

November 14, 2024

At the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at the Town Hall at 85 Summer Street, November 14, 2024, at 6:02pm with Mayor Smathers, and Aldermen/women Mull, Proctor, Hamlett, and Shepard present, the following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Smathers called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers stated that the Manager Stinnett, Assistant Manager Walker, Clerk Dunbar, and Town Attorney Morgan were present.

C. Pledge/Invocation

Alderwoman Proctor led the pledge of allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes:

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the October 24, 2024, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that the Derryl Mckinnon Band, along with other bands had a concert in Cleveland Tennessee. This was a big fundraiser and raised \$82,000 for the Town of Canton. Mayor Smathers also stated that Cleveland Tennessee made a proclamation stating that November 8th is Canton Day, and the Town of Cleveland gave Mayor Smathers the key to the city. Mayor Smathers also stated that the City of Wilmington North Carolina had a whiskey testing fundraiser that raised \$13,000 for the Town of Canton.

Alderman Shepard suggested to the Board that the Town of Canton and Cleveland Tennessee become sister cities.

Mayor Smathers asked Manager Stinnett to write a letter to those that donated to the Town of Canton.

Mayor Smathers thanked the Carolina Hurricanes Organization for their help and donations after the flood. Mayor Smathers then stated that other Towns around Western North Carolina need help as well. Mayor Smathers stated that he was invited to drop the puck at the Carolina Hurricanes hockey game on November 16th.

Mayor Smathers complimented Town Staff and businesses for a great Halloween.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Hamlett suggested the key to the Town of Cleveland be placed at the new Town Hall. Alderman Hamlet said that Alderman Shepard's idea to become sister cities with Cleveland Tennessee was a brilliant idea.

Mayor Smathers said good job to all of those who worked hard to get the Pisgah football stadium ready for the county clash.

Alderman Shepard said it was an honor to be able to play the County Clash at the Pisgah stadium. Alderman Shepard then congratulated the Pisgah men's soccer team of their historic season.

Alderwoman Proctor stated that Halloween had a great turn out. Alderwoman Proctor stated it was nice to see some normalcy return to the Town. Alderwoman Proctor also said to remember small businesses during the Holiday season.

G. Public Comments:

There were no public comments

H. Managers Reports

Assistant Manager Walker gave the Board the cash report.

Manager Stinnett appointed Wanda Lurvey as the Deputy Finance Director. Alderman Hamlett made the motion the motion to appoint Wanda Lurvey as the Deputy Finance Director. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Manager Stinnett told the Board that Christmas lights will be going up next week and this is an all-hands-on deck effort. Manager Stinnett also asked The Board to select a grand marshal. Mayor Smathers stated he would like someone from a radio station, either WPTL, or WWNC 570 to be the grand marshal because of their dedicated work during and after the flood.

Manager Stinnett asked the Board to consider granting town staff off work for the entire week of Christmas. Manager Stinnett stated that this is for their hard work during and after the flood. All members of the Board made a consensus and

agreed to give Town Staff the entire week off.

Manager Stinnett stated that the audit should be over soon.

Manager Stinnett stated that patching will begin in December and paving will start before the end of the fiscal year. Manager Stinnett stated there will be a list on the Canton website to show what streets will be paved and patched.

Manager Stinnett stated that the pool has been drained, pressure washed and filled back up with water. Manager Stinnett stated that Recreation Director Dunbar will add chemicals to the pool during the winter. Manager Stinnett stated that the pickleball nets were now up.

Manager Stinnett stated that Charles Street was finished

Manager Stinnett stated that the Baptist Mission wanted to use the International Paper Complex as a housing facility for their supplies. Manager Stinnett stated that she needed to ask International Paper for their permission.

J. New Business

1. Up grades for The Water Treatment Plant

Manager Stinnett stated that all of the water pumps are working now. Manager Stinnett presented the upgrades proposed by McGill and Associates for the Filter Plant. Alderwoman Mull made the motion to approve the up grades to the water treatment plant. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

2. Southwestern Commission Contract EDA Grant Administration

Manager Stinnett presented the Board with the Southwestern Commission Contract. Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to approve the contract. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and motion passed.

3. Chris Kringle Market

The Chris Kringle Market asked Manager Stinnett to use the train. Alderwoman Mull made the motion to permit the Chris Kringle Market the use the train. Alderman

Hamlett seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

4. **Summer Street Land Lease Agreement**

Manager Stinnett stated that the temporary permanent Fire Department next to Town Hall is being finalized. The Lease Agreement will be in the amount of \$500 a month. Mayor Smathers and the Board thanked the family for allowing the Town and Fire Department to use their land. Alderwoman Mull made the motion to approve the Land Lease Agreement for the temporary permanent Fire Department. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

5. **Flood Contract for McGill and Associates**

Manager Stinnett stated that she would like McGill to continue working with the Town of Canton on flood recovery. Manager Stinnett presented the McGill contract to the Board. Alderwomen Mull made the motion to approve the contract with McGill and Associates. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Alderwoman Proctor recused herself from voting. Alderman Shepard, Alderman Hamlett, and Alderwoman Mull voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

6. **Budget Amendment for Police Department Body Cameras**

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the budget amendment for Police body cameras. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

7. **Christmas Road Closure**

Manager Stinnett stated that Police Chief Sluder will ask the DOT for permission to close streets for the Christmas parade. Alderman Hamlett made the motion to move forward with the street closure. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

8. Tax

- **Tax 10 Year Tax Release**

Alderwoman Mull made the motion to approve the 10-year tax release. Alderwomen Proctor seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

- **Tax Settlement**

Alderwoman Mull made the motion to approve the tax settlement. Alderwomen Proctor seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

- **Order to Collect**

Alderwomen Mull made the motion to approve the Order to Collect. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

9. Set Date for Public Hearing on Additional Dwellings

Alderwomen Mull made the motion to set a public hearing on additional dwellings on December 12, 2024. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Co-Sponsorship: Momma T's Summer Celebration

Alderwoman Mull made the motion to accept the Momma T's Summer Celebration Co-Sponsorship. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

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

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to 143-318.11 (a)(6) at 6:44pm. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Motion carried. After a brief discussion and no action taken, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 8:05pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

L. Adjournment

The next regular Called meeting will be on Thursday, December 12, 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 8:05 p.m.

Sam Dunbar, Town Clerk