

JULY 11, 2024

At the Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at the Town Hall at 85 Summer Street, July 11, 2024, at 6:00pm with Mayor Zeb Smathers, and Aldermen/women Mull and Hamlett and Shepard present, absent was Alderwoman Proctor 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 Interim Manager, Stinnett and Deputy Clerk Lurvey were present as well as Attorney Morgan.

C. Pledge/Invocation

Mr. Lake Silver, Field Representative for Congressman Chuck Edwards 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 June 13, 2024, June 24, 2024, and June 28, 2024, meeting. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, June 24, and June 28 meetings and Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that he is very thankful and appreciative to the Town Staff for the huge success of the July 4 + 1 event held in Sorrells Street Park. Mayor Smathers said that there was a special spirit to the event from the carnival and the new train which Cruso Endowment sponsored to the fireworks sponsored by Champion Credit Union. Mayor Smathers thanked the Lions Club, Ms. Deborah Reed, and the Pigeon River Garden Club for the success of the event. Mayor Smathers stated that he looked forward to the playground opening next month.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Alderman Hamlett then stated he echoed what Mayor Smathers said and further stated that he wished to thank Chief Sluder and Chief Wheeler for a safe event. Alderman Hamlett then

asked for Chief Sluder to speak about the next event scheduled for August 6, 2024. Chief Sluder explained that this date is reserved for the National Night Out which will be held in Sorrells Street Park from 5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. Chief Sluder stated that County and State Emergency Services will be represented. There will be emergency vehicles from Police, Fire EMT on display. There will be hot dogs and a bounce house for the kids. Chief Sluder also said that there would be military recruiters on site as well as Dominion Energy and Duke Progress. Chief Sluder said it will be a fun as well as educational event and invited everyone to attend.

Alderman Hamlett then commented that he thought the Bear Sign in front of Kobe's was amazing.

Alderman Shepard wanted to thank Town Staff and Champion Credit Union for the July 4 + 1 event. Alderman Shepard then stated he was appreciative to Town Staff.

G. Public Comments:

Ms. Revonda Stephens from Skyland Terrace stated that there was no speed limit sign on her street. Ms. Stephens stated that there also once was a Kids at Play sign which is also gone. Ms. Stephens stated that there were quite a few speeders from Skyland Terrace to Fiddle Drive and that a speed limit sign is warranted. Chief Sluder responded to Ms. Stephens request by stating that the Police Department has new tools with speed awareness boards that the police can move from area to area. The Town will be sure to put a speed limit sign up on Skyland Terrace.

Ms. Stephens then said that she knows that it is only July, but Christmas is right around the corner and that she would like to add her home to the Tour of Homes during the Christmas season. Alderwoman Mull told Ms. Stephens that she would take her information after the meeting as she was involved with the Tour of Homes.

Next to speak was Ms. Ellen Pitt with the DWI Task Force. Ms. Pitt then explained that the task force has had a 99% success rate in the 43rd District with the pretrial bracelets (alcohol monitoring). Unfortunately, Ms. Pitt stated that their grant funding has run out and she is asking the Board to consider making a small donation to this program with funds received from the ABC revenue. Ms. Pitt stated that currently California and Tennessee are using a less expensive wristwatch rather than an ankle bracelet. Ms. Pitt stated that she hoped that North Carolina would begin using wristwatches as it is less stigmatizing than ankle monitors. Currently there is a bill co-authored by Social Services in draft form (7B-904) which will be

able to monitor not only alcohol but drugs as well in the very near future. Ms. Pitt thanked the Board and stated that she would return hopefully with a donation from the Town's ABC revenue.

Mayor Smathers thanked Ms. Pitt for speaking about the CAM bracelet pretrial program as Mayor Smathers has seen the results of the program's success. Mayor Smathers stated that individuals must be able to drive to work and/or medical treatment and HB 212 allows this once the individual has completed sobriety Court. Chief Sluder also echoed his support of the program was 100% as this aids law enforcement.

Ms. Pitt then stated that the task force would like to honor those members of law enforcement that go through an additional 72 hours of training in alcohol enforcement. Ms. Pitt then stated that several of the members of the Canton Police Department have taken the time for this additional training, and she would be back to schedule a pinning ceremony with a special lapel pin to honor their efforts.

Mayor Smathers then stated that at the July 4 +1 event he met with Terry Stamey's family and mentioned that the train purchased through the Cruso Endowment, would be named after their loved one. Mayor Smathers stated that the family was overwhelmed.

H. Managers Reports

Interim Manager Stinnett stated that Finance Officer, Walker present was on vacation and there is not a cash report for this meeting. Interim Manager, Stinnett, then asked Deputy Tax Collector Lurvey to present the tax report. Ms. Lurvey reported that the collection rate as of June 30, 2024, was 99.33%.

Interim Manager Stinnett then advised the Board that the speed cushions on Substation Road have been repainted. Interim Manager Stinnett then stated she was pleased with the carnival, and all went well.

Interim Manager Stinnett then told the Board that the Employee of the Year was Mark Jones, Chief Filter Plant Operator. Interim Manager Stinnett stated that during a water outage in January of this year, Mark worked around the clock until water levels were reached in the Spruce Street Reservoir due to a waterline break.

Interim Manager Stinnett then told the Board that she has a call into NC DOT regarding the debris under the bridge at Bearwaters.

Interim Manager Stinnett stated that new signs have been received for the recreation park and the proposed additional parking.

Mayor Smathers then reminded Interim Manager Stinnett to make sure our staff was ready for the Hurricane Season. Mayor Smathers then stated he noticed a tree down in the river. Interim Manager Stinnett that she was aware and was working on it.

Interim Manager Stinnett then advised the Board that Hyatt Pipeline would begin working on Skyline Drive for the culvert replacement and that road would be closed Friday and Saturday with alternate routes in place. Alderman Hamlett then thanked Interim Manager Stinnett for the constant updates to the Board by text message. Alderman Hamlett stated that it was a great value to the Board, and he appreciated the communications.

I. Reports from the Resiliency Recovery Manager

Nick Scheuer, the Resiliency Recovery Manager told the Board that the all-abilities playground was coming together in the next few weeks. It will celebrate all abilities.

Next, the Resiliency Recovery Manager told the Board that the next revenue generating property was Camp Hope. With the camp in a 100-year floodway it will need a special Architect to design the cabins that were destroyed in Tropical Storm Fred and there is currently an RFQ out for this property.

Armory Phase 2 is in process with CDG is another FEMA project that is in the eligibility process as for like to like on the ROI.

Next was the kickoff to the project on Skyline and Rhoda with Hyatt Pipeline closures and with oversight by McGill.

J. Old Business

N/A

K. New Business

1. Public Hearing: Proposed rezoning of the Heavy Industrial District associated with 175 Main Street to General Business (C-2) and Light Industrial (I-1) PIN 8657-72-2242

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to open the Public Hearing at 6:38p.m. and Alderman Tim Shepard seconded the motion with all in favor and the motion carried.

Planning Director Byron Hickox explained that currently the Mill property is zoned Heavy Industrial which includes highly

impactful and disruptive uses such as a wrecking yard. While General Business (C-2) and Light Industrial (I-1) with Light Industrial comprising the portion of the current Heavy Industrial District west of the Pigeon River (including floodway) and General Business to the east. These zoning designations would permit a broad array of commercial and light industrial uses but would not permit many intense and obtrusive uses that are permitted within the Heavy Industrial District.

Chapter 7 of the Land Use Plan has established goals to provide guidance for implementing the plan vision.

Goal 2 will conserve flood-prone lands and support strategic development/redevelopment decisions to mitigate flood events.

Goal 5 is to achieve higher development standards through regulation and infrastructure investments.

Planning Director Hickox informed the Board that at a Public Hearing held on July 1, 2024, the Planning Board voted unanimously to find that the proposed rezoning is consistent with the Land Use Plan and voted unanimously to recommend approval of the proposed rezoning to the Board of Aldermen/women.

Mayor Smathers commented that the people not companies will matter in rezoning. The proposal allows mixed use within the Town Center. There will be no grandfathering in of uses. Mayor Smathers stated that the Town has its feet back and we are sending a signal that Canton has plenty to offer, and Canton is open for business.

Alderman Hamlett agreed with Mayor Smathers that grandfather uses cannot be done if we are to make a difference in our environment. Alderman Hamlett stated that it is a bold move and makes a statement.

Alderwoman Mull stated that we cannot undue the past, but we can make a difference in the future.

Alderman Shephard stated that this will create different opportunities for the Town and be more fluid.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:55p.m. and the motion was seconded by Tim Shepard with all in favor and the motion carried.

At 6:55p.m. back in open session Alderwoman Mull made a motion to find the proposed rezoning is consistent with the Land Use Plan and is reasonable and in the public interest because it meets Goal 2 and Goal 5 of Chapter 7 of the Land

Use Plan, Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion and with all in favor the motion passed.

Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the proposed rezoning as presented and Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion with all in favor the motion carried.

2. Special Event Application: Bikers and Tows for Kids Food Truck Showdown

Interim Manager Stinnett then presented an Outdoor Special Event Application from Adam Hatton to have a Fall Food Truck Showdown to be held in Sorrells Street Park on October 5, 2024, and is open to the public. Interim Manager Stinnett stated that Mr. Hatton's Application met all the Town's requirements for such event. Alderwoman Gail Mull made a motion to approve the Application for Bikers and Tows for Kids Food Truck Showdown and Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion and all were in favor and the motion carried.

3. Pigeon River Garden Club Request: Pigeon Riverfest Town property usage request

Interim Manager Stinnett then presented a request from the Pigeon River Garden Club requesting to use the lot at the Orchard for overflow parking as this is a fundraiser for the Club. Also, the Pigeon River Garden Club was asking for use of the Town's newly acquired Train for the event. Alderman Hamlett cited the Town's policy of plan events is currently 120 days from the scheduled event. To make an exception to that policy would set a dangerous precedent as others have been turned away for the same reason. Alderman Hamlett further stated that it may be time for the Town reexamine the 120-day requirement in the Town's Special Event Policy. Alderman Hamlett suggested that the Board should visit this on the next Agenda. As for the use of the Train, the Town would have to come up with a policy for and investigate a Locomotive Liability Insurance policy to protect the Town. Unfortunately, the Town just received the Train and has not had time to develop such a policy. While there was no motion made to approve the Riverfest Event the Pigeon River Garden Club wanted to know if it would be okay to go ahead with the event and withdraw their request for using Town property at this time. The Board saw no reason why the Pigeon River Garden Club could not proceed with their event.

4. Canton Water Treatment Plant Renovation – Phase 1 Resolution of Tentative Award

Nick Scheuer, Resiliency Recovery Manager then presented a Resolution of Tentative Award for Phase 1 (SRP-D-ARP-009) of the Canton Water Treatment Plant Renovation. Alderman

Hamlett asked why the Resolution was dated May 23, 2024, and Mr. Scheuer stated that you could just change the date to July 11, 2024. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the Resolution of Tentative Award and the motion was seconded by Alderwoman Mull and with all in favor the motion carried. Budget Ordinance for 2024-2025 and Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

5. Community Development Block Grant Agreement

Nick Scheuer, the Resiliency Recovery Manager then presented to the Board the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Agreement for approval. Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the CDBG Grant Agreement and Alderwoman Gail Mull seconded the motion. All voted to approve the Grant Agreement and the motion passed.

6. Application for Approval of Engineering Plans and Specifications for Water Supply Systems Phase 2

Nick Scheuer, Resiliency Recovery Manager presented to the Board the Application for Approval of Engineering Plans and Specifications for Water Supply Systems for Water Treatment Plant Upgrades – Phase 2 for the Department of Environmental Quality. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the Application for Approval and Alderman Tim Shepard seconded the motion with all in favor the motion passed.

7. Proposed Budget Amendment for final phase of the All Abilities Playground

Nick Scheuer, the Resiliency Recovery Manager presented the Board with a proposed budget amendment to complete the All-Abilities Playground in the fiscal year of 2024-2025 in the amount of \$72,723.36. A discussion of the shortfall was discussed briefly by the Resiliency Recovery Manager. Mayor Smathers then asked the Board for a Special called meeting to discuss the proposed budget amendment. Alderman Ralph Hamlett made a motion to have a special called meeting on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 9:00a.m. at the Town Hall located at 85 Summer Street, Canton, NC 28716 to discuss the proposed budget amendment for the final phase of the All-Abilities playground. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion, and all were in favor and the motion passed.

L. Closed Session: Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (4) (5) (6)

At 7:35p.m. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (4) Economic

Development, (5) Attorney/Client (6) Personnel. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion, and all were in favor and the motion carried. At 9:20p.m. Alderman Shephard made a motion to enter open session and Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion will all in favor the motion passed.

M. Adjournment

The next Special Called meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 9:00a.m. at Town Hall located at 85 Summer Street, Canton, NC 28716. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 9:21p.m.

Wanda M. Lurvey, Deputy Town Clerk