

October 24, 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, October 24, 2024, at 6:02pm with Mayor Smathers, and Aldermen/women Mull, and Shepard present, the following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Smathers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers stated that the Manager Stinnett, Assistant Manager Walker, Clerk Dunbar, and Town Attorney Morgan were present. Mayor Smathers stated that Aldermen Hamlett and Alderwoman Proctor were unable to attend the meeting.

C. Pledge/Invocation

Aldermen Shepard led the pledge of allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes:

Aldermen Shepard made a motion to approve the October 10, 2024, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers complimented Town Staff for their cleaning work post flood. Mayor Smathers stated flood clean-up was a team effort, and he was proud of the dedication of the Town Staff.

Mayor Smathers asked Manager Stinnett when commercial debris pick-up would be allowed. Manager Stinnett stated she approved commercial debris pick-up last Thursday.

Mayor Smathers stated that Buddy Ledford passed away. Mayor Smathers stated that Buddy was loved by everyone, and that Buddy loved this community and was a huge supporter of local athletics. Aldermen Shepard commented that Buddy was a mainstay in this community. Aldermen Shepard stated that he always saw buddy supporting local athletics.

Mayor Smathers wanted to thank Governor Cooper, Attorney General Stein, Senator Tillis, and Secretary Buttigieg for visiting Canton after the flood.

Mayor Smathers wanted to thank Byron Hickox for his work at the International Sports Complex and his work as a planner.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull thanked Town employees for their hard work. Alderwoman Mull stated that we cannot lose our way and to never give up. Alderwoman Mull stated that she was appreciative of everyone, and Town Employees make the Board look good.

Aldermen Shepard thanked Town Staff for doing a great job, and said he was seeing noticeable steps being made.

Mayor Smathers told the Board he had spoken with Laura Murray about the Veterans Day Celebration. Both Mayor Smathers and Murray said it would be best to cancel the Veterans Day Celebration at the football stadium, but to do a smaller event, and find a place for the crosses.

G. Public Comments:

Tom Harrington of Bethel addressed the Board wanting to know how much of the \$15 million was given to Canton for flood proofing. Mayor Smathers stated that it was a question for the county. Mr. Harrington stated that he moved here thirty years ago and loves the community. Mr. Harrington stated floods are happening more frequently and wanted to know what the plan for flood prevention for the future is, so houses, businesses, and lives will not be lost. Manager Stinnett stated that all flood measures were taken in preparation for the storm. Mayor Smathers stated that what ever happens down the river depends on what the county does. Mayor Smathers stated that he hoped for 100% of business to return. Mr. Harrington asked the Board about flood walls around the river. Mr. Harrington referenced a conversation he had with Nick Scheuer. Mayor Smathers stated that he had never heard of a plan regarding walls along the river. Aldermen Shepard stated that flood walls along the river would press that water harder downstream. Alderman Shepard stated he wanted to see a big picture plan for future floods.

H. Managers Reports

Assistant Manager Walker gave the Board the cash report.

Manager Stinnett gave the Board updates about a \$3 million DEQ loan with 0% interests. Manager Stinnett stated that this was an emergency loan for sewer and water, and she would take it before the Board if they were approved.

Manager Stinnett stated that the distribution center was a great success, and she plans to start phasing it out within the next few weeks.

Manager Stinnett asked the Board for a Christmas parade theme. Alderwoman Mull suggested a polar express theme because of Canton's new train. Mayor Smathers stated he wanted a way to say thank you to everyone who has shown support to Canton after the flood. Mayor Smathers thanked the media for the coverage after the flood. Mayor Smathers asked Manager Stinnett about power at Sorrells Street Park. Manager Stinnett answered that it was limited.

Manager Stinnett informed the Board that the pool will be drained sometime next week to be cleaned. Manager Stinnett stated Recreation Director Dunbar will have a playground meeting with Carolina Parks and Play on November 6th.

Manager Stinnett told the Board that insurance adjusters are on the ground looking at properties.

Manager Stinnett informed the Board of staff changes Natalie Walker will be the new Assistant Town Manager along with being the Finance Director. Manager Stinnett also appointed Sam Dunbar Town Clerk stating that Dunbar has a Master of Public Administration and wants to be an administrator for the Town of Canton.

Manager Stinnett stated that Assistant Manager Walker will hire a Human Resources/ Finance assistant. Manager Stinnett said Dunbar will hire a recreation assistant.

Alderman Shepard made the motion to appoint Dunbar as Town Clerk. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and Motion Carried.

J. New Business

1. Pisgah High School Sponsorship Request

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to give PHS band \$300. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and motion passed.

2. Award: Architect For Camp Hope

Manager Stinnett stated that Domokur & Associates scored the highest rating on the Camp Hope RFQ. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to award Domokur & Associates the bid. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. Approval of construction Documents Town Hall, Police Department, and Fire Department

Manager Stinnett presented the Board with construction documents from Creech & Associates for Town Hall, Fire Department, and Police Department. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the plans. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in Favor of the motion and motion passed.

4. Trackless Train Policy

Manager Stinnett presented the Board with the new trackless train rental policy. Alderman Shepard made the motion to accept the policy. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and motion passed.

5. EDA

Manager Stinnett stated that the Town was awarded the Southwestern Commission grant. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to accept the grant. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and motion passed.

6. Multiplier Flood Values

Manager Stinnett addressed the Board about the 50% flood calculator for damaged properties. Alderwoman Mull made the motion to approve the adjustment. Aldermen Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion passed.

7. Emergency Declaration RV

Manager Stinnett addressed the Board for an ordinance declaration to allow campers to hook up into sewer lines in city limits. Manger Stinnett stated this was for residents who had significant damage from the storm. Manager Stinnett stated that the time allowed is six months, but RVs could stay longer than six months pending Planner Hickox decision. Alderwomen Mull made the motion. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor 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 7:03pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried. After a brief discussion and no action taken, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter

open session at 8:4pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

L. Adjournment

The next regular Called meeting will be on Thursday, November 14, 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 9:00 p.m.

Sam Dunbar, Town Clerk