

## **September 14, 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, September 14, 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**

Alderwoman Mull led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the August 10<sup>th</sup> and August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **E. Mayor Comments**

Mayor Smathers thanked everyone involved in Labor Day. Mayor Smathers thanked Assistant Manager Stinnett for everything she does to make the event happen as well as the addition of all the kids stuff this year and the road closure for safety. Assistant Stinnett stated that it was a team effort and that it took a village to pull an event of this size off and the employees deserved a lot of credit for working non-stop to set-up the event, work the event, and tearing down the event in a very timely manner. Mayor Smathers stated that we will always have some negative comments, but these should be directed to the Board not the staff as they worked tirelessly to make this event happen and should not have to deal with any negativity.

Mayor Smathers thanked Assistant Manager Stinnett and Finance Officer Natalie Walker for the very well received "passport campaign". Assistant Manager Stinnett stated that this was Natalies idea from the beginning to the end and she was just a helper for the program. Natalie deserves all the credit for a wonderful idea. Assistant Manager Stinnett also recognized Brandy Proctor for designing the t-shirt that was

being used for the reward for completing the passport booklet. The rest of the Board was very complimentary of the program and its execution.

Mayor Smathers stated that he had just returned from Raleigh and that the budget may take some time to get agreed upon, but he continued to thank everyone involved for the continued support from the legislature on a bi-partisan basis especially with the mill closure.

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

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for coming. Alderwoman Mull thanked Assistant Manager Stinnett for her work with the Labor Day festival stating she understood the many hours it took to plan and carry out the event. Alderwoman Mull also thanked the entire group of employees for the hard work during the event stating they did a great job.

Alderwoman Proctor also complimented the staff for a wonderful Labor Day event. Alderwoman Proctor stated that the parade was great, and the number felt like a good number of entries and the kids really enjoyed the event. Alderwoman Proctor also made staff aware that the yield sign at the roundabout had been run over and in need of repair. Alderwoman Proctor also asked if a trash receptacle could be placed in Sorrells Park near the ABC side of the property.

Alderman Hamlett stated that it was a pleasure to work with the Board and it was great that they could all get along after seeing other Boards that do not get along and have a lot of controversy. This Board can agree not to agree without being disagreeable.

Alderman Shepard stated that it was great to see Town looking good and that the Labor Day event was much better with all the kid's activities, parade route, and safety measures that was put into place.

### **G. Public Comments**

Ms. Thana Alley stated that she had applied for the planning position and wanted to stop in and see how things worked in Canton. Ms. Alley stated that she lived on North Main Street. The Board welcomed her to the meeting.

Ms. Kathleen Parker of Attorney's Roberts Stevens of Asheville stated that she was attending the meeting while waiting to pick up her child.

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

Manager Scheuer gave the cash report.

Manager Scheuer stated that the Labor Day event was a great event and Town staff did a great job. Manager Scheuer stated that Assistant Manager Stinnett did a lot of planning on the front end, but Town workers did a lot of the setting up and preparing for the event at least a week out and had nailed it making everything run smoothly. Manager Scheuer stated that this was the best event yet. Manager Scheuer reported to the Board that a work session would be scheduled soon to discuss future Labor Day plans.

Manager Scheuer reported that Champion Credit Union was breaking ground this week for their new headquarters.

Manager Scheuer made the Board aware that new street signs would be going up in the Newfound and Pisgah Drive areas. Manager Scheuer thanked the Cruso Endowment for all they do help beautify the Town.

Manager Scheuer stated the Planning position was open and at the end of the month staff would begin the interview process.

Manager Scheuer commented that the CBDG grant was in the process and ready to submit.

Manager Scheuer made the Board aware that he and the Recreation Director would be attending the Outdoor communities next week at Cherokee.

Manager Scheuer reminded everyone that another trail (Union) would be opening on September 29, 2023, with several bike groups coming to do demonstrations.

Manager Scheuer happily reported to the Board that the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Reid Wilson announced that they would be donating \$100,000 to the All-abilities Playground project. Manager Scheuer stated that the connections made through adverse situations have been the light that we all need to persevere.

## **I. New Business**

### **1. Public Hearing: Champion Credit Union Site Approval**

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to open the public hearing at

7:04pm. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried. Manager Scheuer reported to the Board that the Planning Board had unanimously approved the site approval at their last meeting. Manager Scheuer also informed the Board that Withers Ravenel and Town staff had all approved the site plan as presented. After a brief discussion, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the site plan as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter open session at 7:11pm. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Co-Sponsorship Request: Canton Merchant Halloween Event

Assistant Manager Stinnett presented the Board with the co-sponsorship request for the annual downtown merchant Halloween event. Assistant Manager Stinnett explained the only request was for police and fire to help with cross walks for the children's safety as well as advertising on Town media outlets. Assistant Stinnett stated that this was a great event that required a small amount of staff time and resources that was enjoyed by a large amount of people. Alderwoman Mull made the motion to approve the co-sponsorship as presented. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Resolution: Governor's Highway Safety Program

Chief Sluder presented the resolution for the grant in the amount of \$10,000 that did not have any match for the town to purchase additional speed and traffic control measures. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Co-Sponsorship Request: Day of Blessing

Manager Scheuer presented a co-sponsorship request for a day of blessing to be held at the Canton Recreation Park (see attached). Manager Scheuer stated that this would be just waiving the fees for all 4 sheds and that the event would benefit those in the community in need of food and or clothing. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the co-sponsorship as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Smathers reminded the Board that the Veterans Day Ceremony would be held at the Pisgah Stadium this year at 11:00am on Saturday, November 11, 2023. Assistant Manager Stinnett also inquired who would be able to attend the Orchard ribbon cutting on that Saturday as well? Alderwoman Proctor

and Alderman Shepard stated that they would be able to attend. Mayor Smathers stated that he would be out of Town on this date and would not be able to attend either event. Alderwoman Mull and Alderman Hamlett stated they most likely would be in attendance.

#### 5. Police Department Policy Updates

Chief Sluder presented four new policy revisions to the Board for their approval (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the policy revision as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Alderwoman Proctor asked if this was with the Town personnel policy and if he needed monies for equipment or training with the policies. Chief Sluder stated that it was in line with the Town policy also portions would be stand-alone due to the nature of the policy and that he did not need any monies for training or equipment at this time. Alderwoman Mull inquired if this was compliant with State guidelines? Chief Sluder stated that it was compliant. All members voted in favor of the motion.

#### 6. Armory Renovation Approval

Manager Scheuer reported to the Board that the two sets of drawing showed the previous and the proposed layout of the Armory. Manager Scheuer stated that his incorporated all the changes requested at the charette on the Armory. Manager Scheuer reported if approved the next step would be the cost estimator portion of the project to see what the Town could afford or possible additions, such as pickle ball courts as money allowed. Alderwoman Proctor made the motion to approve the Armory renovations as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### 7. Colonial Theatre/ Annex Renovation Approval

Manager Scheuer presented the drawing of previous and proposed changes to the Colonial Theatre/Annex. Alderman Hamlett stated that he wanted the facility to be used by all and he wanted to make sure that it was being used at its highest potential and for this reason Alderman Hamlett made a motion to table the issue. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Alderman Hamlett asked that he be allowed to visit the site and meet on this project at the next meeting. All members voted in favor of the motion. Alderman Hamlett stated that he would like a box office built and utilized at the site as in many years past. Alderwoman Proctor stated that the Board needed to make sure that it fit with all the changes that would be happening in this corridor soon. Alderwoman Mull stated that she did not understand the reception portion of the annex as well. Alderman Shepard

stated that the facility need to pull its own weight and not continue to be a dead expense.

#### 8. All-abilities Playground drawings

Manager Scheuer presented the proposed drawings of the proposed all-abilities playground. Manager Scheuer stated that his was at \$600,00 plus project and the Town along with some great partners had been able to raise all but \$135,000 of the project. Manager Scheuer stated that he felt confident that this gap could be closed with other larger donors and/or a brick fundraiser or something along that line. Manager Scheuer asked the Board to vote on moving forward with the project as presented if they felt strongly that his gap could be closed. If they did not feel confident, then portions would have to be removed and/or added later as funds were made available. Manager Scheuer stated that the equipment would be ordered next week as a 4-to-6-month timeframe was what it was taking to get these products delivered. Mayor Smathers inquired if more than just one piece of equipment would be all-abilities? Manager Scheuer stated that the playground offered numerous all ability features as it should. Manager Scheuer stated that the timeframe for completion would be in the Spring. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the all-abilities playground as presented and to move forward with the project. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of moving the project forward.

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

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter closed session at 7:57 pm pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3)(4) economic development and Attorney Consultation. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

After a lengthy discussion with no action taken, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 8:24pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **J. Adjournment**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 6:30p.m. at 85 Summer Street, Canton, NC 28716. There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

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Lisa Stinnett, Town Clerk