

January 25, 2024

At the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at the Town Hall at 85 Summer Street, January 25, 2024, at 6:00pm with Mayor Zeb Smathers, and Aldermen/women Mull, Hamlett, Shepard and Proctor present, the following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Smathers called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers stated that the Manager, Town Attorney and Deputy Clerk Lurvey were present.

C. Pledge/Invocation

Alderwoman Proctor led those in attendance in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Smathers noted that since Assistant Manager and Town Clerk, Lisa Stinnett was ill and the minutes from the last meeting will be presented at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers then addressed the water situation regarding disruptions and outages during the recent freeze and thaw. Mayor Smathers said this was frustrating not only to our customers but our town staff as well. Mayor Smathers said he had received several text messages with regards to the service disruption, but Mayor Smathers wanted to point out that it was an outstanding effort on the water department, and they are amazing working in zero temperatures. Mayor Smathers was thankful not only to our workers but their families as well, with crews working around the clock and not able to see their families.

Mayor Smathers then asked for a moment of silence for Fred Chappell who had left a huge footprint on the Town of Canton. Also, for Herbert "Cowboy" Coward. Cowboy will be remembered for putting smiles on kids faces. In addition, Mayor Smathers asked that we remember the young man that was also involved in the accident and how he and his family are suffering as well.

Mayor Smathers then said he was contacted by the family of Charles "Charlie" Robertson and said the Robertson family

would like to give Charlie's bicycle to the Town museum.

Mayor Smathers also wanted to congratulate Ricky Brindley as the new Head Coach for the Pisgah High football team. Coach Brindley graduated from Pisgah High and now has returned to Pisgah as Head Coach. Mayor Smathers said in talking with the Coach, he is going to get his team more involved with the town by volunteering by assisting town departments, so do not be surprised if you see members of the team out weed eating.

G. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull then brought up that she was contacted by the TDA because according to the TDA by-laws two people must be nominated by the Town and approved by the County Commission even though there is only one seat. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to nominate Alderman Hamlett as a candidate for the TDA seat. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Alderwoman Proctor urged members of the community to sign up for notifications from the town so that they can be informed on what is happening in the community. Alderwoman Proctor also wanted to thank town staff for their efforts during the cold weather event and noted that it is exhausting.

Alderman Hamlett then thanked Manager Scheuer and Assistant Manager Stinnett for the timely messages sent to the Board. Alderman Hamlett also urged everyone to get a Covid booster as it was back and circulating in the community.

Alderman Shephard also addressed the water issues and acknowledged that the water department was on top of the situation in all kinds of weather.

H. Public Comments:

Mr. Jason Aytes from Trammell Avenue commented on his firsthand experience when he had a water issue at 2:00am and the water department responded, and Mr. Aytes was pleased with the response from the town crew and know just how hard they work.

I. Managers Reports

Manager Scheuer presented tax reports. Manager Scheuer stated that a cash report was not available as Finance Officer, Natalie Walker, was out sick.

Manager Scheuer provided an update to the Board with regards to the water issues. Manager Scheuer assured everyone present that the Water Department was working around the clock to identify leaks. Manager Scheuer stated that Michael Gantt, Water and Sewer Superintendent had already clocked 40 hours and the new pay period just started Tuesday. Manager Scheuer stated that leaks have been identified and fixed and that water levels should improve within the next 24 – 48 hours.

Manager Scheuer stated that a solution would be to run an 8" waterline from Watts Street to Spruce Street. This would be a monster and costly project.

Mayor Smathers then asked Manager Scheuer to maybe contact ConMet and elicit their cooperation in water conservation efforts.

J. Old Business

FEMA BRIC update

Manager Scheuer directed the Board's attention to the floodplain Acquisition and Park Conversion prepared by Coastal Dynamics Design Lab at N.C. State University. Travis Klondike and Andy Fox from N.C. State then join in on the discussion virtually. To proceed with this plan, it will require a Local Match letter. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the Local Match letter and it was seconded by Alderwoman Proctor. The motion carried.

K. New Business

1. Ordinance establishing a 15 mile per hour speed limit on Trammell Avenue

There was considerable input from the community regarding this issue. Mr. Jason Aytes wanted the Town to put in speed bumps and he was reminded that at the last meeting the Town's position was the households on Trammell Avenue would have to pay for putting in speed bumps as the Town cannot afford to pay for this installation.

Ms. Vickie Eastland then suggested rather than speed bumps the Town could make a 4-way stop or 3-way stop.

Chief Sluder stated that additional speed limit signs, children at play and adding the sign board on that street would assist in reducing speed on that street. Chief Sluder went on to say with the addition of part-time Police Officers on staff they would step up patrols in the area.

Alderwoman Mull requested Chief Sluder investigate how to implement the 3-way or 4-way stop signs and bring the recommendation back to the Board. Alderwoman Mull had made a motion to approve the Ordinance, but this lacked a second and the motion died.

2. Pigeon River Outfitters and Town Land Use Agreement

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with the Pigeon River Outfitters Lot Lease. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the Lot Lease as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. Canton Summer Camp

Sam Dunbar, Director of Recreation then presented his proposed summer camp program. Mr. Dunbar stated there would be 4 counselors (one being the Head Counselor). The camp would offer programs in Arts and Crafts, Pickle Ball and yard games, in addition to use of the Aquatic center. The first year there will be a limit of 25 participants. Parents will be able to enroll their children in the camp and pay through the Rec Desk. This will be a 9-week camp and participants can enroll for one week or the entire 9-week camp. Mr. Dunbar stated that this would bring additional revenue to the town.

The Board is excited to see that Director Dunbar has put together a camp for the kids to enjoy during the summer. The Board congratulated Director Dunbar on a job well done!

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

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to N. C. G. S. 143-318.11 (a) (4) economic development at 7:35pm. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried. After the conclusion on the topic of economic development, Deputy Clerk, Lurvey left the meeting at 8:11p.m.

Attorney, William Morgan then took the minutes for the discussion of N. C. G. S. 143-318.11(a) (6) personnel.

At 8:39p.m., Alderwoman Proctor moved to enter open session, Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted.

L. Adjournment

The next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 6:00p.m. at Town Hall located at 85 Summer Street, Canton, NC 28716. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 8:39p.m.

Wanda M. Lurvey, Deputy Town Clerk