

## **July 26, 2023**

At the Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at 85 Summer Street, Canton NC, July 26, 2023, at 5:00 pm 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 5:02 pm.

### **B. Roll Call**

Mayor Smathers stated that the Manager, Assistant Manager, and Town Attorney were present.

### **C. Pledge**

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

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

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the July 13, 2023, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **E. Mayor Comments**

Mayor Smathers updated the Board on the new fly shop that would be located at 2 Church Street.

Mayor Smathers asked that staff check a complaint of raised brick paver in front of the Blue Moon bookstore.

Mayor Smathers asked for an update on the issues at the one-way section of the Rhoda Street repair project. Staff stated that stop signs would be erected on each end to allow for more time to visibly see oncoming traffic before moving forward.

Mayor Smathers asked if property owners were notified of meeting with McGill for the following day? Manager Scheuer stated that all property owners were notified.

Mayor Smathers reported that he had been made aware of a garbage issue in the High Street area and asked staff to check into this.

Mayor Smathers thanked the Assistant Manager for taking care of all day to day and other issues that arise allowing the

Manager more time to work on the mill closure issues.

Mayor Smathers thanked the Board and staff for being proactive by implementing the moratorium to allow the time to find the best and safest usage for downtown area.

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

Alderwoman Mull stated that the negative comments regarding the moratorium were mostly people that misunderstand the reasons behind the action.

Alderman Hamlett thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Alderman Shepard stated that people that were complaining of the water rate increase were properly notified by several newspaper articles, a public hearing, social media, and statement on their bill. He encouraged people to attend the meetings and to get involved in the community. Alderman Shepard also commented that it was great to see all the activity at the pickle ball courts day and night.

Alderwoman Proctor stated that people are excited with all the recreational opportunities. Alderwoman Proctor stated that the park is full day and night with families going to the pool, tubing, pickle ball, dog park and it was great to see.

### **G. Public Comments**

Hannah Novah of Trammell Avenue stated that she did not receive any water outage alerts but has since learned she need to sign up for Haywood Alerts.

Carl Cortright thanked the Board for the moratorium and trying to protect the citizenry by trying to be a part of what that area looks like moving forward. Mr. Cortright also thanked staff for helping with a camper issue in his neighborhood.

Alderman Hamlett thanked Carl Cortright for being involved and for trying to help get the word out of things going on in Canton.

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

Manager Scheuer gave the cash report.

Manager Scheuer updated the Board that McGill was in the area trying to secure easements to allow the funding to fix the

culverts on Skyline and Meadowbrook not only now but for future events.

Manager Scheuer updated the Board that the Rhoda Street project was still at the State level and would hopefully be released by mid fall.

Manager Scheuer reported that Town Hall was now obligated by FEMA and the architects would be ready to perform renovations as soon as the Champion Credit Union was finished.

Manager Scheuer stated that the Shade Sail project would begin construction in the next week or so, stating that this is a large project with the footers and wiring being permitted through the County due to the height and size of the structures.

Manager Scheuer stated that a former Town Manager, Mr. Jeff Emory would be helping the Town with some annexations and other projects as needed.

## **I. New Business**

### **1. Pisgah High School Band Request**

Assistant Manager Stinnett presented the Board with a sponsorship request to help with the performance cost for the Pisgah High School Band. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to sponsor \$500.00 for the performances for the PHS Band. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **J. Closed Session: Pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a)(3)(4)**

Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to enter closed session at 5:31pm pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4) economic development. Alderwoman Mull 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.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 6:48pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Mull made a motion pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3) at 6:49pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

After a very brief discussion, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 6:59pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **J. Adjournment**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 6:30p.m. at 85 Summer Street, Canton, NC 28716. There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

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Lisa Stinnett, Town Clerk