added that Chief Sluder called her within 5 minutes stating that he had the copy if she wanted to return to the Police Station that the dispatcher misunderstood which report. Ms. Breedlove stated she told him to bring it to the meeting that she would be attending at 6:30pm. Ms. Breedlove stated that she had emails that had never been addressed and turned in evidence that had never been addressed and was harassed by an officer outside their jurisdiction and she would be filing a complaint with the SBI as she was not happy with the performance of Chief Sluder.

## **I. Managers Reports**

Manager Scheuer presented tax cash and tax reports.

Manager Scheuer asked the Board to write down some events to add to their calendars. After a brief discussion Alderman Hamlett asked the Clerk to send out a list of events by email.

Manager Scheuer made the Board aware that Duke Energy would be installing lighting in the Sorrells Park area soon.

Manager Scheuer reported to the board that he had hired Sam Dunbar as the new Recreation Director and Molly Parrish as the pool manager. Manager Scheuer stated that he would bring the new employees to the Board once they got settled.

## **J. Old Business**

N/A

## **K. New Business**

### 1. Calvary Baptist Church Extension Request

With no one in attendance to present the request this issue was tabled until the next meeting.

### 2. Scope of Work Agreement Colonial Theater/Armory

Manager Scheuer presented the scope of work for the Colonial Theatre and the Armory for the flood restoration of these buildings. Manager Scheuer stated that these projects are FEMA projects and will not utilize any tax dollars. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the scope of work as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### 3. Scope of Work Agreement Police, Fire and Town Hall

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with the scope of work for the Police Department, Fire Department, and Town Hall renovations from Tropical Storm Fred. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Assistant Manager Stinnett also made the board aware that on May 31, 2023, at 4pm the Architects would be coming for a charrette with the Board.

### 4. Budget Amendments

Manager Scheuer presented budget amendments to the Board. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Alderman Hamlet seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Manager Scheuer Asked that Mayor Smathers touch base with Hubert Thomas regarding the ribbon cutting ceremony for the park.

**L. Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4)(5)(6)**

Aldерwoman Proctor made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to 143-318.11 (a)(3) at 7:08pm. Aldерwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried. After a lengthy discussion and no action taken, Aldерwoman Proctor made a motion to enter open session at 8:22pm. Aldерwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Aldерwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to 143.318.11 (a)(6) at 8:22pm. Aldерwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried. After a brief discussion Aldерwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 8:46pm. Aldерwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. COLA Discussion

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with different options for a cost-of-living adjustment for employees (see attached). After a brief discussion Aldерwoman Mull made a motion to approve a 2% across the Board cost of living adjustment for all employees. Aldерwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**L. Adjournment**

The next Special Called Public Hearing meeting will be on Thursday, May 25, 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 8:51 p.m.

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Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk