

JULY 25, 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 25, 2024, at 6:00pm with Mayor Zeb Smathers, and Aldermen/women Mull, 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 Finance Officer Walker were present. Attorney Morgan was stuck in traffic and would arrive later at 6:25p.m.

C. Pledge/Invocation

Alderman Hamlett 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 July 11, 2024, and July 16, 2024, meetings. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2024, and July 16, 2024, meetings and Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that Canton lost a special soul recently. Hubert Thomas was a pillar of the community and the basketball courts at Rec Park are named in his honor. The services are this weekend and Mayor Smathers requested a moment of silence for Mr. Thomas.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for coming. Alderman Hamlett asked Chief Scott Sluder to announce National Night Out as a reminder. Chief Sluder stated the event would be August 6, 2024, from 5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. at Sorrells Park and that all emergency services throughout the county would be present along with bounce houses and hotdogs.

G. Public Comments:

Ms. Ellen Pitt with the DWI Task Force asked police officer William Kleiber to come up. Ms. Pitt then explained that Officer Kleiber had completed an additional 72 hours of DWI training. This training allows Officer Kleiber to complete a DWI stop from start to finish. She awarded Officer Kleiber with a lapel pin. Mayor Smathers thanked Officer Kleiber and stated the importance of this task. Alderman Shephard also thanked Officer Kleiber for putting in the extra hours for the achievement. Alderman Hamlett stated this speaks well for the Canton Police Department as a whole. Chief Sluder stated they have a great group of officers who want to seek out additional training to keep better themselves and the agency. Officer Kleiber thanked the board for their continued support.

Cory Vallaincourt introduced Kenzie Adkinson from Western Carolina University. She is doing an internship with Smoky Mountain News.

Mr. Jason Aytes stated he had not been to a meeting recently and wanted to come see how things were going.

Mr. Carl Cortwright also stated he had missed a few meetings. He inquired about a road repair list and an update on grants. Interim Manager Stinnett stated they were working on the list and that it was a part of the CDBG grant. Mayor Smathers stated that we have many partners and are working on updates regarding the grants.

H. Managers Reports

Finance Officer Walker presented the cash report.

Interim Manager Stinnett advised the Board that the sidewalk at Maddy's off Adams Street would be repaired soon and the addition of two parking spots.

Interim Manager Stinnett then told the Board that the priority list for roads was very important and that she hoped to share information soon.

Interim Manager Stinnett then told the Board that she had been contacted by Jake at Champion Credit Union asking if the Town would be interesting in placing a Welcome to Canton sign on their wall. The board came to a consensus to move forward. Mayor Smathers mentioned that a few Canton City Limit Signs needed to be replaced.

I. Old Business

N/A

J. New Business

1. Special Event Policy Revision

Interim Manager Stinnett presented an updated special event policy. The policy updates include lowering the 120-day notice to 60 days for new events and 45 days for reoccurring events. The policy also includes the language for the hiring of the off-duty police officers if needed. The policy is for all recreation facilities/areas except for Chestnut Mountain. Alderman Shepard stated he thought all the adjustments were good. Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve Special Event Policy and Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All voted to approve the revisions and the motion passed.

2. Co-Sponsorship Request: Sam Dunbar Chestnut Mountain Race

Recreation Director Sam Dunbar presented a request for the board to co-sponsor the second trail race at Chestnut Mountain. The Event would be October 20, 2024, with the 20K starting at 9:00a.m. and the 10K starting at 9:30a.m. The Town would provide use of Chestnut Mountain and have the Fire Department on site in case of an emergency. Recreation Director Dunbar spoke with Chief Wheeler, and he stated that they could provide this service. Alderman Hamlett asked about a weather plan. Recreation Director Dunbar stated that a rain day would be set up. Alderman Shepard stated he thought all the adjustments were good. Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve Co-Sponsorship Request as presented and Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All voted to approve the co-sponsorship and the motion passed.

3. Budget Amendments

Finance Officer Walker presented two budget amendments. The first was for the Chestnut Mountain Maintenance Contract. Alderwoman Hamlett made a motion to approve the amendment as presented and Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion passed. The second amendment was to move funds into a newly created Municipal Vehicle line item. This amendment does not increase the budget; it just transfers the already allocated funds. Alderwoman Hamlett made a motion to approve the amendment as presented and Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion passed.

4. Policy Updates

Interim Manager Stinnett presented several policies that are

required for the CDBG grant. She stated that Town Planning Director Byron Hickox worked tirelessly to get this on the agenda. The policies presented were:

- Environmental
- Equal Opportunity and Procurement
- Fair Housing Plan
- Section 3 Plan
- Section 504 Plan
- Language Access Plan
- Analysis of Impediments
- Request for Release of Funds

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the policies as presented and Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All voted to approve the CDBG required policies and the motion passed.

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

At 6:24p.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 Shepard seconded the motion, and all were in favor and the motion carried. At 8:55p.m. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session and Alderman Shepard seconded the motion will all in favor the motion passed.

M. Adjournment

The next Regular Scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall located at 85 Summer Street, Canton, NC 28716. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 8:57p.m.

Natalie Walker, Deputy Town Clerk