

## **March 14, 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, March 14, 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, Town Attorney and Deputy Clerk Lurvey were present.

### **C. Pledge/Invocation**

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

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

Mayor Smathers then asked the Board for approval of the minutes for the February 22nd meeting. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the minutes of that meeting and Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **E. Mayor Comments**

Mayor Smathers then read a letter from Mrs. Debbie Wilson which was accompanied by a check in the amount of \$110,000.00 to complete the funding for the All-Abilities Playground in memory of her husband, Ken Wilson. This donation was in addition to the \$50,000.00 already received from the Wilson Family Foundation. Mayor Smathers then stated that Ken and Debbie Wilson have always been great supporters of the Town. Mayor Smathers then stated that Mr. Wilson was always grateful for the support he received from the community and he and Debbie Wilson always gave back to the community. Mayor Smathers stated that Ken Wilson always wanted to bring smiles to the young people in the community. Mayor Smathers stated that this was a Legacy because this playground will be enjoyed for years to come. Mayor Smathers then suggested to the Board that when the playground is finished, he felt that it should be dedicated to Ken and Debbie Wilson for their tremendous support of this community for over 40 years.

Mayor Smathers then stated that completion of the all-abilities playground was a priority and that it needs to be completed as

soon as possible, even if he had to drive to pick up some of the equipment himself.

Mayor Smathers then mentioned that Pisgah High School Football Coach Ricky Brindley has kept his promise to the community by having his team assist in community cleanup projects.

### **G. Aldermen/women Comments**

Alderwoman Mull stated that she wanted to thank Cory Vaillancourt of the Smoky Mountain News for the positive comments with regards to the Board. Alderwoman Mull stated that Town Staff are behind us making the Board look good and that it was a one day at a time process. Alderwoman Mull then commented that the gift from Mrs. Debbie Wilson truly is a legacy, and the Town is grateful for the support from the Wilson's.

Alderman Hamlett then stated that the funeral procession for Ken Wilson was truly a testament of Ken's impact on this community and Haywood County as a whole. Alderman Hamlett said that this gift was a legacy that will bring joy for years to come.

Alderwoman Proctor stated the gift from Mrs. Wilson was awesome and it was more than a gift. Alderwoman Proctor then stated that the gift was very humbling and gracious, and she went on to state that the Town met its goal to complete the all-abilities playground.

Alderman Proctor went on to advise the Board and those present that she had an opportunity to play pickle ball over the last weekend and she was amazed that there were more than sixty (60) people playing pickle ball, basketball and visiting the Dog Park. Alderwoman Proctor wanted to thank the Staff for promoting these facilities as they are all being utilized by the community.

Alderman Shephard also addressed the gift from Mrs. Debbie Wilson but wanted to remind everyone that the baseball fields have lights due to the generosity of Ken Wilson. When the baseball fields lost the lights in the flood of 2004 it was Ken Wilson that paid the entire cost of lighting the ballfields with a donation of \$150,000.00 which was the entire cost to replace the lights. Alderman Shepard stated that Ken Wilson never hesitated to step up and assist the community.

### **H. Public Comments:**

N/A

## **I. Managers Reports**

Manager Scheuer presented a cash report. Manager Scheuer stated that the Town had received the first installment of \$1,000,000.00 for HB259 which would be moved into investments.

Manager Scheuer also mentioned that Senator Chuck Edwards was responsible for getting \$1,750,000.00 to add to the Town's Wastewater Treatment project. Manager Scheuer stated that Senator Edwards is supportive of the Town and through his resources assisted in getting these funds for the Town for which we are very thankful.

## **J. Old Business**

N/A

## **K. New Business**

### **1. Captain Matt Shell: Special Olympics Request**

Captain Shell, (Haywood County Sheriff's Office) is the Program Co-coordinator for the Haywood County Special Olympics that holds its spring games in May each year. The Special Olympics has 200 special needs participants from the ages of 8-88. For those younger (3-7 years) they are in training to become participants. The participants come from various area programs (ARC of Haywood and Haywood County Schools). Capt. Shell also introduced his son, Colton, who is working on becoming an ambassador for the games. Last year's games were held at the Waynesville Recreation Center but would like to also move some of the games to Canton. Capt. Shell also mentioned that the Town's Recreational Director, Sam Dunbar, was very involved with the Special Olympics and assists in the coordinating of the games as well. Capt. Shell then asked the Board if they would show their support by donating to this event.

Alderman Hamlett stated that the Board was out of funds for Community Promotions, however he stated that he would like to make a Budget Amendment motion for \$250.00 for this event. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion, and all were in favor of the \$250.00 budget amendment to Community promotions.

### **2. Special Event Application: Canton Lions Club**

Manager Scheuer presented the Board with an event request from the Canton Lions Club for a July 4<sup>th</sup> Carnival to be held in the gravel lot across from Sorrells Street Park. After considerable discussion and concerns, Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the request contingent upon that the event will not interfere with the Town's July 4<sup>th</sup> +1 event. That would mean including but not limited to powering down the rides and lights during the fireworks show.

Mayor Smathers also stated that it would be a nice event with rides for the kids and offers more to the community. Another condition that Mayor Smathers mentioned is that the Canton Lions Club will have to report to Assistant Manager, Lisa Stinnett, and adhere to the requirements outlined in detail in Assistant Manager, Stinnett's Staff Report (see attached). Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion, and all were in favor contingent upon the above.

### 3. TDA Presentation: Corrina Ruffieux, Executive Director

Ms. Ruffieux reported to the Board with a slideshow presentation as well as printed material which is the Annual Report from the TDA. Ms. Ruffieux stated the TDA has become more involved with Marketing and Promoting through social media. (See attached).

At the end of the presentation by Ms. Ruffieux, the Board thanked her for the thorough presentation.

### 4. Water & Sewer Capital Improvement Project

Manager Scheuer then presented a budget to increase the capacity of the Town's water filtration system. Alderwoman Mull made the motion to approve the budget for the Water Capital Improvement Project. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion, and all were in favor and the motion passed.

### 5. Chestnut Mountain Bridge Replacement Bid Award

Manager Scheuer then presented the Bid Award letter from McGill Associates stating that Cinderella Partners, Inc were the low bidder for the bridge replacement. Alderman Shepard asked Manager Scheuer where the funds were coming from for this project and Manager Scheuer stated that the Town had received funds from FEMA for unmet needs and that is where the funding for this project is coming from. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the Bid Award as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### 6. Budget Amendments

Manager Scheuer then presented a Budget Amendment to repair a stormwater culvert. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment and Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. (See attached)

**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 7:41pm. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried. After the conclusion on the topic of economic development, Deputy Clerk, Lurvey left the meeting at 9:06p.m.

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

At 9:49pm Alderwoman Mull 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, March 28, 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 9:50p.m.

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Wanda M. Lurvey, Deputy Town Clerk