

November 9, 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, November 9, 2023, at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women Mull, Hamlett, and Proctor present, the following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Smathers called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

B. Roll Call

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

C. Pledge

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

D. Approval of Minutes:

Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to approve the September 28, October 12, October 18, and October 19th, 2023, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers congratulated Alderwoman Mull and Alderman Hamlett on their re-election. Mayor Smathers commented that it was a close race, and that Adam Hatton ran a clean well-run campaign.

Mayor Smathers stated that the fall decorations were nice and the Pigeon River Garden Club along with the downtown Merchant Partnership had done a great job with the scarecrow trail downtown.

Mayor Smathers made the Board aware that Mr. Charlie Robinson, a longtime friend of the community, had passed away and would be missed by all.

Mayor Smathers thanked the press for the coverage of the election and all the Town events.

Mayor Smathers asked the Manager to report on NCDOT and the traffic issues that continued in the downtown area due to traffic issues on I-40.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Mayor Pro-Tem Mull thanked everyone that voted for her in the past election. Mayor Pro-Tem Mull stated that she was glad the election was over, and she appreciated Mr. Hatton running a clean race.

Alderman Hamlett thanked everyone that turned out to vote stating that it was very important to exercise that right. Alderman Hamlett also thanked Adam Hatton for running a clean campaign. Alderman Hamlett also thanked Carl Cortright for keeping citizens informed and clarifying a lot of questions on paper town exchange.

Alderwoman Proctor stated that she was very happy to be serving on the Board with Alderman Hamlett and Alderwoman Mull for another term. Alderwoman Proctor stated that she commended Mr. Hatton for a well-run campaign. Alderwoman Proctor asked for an ice rink update. Manager Scheuer stated that he would do that in Managers updates.

Alderman Shepard wished everyone a Happy Veterans Day to all of those that are serving, have served across America. Alderman Shepard inquired if we would be starting water conservation measures soon?

Mayor Smathers stated he was glad to see the suicide hotline number on the Board ad and commended Alderman Hamlett for the great idea.

G. Public Comments

Jason Aytes of Trammell Avenue presented the Board with a completed traffic calming measure petition. Mr. Aytes asked the Board to absorb the resident's portion of the cost for the traffic speed cushions. Mayor Smathers thanked Mr. Aytes for coming to the meeting and completing the required petition for the traffic calming measures and caring about his neighborhood. Alderman Hamlett commended Mr. Aytes for coming to the Board meeting and going about things in the right way to try and make a difference. Alderman Hamlett stated that was how a federalism was supposed to work. Alderwoman Proctor thanked Mr. Aytes for his work in getting the petition signed but also expressed the significant reduction in the Town's budget due to the mill closure. Manager Scheuer stated that the Board could waive the fees, share the fees, or implement the entire cost per policy. Mayor Smathers asked Mr. Aytes if the residents were aware of the possible charge? Mr. Aytes stated that they were aware, but he hoped the Board

would waive the fees. Alderman Hamlett asked that this decision be tabled until the next agenda. The Board gave their consensus to table the request.

Mayor Smathers reminded everyone that a burn ban was in place and encouraged everyone to be extremely careful, even when utilizing an outdoor grill. Alderman Shepard commented that currently four major fires were ongoing. Fire Chief Wheeler stated that the Forest Service was doing a really good job containing the fires in the area.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Scheuer presented the cash report.

Manager Scheuer presented an amended tax scroll submitted by the Deputy Tax Collector (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the amended tax scroll as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Manager Scheuer reminded the Board that the Toy Run, Veterans Ceremony, Community Orchard ribbon cutting, and Chestnut Mountain race will all be the weekend of November 11th. Manager Scheuer stated that on December 1 the Kris Kringle market, Ice Rink opening, and the tree lighting ceremony would be in Sorrells Street Park starting at 3:30pm ending with the tree lighting at 7pm. Manager Scheuer also reminded the Board that the Christmas parade would be on December 7th at 6:00pm and the Waynesville Christmas parade on December 4th. Assistant Manager Stinnett will provide details closer to time for the Board. Alderwoman Proctor inquired if the playground equipment had been ordered, the Manager affirmed that it had been ordered and some had arrived and stored until the bulk of equipment arrived.

I. New Business

1. Public Hearing: Request to Extend the Corporate limits and amend the Zoning Ordinance Map.

2. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter a public hearing to discuss the Extension the Corporate limits and amend the Zoning Ordinance Map as requested at 7:15pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried. Manager Scheuer presented the Board with the details of the request. With no public in attendance for comment, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 7:16pm. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Ordinance: Extending the Corporate limits:

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with an ordinance extending the corporate limits of the Town of Canton (see attached). Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

4. Ordinance: Amending the Official Zoning Map of The Town of Canton

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with the proposed ordinance amending the official zoning map for the Town of Canton (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the amended zoning map as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Façade Grant Application

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with an application for the façade grant program for the property located at 11 Depot Street (see attached). Manager Scheuer stated that the grant needed a second set of quotes to qualify but recommended to the Board that this be approved with that caveat. The Board inquired from the property owner Brianna Delannoy what would be in this building. Mrs. Delannoy stated that it would be art collective multi use on the upper levels and a bottle shop that would be small business oriented to showcase the WNC region on the lower level, and a music studio downstairs. Alderman Hamlett stated that he appreciated the old structure getting some much-needed improvements and maintain the character of the building. Alderwoman Proctor stated that she is excited for this business and how Canton has grown. Alderwoman Proctor questioned the box marked default. Manager Scheuer stated that was a typo and corrected on the other form. Mayor Smathers stated that all businesses and jobs are important in our area, and he is glad to see the growth in the depot corridor. Mrs. Delannoy stated that she loves this community and the culture of the area and that she is excited to help give back and be a part of this Town. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the façade grant with the caveat that a second quote be submitted. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. Project Budget Ordinance: Wastewater Treatment Plant Sewer Improvements

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with a project budget ordinance for the wastewater treatment plant sewer improvement (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the project budget ordinance as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. Budget Amendments

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with budget amendments (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) at 7:36pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 8:41pm. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried. No action taken.

Alderwoman Mull suggested that the Oath of Office ceremony be on December 1st following the tree lighting ceremony in the park. Both Alderman Hamlett and Alderwoman Mull stated that this should be a very brief ceremony with minimal cost to the Town. All members came to a consensus.

J. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on Friday December 1, 2023, at 7:30p.m. at 111 Sorrells Street, Canton, NC 28716. There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm.

Lisa Stinnett, Town Clerk