

August 10, 2023

At the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at 85 Summer Street, Canton NC, August 10, 2023, at 6:30 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 6:30 pm.

B. Roll Call

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

C. Pledge

Town Attorney William Morgan led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes:

Tabled for the next meeting.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers thanked the Police department for a job well done on the National Night Out Event. Chief Sluder stated that Denise Kinsland deserved the credit for the event being successful.

Mayor Smathers updated the Board that Secretary Wilson would be on site Friday August 11th, Secretary Biser would be onsite the next Thursday, and Senator Tom Tillis would be the following week. Mayor Smathers stated that the support from down east was extremely important but especially appreciated.

Mayor Smathers also stated that a "Special Guest" would be performing the coin flip for the first game in the first home game since the flooding of Tropical Storm Fred.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for coming.

Alderman Hamlett thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Alderwoman Proctor commented that it was great seeing all the kids out for National Night Out and she has received nothing

but compliments on the recreational opportunities this year.

Alderwoman Mull inquired if the volleyball courts would be redone? Manager Scheuer stated that they would be upgraded.

Alderman Shepard thanked staff for what they do everyday to make the community better and bragged on the Recreation Director for redoing the ball field at the park.

G. Public Comments

Members of the Pisgah High School Band and spokespersons Hannah Gibson and Sage Lewis came to thank the Mayor and Board for their donation to the Band for performances. The pair explained that it the performance for the first football game since Tropical Storm Fred flooding was titled "Coming Home". Ms. Gibson explained to the Board the impact and uncertainty during these times and what it meant to the students that had lived through COVID, Flooding, and the mill closure to now be back "home". Mayor Smathers thanked the group for coming and for giving all of us hope for the future. Mayor Smathers stated that voices like theirs is why the entire staff worked so hard, because these students are our future. Alderman Hamlett stated that it meant a lot to hear from this group after they were awarded the money and that most of the time was the opposite order. Alderman Hamlett stated that the donation was an investment in our future and our Town because of students such as these individuals. Simply put he stated Thank you! Mayor Smathers stated that the Board and School System was very lucky to have a member in Tim Shepard that he represents both groups well and helps to keep all of us linked together. Alderwoman Mull thanked the group for coming and expressed how proud she was of them and all students that have persevered. Alderwoman Proctor thanked the group for coming and stated that they should be incredibly proud. Alderman Shepard stated that the group should be proud to bring so much joy wherever they perform and the hard work they put in every day.

Residents of 394 Newfound Street stated they were attending to get more involved in the community. All welcomed the couple to the meeting. Alderman Hamlett stated that he thanked the couple for coming as this is what everyone should do to make our democracy work.

Chief Sluder stated that staff was attending an SRO tactical training this week to be better prepared to protect our students.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Scheuer gave the cash and tax reports.

Manager Scheuer updated the Board that a sink hole on Park Street had been reported and the Town was in the process of getting estimates and construction would begin within the following week until repaired.

Manager Scheuer updated the Board that the Museum mitigation repairs were under way now that all permitting had been obtained.

Assistant Manager Stinnett asked the Board's pleasure for the Grand Marshal of the Labor Day parade. Alderwoman Mull suggested past and present Union presidents and officers. All were in consensus for the grand Marshal pick.

Assistant Manager Stinnett updated the Board on the Labor Day Festival. Assistant Stinnett confirmed the Board wanted to enclose the entire event, charge \$5.00 per person or an \$8.00 pass at Ingles, 12 and under get in free, and to allow food vendors other than food trucks in the event. Assistant Stinnett updated the Board that the kid's area would include, the splash pad, inflatables, bike park, base camp, all abilities activities, and a calm corner so that ALL kids would have something to do. The Board thanked Ms. Stinnett for the update and consensus was met to move forward with the listed changes.

Manager Scheuer reported that the shade sails would be in place before the next meeting.

Manager Scheuer reported that the all abilities playgrounds would have groundbreaking in the late fall, but equipment would most likely start in the Spring of 24.

Alderman Shepard inquired if the Town could put something out regarding the hypo tanks that are visible at some of the lift stations. Manager Scheuer stated that he would have this issued on social media.

I. New Business

1. Façade Grant Request: Laura Wright

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with a façade grant request for Laura Wright (see attached). Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the grant as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Proclamation: Constitution Week

Alderman Hamlett stated that he had faith in one document and that was the US Constitution, although not a magical document the words are still however very rich. This document gives people hope. Every year I am so happy to celebrate this document. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Zoning Variance Request

Manager Scheuer explained that Champion Credit Union asked for a parking variance due to topography restraints and site conditions. Manager Scheuer stated that the Zoning Board of Adjustments were recommending that the variance be approved. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the zoning variance as presented. 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 7:30pm pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4) economic development. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

After a lengthy discussion with no action taken, Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to enter open session at 8:18pm. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session at 8:19pm pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3). Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

After brief discussion, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 8:50pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

J. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 6:30p.m. at 85 Summer Street, Canton, NC 28716. There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.

Lisa Stinnett, Town Clerk