

May 23, 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, May 23, 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 6:03 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers stated that the Interim Manager, Stinnett Finance Officer, Walker and Deputy Clerk Lurvey were present. Attorney Morgan was on his way.

C. Pledge/Invocation

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

D. Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Smathers stated that the approval of minutes would be presented at the next meeting.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that he and the Interim Manager just came from a meeting with Spritas Worldwide CEO who was in Town for a meeting on the possible purchase of the Pactiv Evergreen Mill site. Mayor Smathers stated that it was a very positive meeting. Mayor Smathers then stated that the Attorney General, Josh Stein, had filed a lawsuit against Evergreen to recover the \$12 million dollars granted to Evergreen to keep the mill open and then breached that promise.

Mayor Smathers then thanked Mike Woods for his efforts in bringing the Charters of Freedom to Canton and Haywood County. Mayor Smathers then thanked the Fire Fighter who saved a life. Mayor Smathers then stated he had just returned from Washington, D.C. where he found it to be a great learning experience meeting with other town leaders on ways to mitigate flooding around the Country.

G. Aldermen/women Comments

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

Alderman Hamlett then thanked members of the committee

responsible for the Charters of Freedom and stated what a great honor it was that Canton was chosen to display them for all Haywood County.

Alderwoman Proctor also thanked the committee for the Charters of Freedom.

Alderwoman Proctor went on to remind those in attendance that Mama T's summer celebration event was scheduled for Saturday, May 25, 2024, in Sorrells Street Park.

Alderwoman Proctor then thanked Finance Officer, Natalie Walker, for her efforts in preparing the Town's 2024-2025 budget.

Mayor Smathers then stated that the manager of Bojangles would be bringing biscuits to the Street and Water Departments in appreciation for all that they do.

Alderman Shephard also addressed the Charters of Freedom and thanked the committee for choosing Canton. In addition, Alderman Shephard thanked the Fire Department for their service to the community.

H. Public Comments:

Mr. Mike Woods, a member of the committee for the Charters of Freedom, addressed the Board and thanked them for their support. Mr. Woods stated that it was a team effort and thanked Chief Sluder, Chief Wheeler, Street Superintendent, Josh Piurowski, Crew Leader, Todd Rathbone and Water and Sewer Superintendent, Michael Gantt, for their work on the site.

Mr. Woods stated that there were 270 people that attended the dedication. Mr. Woods stated that the committee would be making a time capsule and asked the Board to think about what they would like in the capsule which would be opened on September 17, 2087.

I. Managers Reports

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

Interim Manager Stinnett then advised the Board that the pool and splash pad would open for the season on Memorial weekend.

Interim Manager, Stinnett relayed to the Board that the Town had passed the sewer inspection. In addition, Interim Manager Stinnett advised the Board that the Street Department had finished the groundwork at the all-abilities playground and that the equipment should be arriving by the 2nd week of June.

The Recovery Manager, Scheuer was not present for the meeting, however, Interim Manager, Stinnett presented the Board with the McGill bid award letter for Hyatt Pipeline LLC for the Skyline Drive, Rhoda Street and Meadowbrook Culvert Package. McGill recommends proceeding with the award of this project to Hyatt Pipeline LLC. Alderwoman Proctor made the motion to accept the bid award to Hyatt Pipeline LLC and Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion and all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Interim Manager, Stinnett, presented the Board with the Charles Street Culvert Project Bid Award to Hyatt Pipeline LLC. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to accept the bid award to Hyatt Pipeline LLC and Alderman Shephard seconded the motion all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Interim Manager, Stinnett, then presented the Southwestern Commission Technical Service Contract for approval. Interim Manager, Stinnett stated that this contract is because the Town is recipient of a CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Program grant and the contract for the Commission to administer the grant for the Town at a cost of \$20,000.00. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the Technical Service Contract and Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion and all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

J. Old Business

N/A

K. New Business

1. Public Hearing: Proposed 2024-2025 Budget

At 6:50p.m. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to open the Public Hearing on the proposed 2024-2025 budget, Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Finance Officer Walker then led a presentation of the carefully crafted budget considering the loss of revenue from the mill closure. Finance Officer Walker stated that this budget was prepared with direct need to keep the Town and its services going at our current level. Finance Officer Walker said that it was going to be a difficult year, but she and the Department heads were conservative in their requests and offered other ideas for generating additional revenue. After

Finance Officer Walker completed her presentation members of the audience were encouraged to ask questions.

Ms. Jeanne Forrest, a member of the Planning Board, asked several questions with regards to the Town, opting to repair the Armory that was damaged in the 2021 flood before the Colonial Theatre. It was explained to Ms. Forrest that the Colonial Theatre repair is quite extensive and more expensive to repair than the Armory, which once the Armory is repaired that facility will begin generating revenue.

The Board thanked Ms. Forrest for her thoughts on the proposed budget. With no one else wishing to speak on the proposed budget, Alderwoman Mull made a motion at 7:24p.m. to close the Public Hearing and Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion with all in favor. At 7:24p.m. back in open session, Interim Manager Stinnett presented to the Board the Ordinance declaring temporary Lane and Road Closures for the 116th Canton Labor Day Festival & Parade as required by the Department of Transportation. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the Ordinance and Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion and all were in favor and the motion passed.

Interim Manager Stinnett reminded the Board that the Council of Government (C.O.G.) meeting was scheduled for 5:30p.m. Thursday, June 27, 2024, at the Waynesville Recreation Center.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to cancel the June 27, 2024 meeting at 6:00p.m. and changed it to June 27, 2024, at 9:00a.m. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion and all were in favor.

L. Adjournment

The next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, June 13, 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 7:28p.m.

Wanda M. Lurvey, Deputy Town Clerk