August 22, 2021

At the Emergency Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held in the USW Local 507 Building August 22, 2021, at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers, Alderman/Alderwomen Mull, Hamlett, Smith and Shepard present, the following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

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

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers reported that the Manager, Town Clerk, and Finance Officer were present.

D. Invocation/Pledge

Mayor Smathers asked for a moment of silence to remember those that have lost their lives during the recent flooding from Tropical Storm Fred. Alderwoman Mull led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor stated that he needed to add an item for budget appropriations for storm clean-up at this point for the Boards consideration (see attached). Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

N/A

G. Public Comments

N/A

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Scheuer reported that staff was in the process of meeting with multiple insurance adjusters to determine damage and numbers for replacement. Park Street just opened for traffic and Main Street will be open starting at 6am on Monday for school traffic. Manager Scheuer stated that we were still waiting to see if we would receive FEMA assistance if the President declared this area a disaster. Manager Scheuer stated that he was in the process of locating temporary housing

for Town facilities. Mayor Smathers stated that he wanted to commend Town staff on the job they were doing with very little experience. Manager Scheuer stated that the first step would be to get the Police and Fire Departments operational to secure services for the public, then Champion Credit Union had offered space in their building for Town Hall staff to operate out of for water, taxes, and other services. Finance Officer Walker stated that temporary housing would need to be placed outside the flood zone due to equipment not being covered if it flooded in the meantime or equipment would need to be mobile. Manager Scheuer introduced Kris Boyd from Haywood County to elaborate on the permitting side of things for flood victims. Manager Scheuer stated that he was considering and in discussions to contract out the flood permitting due to short staff and limited amount of time with all other issues that were being addressed. Mr. Boyd explained the flood permitting process was extensive and tedious and that a lot of the buildings would need extensive repairs. Manager Scheuer recognized Mr. David Francis from Haywood County to discuss the debris removal process. Mr. Francis stated that the County had already contracted with SDR a debris removal company that had already been procured and was on State contract and if the Town chose to utilize them it would save time on the bidding process etc. as this had already been done. Manager Scheuer stated that he had already started discussions with SDR for their services. Mr. Francis stated that the piles had to be in two categories, vegetation and construction demo piles on curb or edge of the street to be picked up by removal company. The debris cannot be in dumpsters. Assistant Manager Stinnett asked if the debris from town facilities in bags was ok for pick up. Mr. Francis stated that the bags would be ok for pick-up. Mr. Francis also made the Board aware that the Dutch Cove landfill had just received approval for a dump site and all debris would be monitored and separated. Mr. Francis announced that the WNC Flood hotline was available for people to all for help (828-222-3975) and encouraged citizens to call for resources that they were lacking to help them recover. The Board thanked Mr. Boyd and Mr. Francis for the storm relief update.

Mayor Smathers stated that he encouraged everyone to continue to shop local and support the businesses that were still open in the affected area.

Alderman Hamlett thanked all workers that were working continually to keep everyone that was involved in the floods needs met and asked that everyone be respectful and kind to all the workers.

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone that was working in the

community to help those affected during the flood.

Alderman Hamlett stated that Mayor Smathers came to his house and rescued him and his daughter as well as a neighbor that he did not even know during the rising flood waters, that Alderwoman Mull had given his family a place to live after his house was engulfed from the flood, Alderwoman Smith and Shepard had reached out in support of his family, and Manager Scheuer had gone above and beyond to make sure that his family was taken care of, Officer Sluder had helped him in the midst of everything else that was going on in Town, and that was what Canton was all about. The community takes care of each other and that is what makes Canton unique and wonderful, and he is proud to call Canton his home.

Alderwoman Smith stated that even in the face of tragedy it was heartwarming to see everyone come together to help their neighbors and the community and that Alderman Hamlett had said it all in his statement!

Alderman Shepard stated that he hoped that people didn't allow pride to hinder them from asking for help and that his pastor said it best when he stated that we are better together in all things.

Mayor Smathers stated that Canton had the strength to make it through this as we had in the past and we would come out better and stronger, but he was saddened by the loss of life that could not be replaced in the Cruso community and asked everyone to continue to pray for their neighbors.

L. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at the Local 507 Union Hall. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk