

June 13, 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, June 13, 2024, at 6:00pm with Mayor Zeb Smathers, and Aldermen/women Mull and Hamlett were present, absent were Alderwoman Proctor and Alderman Shepard 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 Finance Officer, Walker and Deputy Clerk Lurvey were as well as Attorney Morgan.

C. Pledge/Invocation

Alderwoman Mull 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 May 9, 2024, and May 23, 2024, meeting. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 9 and May 23 meetings and Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that the Summer Camp was a huge success thanks to Sam Dunbar. Mayor Smathers said he was pleased at how great the recreational facilities looked with the new playground started, the Splash Pad, Recreational Park and IP Complex up and running. Mayor Smathers complimented Recreational Director Sam Dunbar on a great job with all the facilities.

Mayor Smathers then stated that he had received a telephone call from the Mayor of Aberdeen, North Carolina regarding another Evergreen plant shut down. Even though the Aberdeen plant job loss was 40 individuals, he shared his sentiments with Mayor Smathers.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

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

Alderman Hamlett then stated that Alderwoman Mull was an

under spoken person and a jokester and takes very little credit. Alderman Hamlett then stated that Alderwoman Mull's granddaughter, Maggie just graduated from Pisgah High School with a 4.7 G.P.A. the highest in the school's history as well as being named the class Valedictorian. Maggie will continue her studies at Appalachian State University and will be roommates with Cindy Lovelace. Alderman Hamlett stated that these two young ladies were good students and deserve recognition for their accomplishments.

Alderman Hamlett then wanted to thank the Cruso Endowment for the \$2,000.00 to furnish planters and benches at the dog Park. Alderman Hamlett stated that it was partnerships like these that are valuable to the Town.

G. Public Comments:

Ms. Robin Black wanted to thank the Town and Board for their hard work in maintaining the traditions of the Town. Even with the struggles facing the Town keeping the Labor Day festival means a lot to the community. The Labor Day festival has proven its success throughout the years. Ms. Black also brought the Board up to date on the Mama T's event which was held in Sorrells Street Park over the Memorial Day weekend. There were over 3,000 people, parents and children, that were treated to this event for free. Ms. Black stated that we all need to support the Town. Ms. Black also mentioned that Mama T's would be holding a flea market this Saturday, June 15, 2024, in the parking lot of WPTL

H. Managers Reports

Interim Manager Stinnett then requested that Finance Officer, Walker present the cash report. Interim Manager, Stinnett, then asked Deputy Tax Collector Lurvey to present the tax report.

Interim Manager Stinnett then advised the Board that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Florist on Main Street will be held on Friday, June 21st at 2:00pm and reminded the Board that the COG meeting was scheduled at 5:30pm on June 27, 2024, at the Waynesville Recreation Center.

Interim Manager, Stinnett also wanted the Board to know that the Turner Stage at Recreation Park had been completely refurbished with the help of Carroll Nelson and Haywood Builders Supply. Interim Manager Stinnett advised the Board that Carroll Nelson had paid out of pocket for the work to be completed and it was at no cost to the Town.

Interim Manager Stinnett then relayed to the Board that the Summer Camp was a great success and that the park was full each time she visited. To date the pool has had 3,000 visitors and staff have sold 36 pool passes, which was more than in previous years. IP Complex was now doing limited concessions and to date those concessions were \$880.00. The concessions at the pool brought in \$1,056.00.

Interim Manager Stinnett then advised the Board that the new playground should be completed sometime in August.

Interim Manager Stinnett stated that July 4 + 1 was on schedule and the fireworks that are provided by Champion Credit Union have been confirmed with Zambelli. The Carnival is trying to tie up loose ends and it was confirmed that Evergreen had granted permission that their parking lot could be utilized by the Carnival which would be July 1st through the 7th but noted that some of those days would be for set up and tear down.

Interim Manager Stinnett told the Board that she meets with the Department Heads weekly and just wanted to bring the Board up to date in each Department. The fire department has hired 2 part-time Firefighters, and they are in the process of vetting a full-time firefighter. The fire department's calls for service continue to increase. Currently, the fire department is having issues with their radios, and they are working out the bugs with the County to resolve these issues. Also Fire Chief Wheeler has issued 16 Code Violations in one day.

Interim Manager Stinnett moved on to the Police Department and advised the Board that all the new police cars were in service except for 1 vehicle (pickup truck) which would be available within a week.

The Street department has the part-time summer young men in addition to regular street crew.

Next, Interim Manager Stinnett told the Board that DOT has given the Town permission to set the new Bear at the bulb out in front of Kobe's or it can be set at the welcome sign off to the right side by the welcome sign. Interim Manager Stinnett stated the bear which is 9' x 5' tall would be more visible at the bulb out. Mayor Smathers then asked Interim Manager Stinnett if she would like a motion made for the placement of the bear. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to place the bear at the bulb out in front of Kobe's and Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion with all in favor and the motion passed.

Interim Manager Stinnett then stated the committee for the Charters of Freedom had called and requested to borrow the specialized glass out of the Charters of Freedom at the Museum

that they were having another ceremony for the Charters of Freedom and that the committee would cover the Charters of Freedom to protect the documents with tarps on a temporary basis.

Next, Interim Manager Stinnett stated that she met with CGD two weeks ago to narrow down the work needed to complete the renovation of the Armory.

Interim Manager Stinnett next stated that the Train which is included in the Budget Amendment was set to ship next week and hopefully will be in place for the July 4 +1 event. Interim Manager Stinnett told the Board that even though Cruso Endowment is paying for the Train, the Town would still have to issue the check and then the Town would be reimbursed.

This last item ended the Report from the Manager.

I. Reports from the Resiliency Recovery Manager

Not available at the time of the meeting.

J. Old Business

N/A

K. New Business

1. Sponsorship Request: First Pride on Main Event

Interim Manager, Stinnett then presented a Sponsorship request for First Pride on Main. Alderman Hamlett responded that the Town of Canton celebrates all people. But unfortunately, the Board has no money for sponsorships currently. No motion was made, and the request died for lack of a motion.

2. Adoption of the proposed 2024 -2025 Budget addition of Schedule of Fees – Splash Pad

Interim Manager Stinnett then notified the Board that the Town has had considerable inquiries about renting the picnic tables under the shade sails for Birthday parties at the Splash Pad in Sorrells Street Park. Management then crafted a rental policy that the picnic tables under the shade sails could be rented for 2 hours at a cost of \$50.00. Bearing in mind that the Splash Pad was available to all visitors in the park and the rental did not include the Splash Pad. Alderman Hamlett then made a motion to approve the proposed budget for 2024-2025 and to add the Splash Pad rental to the schedule. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion, and all were in favor and the motion carried.

3. Adoption of the Schedule of Fees

Interim Manager Stinnett then presented to Schedule of Fees for 2024-2025 for approval. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the Schedule of Fees and the motion was seconded by Alderwoman Mull with all voting in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

4. 2024-2025 Budget Ordinance

The next item on the agenda for approval was the 2024-2025 Budget Ordinance. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the Budget Ordinance for 2024-2025 and Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

5. Municipal Motor Vehicle Tax Ordinance

Interim Manager Stinnett then presented the Municipal Motor Vehicle Tax Ordinance for approval. Mr. Carl Cortright asked the Board if he could speak on this subject. Mr. Cortright stated that he was not opposed to the new tax if the Town published a list of streets being paved with this new tax on the Town's website. Mayor Smathers agreed that the Town would publish the list of streets being paved. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the Motor Vehicle Tax Ordinance with the Town publishing a list of street paving. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion, and all were in favor and the motion passed.

6. Resolution: NC Highway Safety Grant

Interim Manager Stinnett then presented the Resolution for the NC Governor's Highway Safety Grant. Chief Sluder of the Police Department told the Board that this was a \$10,000.00 grant for traffic safety which covered overtime for Officers working traffic enforcement. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the NC Highway Safety Grant as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion, and all were in favor and the motion carried.

7. Budget Amendments

Finance Officer Walker then presented to the Board Budget Amendments. Finance Officer Walker stated that these amendments were typical year-end adjustments to all funds but not was and increase to the budget. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments as presented and Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

8. Disposition of Agency Property

Police Chief Sluder then presented the Board with a list of equipment that was either antiquated and of no value or items lost in the flood of August 17, 2021. Chief Sluder stated that he was in the process of cleaning up the list of equipment to bring it up to date with what the agency currently has on hand. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the disposition of assets and Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion carried.

9. Contract Approval Chestnut Mountain Bridge

Interim Manager Stinnett stated that the Board had approved the Bid Award in a previous meeting and what Interim Manager Stinnett was presenting is the vetted contract for the Chestnut Mountain Bridge. Total project cost for the Bridge is \$487,136.43. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the Chestnut Mountain Bridge contract as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion, and all were in favor and the motion carried.

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

At 6:35p.m. Alderman Hamlett 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. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion, and all were in favor and the motion carried.

M. Adjournment

The next Special Called meeting will be held on Thursday, June 27, 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

Wanda M. Lurvey, Deputy Town Clerk