

February 22, 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, February 22, 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 6:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call

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

C. Pledge/Invocation

Alderman Hamlett led those in attendance in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Smathers presented the February 8, 2024, minutes. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve all the minutes as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the minutes. Motion carried.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers congratulated Ms. Abigail Bentley, science teacher at Pisgah High School for receiving the statewide award (NCCAT) 2024 Empower NC Beginning Teacher of the Year. Mayor Smathers stated we are lucky to have teachers like this in our community.

Mayor Smathers made the Board aware that he received an invitation for the ribbon cutting for the Charters of Freedom for May 20th. Assistant Manager Stinnett stated that the time and details will be announced closer to the time of the event.

Mayor Smathers stated that he had received an invitation for the construction ceremony for the Champion Credit Union Building which would be April 16th at 5:30pm. Mayor Smathers stated that he would ask for more information for the Board.

Mayor Smathers asked when the last weekend for the ice rink to be open would be. Assistant Manager Stinnett responded that it would be the first weekend in March and then would be put into storage.

Mayor Smathers made staff aware that he noticed water in the intersection at N Main that might need to be checked.

G. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone in attendance for coming.

Alderman Hamlett also stated that it was nice to see everyone in attendance for the meeting.

Alderwoman Proctor asked when the lights for the pickle ball court were turned off. She stated that she had been asked if night pickle ball was allowed. Manager Scheuer stated that the light was on until 11pm at night every night.

Alderman Shepard thanked the water department for all their efforts during the recent water line issues. Alderman Shepard also commented that the new mulch at the dog park looked great.

H. Public Comments:

Mr. Jason Aytes of Trammell Avenue stated that a drunk driver wrecked on Trammell Avenue, and this was just another reason to have speed cushions. Alderman Hamlett stated that the speed cushions would not make a difference if someone was driving impaired. Mr. Aytes commented that the new stop patterns would not make a difference in this case either. Alderman Hamlett stated that as true because a drunk driver was not going to obey any traffic deterrents because they are driving impaired. Mr. Aytes stated that money was not as important as a life lost. Mayor Smathers commented that speed cushions were not denied just the Town paying for this measure due to the current speed cushion policy. Mayor Smathers commented that if the citizens wanted to pay for the installation that would be approved. Mr. Aytes commented that he paid taxes, and the Town should pay for the speed cushions. Mayor Smathers stated that the data collected did not meet the requirements for the speed cushion policy. However, the Town did agree to add measures to require vehicles to stop at certain points to try to help with the speeding concerns.

Mayor Smathers recognized Ms. Alyah Chastain and her parents Michael and Anita Chastain. Ms. Alyah Chastain presented the Mayor and Board with a drawing that she had drawn portraying the papermill before it shut down. The Board thanked Ms. Chastain for the picture, commenting that she had remarkable talent. Ms. Chastain commented that art was what she wanted to pursue for her future. The Mayor and Board thanked Ms. Chastain and her family for the incredible gift. Ms. Chastain stated that postcards or pictures could be purchased at the

grateful table if anyone wanted to purchase them.

I. Managers Reports

Manager Scheuer presented the cash report.

Manager Scheuer presented the tax report.

Manager Scheuer updated the Board that in the next three weeks Town crews would be starting to get the ground and footprint prepared for the new all abilities playground.

Manager Scheuer updated the Board that the Skyline, Meadowbrook and Rhoda projects had been waiting on a final Armory Corp permit which had been received and the bids would be let in two weeks. Manager Scheuer stated that this had been a lengthy process with securing funding and all the required permits meeting all FEMA requirements, but the result would benefit everyone in this neighborhood to hopefully never have to be in this situation again.

Manager Scheuer made the Board aware that the bids were going back out for the replacement bridge at Chestnut Mountain that was a service and emergency bridge for the bike park.

Assistant Manager Stinnett asked the Board's pleasure on a request to close the parking lot at water wheel for an event at the Lunch Box café on a Saturday in March. Insurance will be required for this event. Board gave consensus to allow the parking lot closure.

Assistant Stinnett addressed the Board regarding a request for Mama T's Summer Celebration to host a car show as part of their event in the gravel lot that we own across from Sorrells street Park. The Board came to consensus to amend the co-sponsorship agreement to add the car show in the parking lot.

Assistant Stinnett addressed the Board with their plans for the annual employee meal on July 3, 2024. The Board gave consensus to have the event the same as the prior year.

J. Old Business

N/A

K. New Business

1. Rural Transformation Grant Update:

Manager Scheuer stated that Coastal Dynamics out of NC State University had developed the design and flood mitigation for 225 Park Street (the A&P Building) Manager Scheuer stated that he loved the design and would be bringing to the Board at the March 14th meeting.

2. Budget Amendments

Finance Officer Walker presented several budget amendments (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Folkmoot and Canton Downtown Partnership Co-Sponsorship request

Assistant Manager Stinnett presented the Board a co-sponsorship request (see attached) to have a Folkmoot parade and event in Sorrells Street Park in conjunction with the Milltown Market with International foods, dance, and music. The Board by consensus agreed to co-sponsor the event in Sorrells Park without the parade due to staff and associated costs. This co-sponsorship is contingent on financial documentation, budget, liability insurance, and the cost share of fees for police officers to be utilized for public safety. Once this is secured the Board wanted this brought back to them for final approval. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve being all the contingencies being met and returned to the Board. Alderman Hamlet seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Street Paving Bid Award

Assistant Manager Stinnett presented the Board with the low bid of \$150,810 dollars (see attached) from Custom Paving for the street paving project for all gravel streets to be paved with Powell Bill funds this fiscal year. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the bid award as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

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

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to N. C. G. S. 143-318.11 (a) (4) economic development and (6) Personnel at 6:42 pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried. After the discussion, Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter open session at 7:42pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

L. Adjournment

The next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, March 14, 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 10:15pm

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk