

October 8, 2026

At the regularly called meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at 85 Summer Street, Canton NC, October 8, 2026, at 6:00 pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women Mull, Hamlett, Proctor and Shepard present the following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Smathers called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers stated that Manager Stinnett, Deputy Clerk Young and Interim Town Attorney Goss were present. Assistant Manager Walker was unable to attend.

C. Pledge

Alderwoman Proctor led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: September 24, 2026

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve September 24, 2026, minutes as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated he would like to start with announcing the official resignation of Town Attorney William Morgan. The official resignation letter was effective October 6, 2026, at 1:40 pm. Sitting in his place representing the Town of Canton is Attorney Jeff Goss who is currently the Town's attorney for the Wastewater Facility contracts. Mayor Smathers stated Attorney Morgan has been the Town's attorney since 2014. He stood by our side through a lot of ups and downs, two hurricanes and a mill closure. Alderman Hamlett asked Mayor Smathers to read Attorney Morgan's resignation letter out loud, it was read (see attached). Before Attorney Morgan there was Town Attorney Walter Clark, he served the Town for 32 years. Mayor Smathers thanked Attorney Jeff Goss for filling in. Alderman Hamlett wanted to be clear that Attorney Goss will be giving the Town of Canton legal advice. Mayor Smathers stated that the Board by consent requested Attorney Goss to serve as the interim Attorney following the consent to accept Attorney Morgans resignation. Mayor Smathers stated we are all a little concerned and watching the weather diligently. We are ready come what may, we have the flood gates ready. Manager Stinnett stated the flood gates are up and in place. Mayor Smathers stated we will be vigilant until the threat is gone. Mayor Smathers stated there has been a lot of conversations about the crosswalks around Canton Middle School. Mayor Smathers confirmed with Chief Scott Sluder that repainting the crosswalks is the North Carolina Department of Transportation's responsibility. Mayor Smathers stated the crosswalks need repainting. Mayor Smathers stated

there is a big football game scheduled for Friday night, the county clash. Chief Sluder stated we have police, fire and emergency services on standby and ready to go.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for coming. Alderman Hamlett urged everyone to please get their flu and covid vaccines. He also asked that people please be careful when pulling out of Midway Medical Center on Carolina Blvd. There have been several terrible car accidents there. Alderman Hamlett stated he sits on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Board (MPO) and there are discussions about either closing the turn there and having people turn right and go down to Crawford Ray Cemetery to turn around or putting in a red light. Until a decision is made, please warn people to be careful. Alderwoman Proctor welcomed Attorney Goss. Mayor Smathers stated the Fall decorations around town look great. The new black bear made from hay bales is a great addition. Manager Stinnett thanked Josh, Alex and David for their work.

G. Public Comments

Seikoyen Sasaki of 309 North Main St. Mr. Sasaki stated he was there to speak about the crosswalks at Canton Middle School. He is an officer in Woodfin, and the crosswalks are very dangerous. Mr. Sasaki stated he wasn't aware the crosswalks were stated maintained. Mr. Sasaki stated it is not realistic to ask the police department to have an officer sit there all day. Mr. Sasaki stated that repainting, adding crosswalk warning lights and speed bumps would help control the speed and make pedestrians safer in that area.

Mayor Smathers stated we are working on getting the crosswalks taken care of.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Stinnett stated there is no tax report or cash report as Assistant Manager Walker is out sick. Manager Stinnett stated she wanted to announce some great news, Chief Sluder is officially in remission. Chief Sluder stated he received the results this week that there is no melanoma in his bones. His cancer is not curable, but it is treatable. Manager Stinnett stated Phase 2 of Chestnut Mountain repair is out to bid and will end on October 28. This is to complete the stabilization of the banks and finish bridge work. Manager Stinnett stated we are prepared for the weather with normal storm protocols. Manager Stinnett stated we have the Pisgah vs. Tuscola football game on Friday night; we have marked off the Rec Park as we have had people trying to park inside the park. We have opened another area that will allow parking for an additional 50 cars.

I. Old Business

None.

J. New Business

1. Army Corp Presentation: DRSSA Various Projects Funding

Manager Stinnett introduced Tom Herberts from Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Herberts presented the Board with projected infrastructure improvements (see attached). The Town of Canton was awarded \$40,780,000.00 from the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2025 (DRSAA). These funds will be used for design and construction activities. The priority projects provided by the Town include North Canton Water Loop and Champion Drive Tank as well as Stormwater and Water replacement projects on Park Street and other areas. To begin design and construction a project partnership agreement (PPA) is required. Lands needed for the project would be provided or acquired by the Town of Canton. Administration and Funds for lands can be credited to the cost share. The approved project cost is \$54,373,000.00. The next steps for this project are Canton signs PPA, USACE signs PPA and the design phase all scheduled to start in October 2026. Mayor Smathers stated he would like to thank Congressman Edwards and his office for their assistance with this project. He also thanked the Army Corp for their work on this project. Attorney Goss stated to be clear the funds needed are not coming from taxpayers. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve signing and moving forward with the project. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. The motion carried. Manager Stinnett stated it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Herberts, he has been very patient and answered all questions.

2, Creech Associates: Fire Department Presentation

Manager Stinnett stated after speaking with Creech Associates, they are not ready but are hoping to be present at the next meeting on October 22 and will present preliminary designs.

3. Domokur Associates Contract

Manager Stinnett presented the Board with a letter (see attached) to send to Domokur Associates to terminate the contract for architectural planning, design and construction management of Camp Hope. Manager Stinnett stated the bid for work on Camp Hope was put out several times and there was not a lot of response. Since Domokur Associates was awarded, the contract there have been no deliverables and sporadic communication with them. Alderman Shepard made a motion to send the letter to terminate the contract with Domokur Associates. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. Spruce Street Tank Bid Award

Manager Stinnett presented the bid award for the Spruce Street Tank Improvements. Hyatt Pipeline LLC had the lowest bid at \$1,749,510.90 (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made the motion to approve the bid to Hyatt Pipeline LLC. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. The motion carried. Alderwoman Proctor recused herself from the vote.

5 Resolution: Authorizing negotiations and initial contract with the highest ranked Design Build Team for the Waste Treatment Plant Design Build

Manager Stinnett presented the Board with a resolution authorizing negotiations and initial contract with the highest ranked design build team for the Canton Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) design build (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the resolution. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6. Task Order 3 – Owners Advisor Bolton and Menk

Chris Rosenboom with Bolton and Menk gave a presentation to the Board (see attached). In the presentation, Mr. Rosenboom stated there is ongoing flow metering and waster sampling three times weekly. Mr. Roseboom stated contract negotiations are ready to start. At the Board Meeting on October 22, 2026, Mr. Rosenboom hopes to present and execute the build contract. Alderwoman Proctor asked to confirm that flowmeter amounts are being watched now. Mr. Rosenboom confirmed they are. Alderwoman Proctor stated that was great, things can be monitored during the upcoming storm. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to continue negotiations. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

7. Public Comments

Mayor Smathers stated a couple of people walked into the meeting late. He reopened the Public Comments so they could speak about their concerns.

Maleyah Viereck of 220 Penland St addressed the Board. Ms. Viereck stated she had great concerns about the crosswalks around the middle school. She stated she has been calling the Department of Transportation for a year, and nothing has been done at this point. She wasn't aware until today that it wasn't the Town of Canton that maintained the crosswalks. Ms. Viereck stated school traffic in the mornings is a problem and drivers do not watch for people crossing the road. Alderman Hamlett addressed Ms. Viereck, he let her know the person she should reach out to is Tristan Winkler with Land of Sky. Mr. Winkler is on the planning board and handles such things as crosswalks and traffic. Ms. Viereck asked if Alderman Hamlett had a phone number to reach Mr. Winkler. Alderman Hamlett did not but did give Ms. Viereck his personal number, 828-276-6060. Manager Stinnett stated Mr. Winkler's number at Land of Sky is 828-251-2622.

Manager Stinnett encouraged anyone willing to sit on a Planning or Zoning Board to apply either online or to pick up an application at Town Hall. She has received some applications, however, needs more to fill both boards.

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

Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to 143-318.11(a)(5) at 6:38 pm. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Motion carried. At 7:35 pm Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to enter open session. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Following Closed Session Alderman Hamlett made a motion to hire Attorney Jeff Goss as the Town Attorney. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. The motion carried. Attorney Goss stated his normal hourly rate is \$350.00. He has been working with the Town of Canton as an attorney at the rate of \$240.00 per hour and has agreed to continue working at that rate. Attorney Goss stated in the future the hourly rate may increase but per the contract Manager Stinnett has he will continue at the agreed \$240.00 per hour. Attorney Goss stated if for some reason he is unable to attend a meeting he will send his associate attorney Tori Schiffli to sit in his place and advise the Board.

Alderman Hamlett asked Manager Stinnett if there was a unified float for all elected officials to be in the Christmas parade. Manager Stinnett stated she reached out to the Managers last year and everyone declined but she was happy to reach out again. Mayor Smathers suggested the Grand Marshalls for the Christmas parade be the Pisgah and Tuscola Special Leadership members. Alderman Hamlett stated his concern is just that everyone is safe.

L. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 6:00 pm at 85 Summer Street, Canton NC 28716. There being no additional business. Alderwoman Proctor made the motion to adjourn at 7:42 pm. Alderwoman Mull seconded. The motion carried.

Amanda Young

Deputy Town Clerk