

September 28, 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, September 28, 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

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

D. Approval of Minutes:

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the September 14, 2023, minutes as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers thanked everyone involved in helping secure the 42 million for the Town of Canton in the State Budget. The attention and help with all aspects of the mill closure, wastewater issues, and loss of revenue has been tremendous and greatly appreciated.

Mayor Smathers thanked Cruso Endowment for the decorative Street Signs stating they looked great, and he appreciated the foundation for helping to beautify Canton.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for coming.

Alderman Hamlett thanked Mayor Smathers for all his work to help secure the monies for the wastewater and economic shortfall.

Alderwoman Proctor also complimented the staff for decorating the Town with all the fall decoration, stating they looked awesome. Alderwoman Proctor asked that dates be made available for a Board retreat for planning purposes as soon as possible. Alderwoman Proctor made everyone aware that September is suicide prevention month and awareness was key to helping others.

Alderman Shepard stated that the fall décor looked great, and he thanked all that were involved.

G. Public Comments

Zachary Stines stated that he had moved to the area and was looking forward to getting involved in the community.

Resident of 248 Bluebird Hill and her father wanted to comment on the unfairness that they felt the policy for water usage was. The father stated that the Town notified his daughter she had a leak and she got it fixed within days and he did not feel that she should have to pay for water that spilled on the ground as this was free water, not used. He stated that the water department offered her ½ credit on the consumption, but he did not feel this was fair. Manager Scheuer stated that water was not free that it cost a lot of money to treat the water and once it went through the meter whether she used it or not it still was the same cost to the Town. Manager Scheuer also made the gentleman aware that most utility companies did not offer any credit due to leaks etc. The gentleman stated that he thought the Board should change the standing policy. Mayor Smathers thanked them both for coming.

Mr. Jason Aytes, a resident on Trammell Avenue wanted to complain about trash from a neighbor across the street. Mr. Aytes presented the Board with pictures. Mr. Aytes stated that he waits until he gets a letter and near the 14th day, he cleans up a bit then starts all over. Manager Scheuer stated that he would speak with the code enforcement officer. Manager Scheuer also asked the Town attorney if we could do anything else with the habitual violators. Attorney Morgan stated that he would be happy to send them a letter and then take to court to collect fines. Mr. Aytes also stated that speeding continued to be a safety problem. Manager Scheuer stated that he would email Mr. Aytes the traffic calming policy.

Lady with Roberts and Stevens stated she was just an observer.

Carl Cortright of Allen Street stated that several individuals were harassing the neighborhood with high speed and loudness. He stated that when people complained on Facebook

these individuals would stalk the houses with continued speed and loud mufflers. Manager Scheuer stated he would have the Police chief investigate the issues.

Cory Vaillancourt with Smokey Mountain News commented that Mr. Fred Hall would be returning home with military honor on October 8 and graveside would be October 10th. He stated that this was a remarkable story and everyone should come out in support.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Scheuer gave the cash and tax report.

Manager Scheuer updated the Board that the Veterans Day event would be held November 11th at the Pisgah High Stadium at 11:00am sharp followed by the Pigeon River Garden Club Orchard ribbon cutting at 12:00 (noon).

Manager Scheuer asked the Board's pleasure on the Christmas parade theme. By consensus the theme will be "Smokey Mountain Christmas".

The Board has chosen the Southern Appalachian Conservancy as the Grand Marshal in honor of their large gift and hard work for Chestnut Mountain Park.

Manager Scheuer reminded everyone that the Plott-toberfest would be in Sorrells Park this weekend.

Manager Scheuer reported that a new trail would be opening on Saturday at Chestnut Mountain Park and a donor would be giving beer away at the event with the /Board's permission. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the give away of beer. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Manager Scheuer reminded the Board that the official tree lighting ceremony would be on December 1 around 7:00pm following the Jingle Market.

Manager Scheuer asked the Board to approve the holiday closing schedule for planning purposes. He stated that staff was requesting October 26, November 23rd, and December 28th be cancelled. Manager Scheuer stated that if something came up of importance that a special called meeting could be arranged. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to cancel the October 26th, November 23rd, and December 28th meetings. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

I. New Business

1. K.A.R.E. Sponsorship Request

Manager Scheuer presented a request from K.A.R.E. for sponsorship for the festival of trees. Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to approve a \$200.00 dollar donation due to budgetary restraints. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Cecil Yount: Toy Bike Run Request

Mayor Smathers welcomed Cecil Yount to the meeting. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the road closures, trash cans as yearly performed for the toy run. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Mr. Yount stated that in 32 years the club had donated roughly \$235,300 back to the community for those that need help. The Board thanked Cecil for all of his work over the years as well as all those involved. Motion carried.

3. Pickle Like a Bear Co-sponsorship Request CMS PTO

Assistant Manager Stinnett presented the Board with a co-sponsorship request for the Canton Middle School PTO to have a fundraiser at the Huber Thomas Pickle Ball Courts. This event will not require any staff or support from the Town, just the use of the courts. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the co-sponsorship as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Budget Amendment

Manager Scheuer presented a budget amendment to construct the three remaining trails at Chestnut Mountain Park (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Set Public Hearing for October 12, 2023

Manager Scheuer asked the Board to set a public hearing for October 12, 2023, at 6:30pm to hear a conditional zoning request from Patton Farms and CDC as well as a variance request for Blueridge Contracting. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to set the public hearing for October 12, 2023, at 6:30pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

J. Closed Session: Pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a)(4)(6)

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session at 7:41 pm pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4)(6) economic development and personnel. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

After a lengthy discussion with no action taken, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 8:15pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

In open session Attorney William Morgan stated that he would get information on letters to be sent to habitual code violators and bring that policy back to the Board.

J. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 6:30p.m. at 85 Summer Street, Canton, NC 28716. There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Lisa Stinnett, Town Clerk