

May 8, 2025

At the Regular 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 8, 2025, at 6:00pm with Mayor Smathers, and Aldermen/women Mull, Hamlett, and Proctor present. Alderman Shepard was absent. 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 Manager Stinnett, Assistant Manager Walker, Clerk Dunbar, and Town Attorney Morgan were present.

C. Pledge/Invocation

Alderman Hamlett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes:

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve March 24, 2025, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that he was going to keep it brief tonight. Mayor Smathers stated that he met with Reid Wilson of DEQ at the mill site with Eric Spiritas to discuss future plans at the mill site.

Mayor Smathers asked Manager Stinnett timeline estimates on when properties like the pool, Chestnut Mountain, and the playground will be opened. Mayor Smathers asked Manager Stinnett if a post could be put on social media for these projects. Mayor Smathers stated that town staff are doing an amazing job with things happening.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for coming.

Alderman Hamlett thanked everyone for coming and welcomed Vicki Hyatt from the Mountaineer for coming and stated nice to see you.

Alderwoman Proctor thanked everyone for attending, but then stated we have stuff to do.

G. Public Comments:

N/A

H. Manager's Reports

Cash: Assistant Manager Walker gave cash report

Tax: no tax report

Manager Updates:

Manager Stinnett stated that the Town will not increase the garbage rate because of disposal fees, Haywood County pays the disposal fee. Manager Stinnett stated that garbage rates will only go up 5% because of the CPI, and the garbage rate will not go up to \$18. Mayor Smathers thanked Manager Stinnett and Assistant Manager Walker for digging through this issue.

Manager Stinnett reminded the Board that insurance meetings will be next Tuesday and Thursday.

Manager Stinnett stated that road paving is scheduled for the 1st week of June and it should end before the end of the fiscal year.

Manager Stinnett stated that Rhoda Street was delayed, and the project will be completed at the end of May.

Manager Stinnett reminded the Board that the Public Hearing for the proposed budget will be on May 22nd.

Old Business

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the Co-sponsorship for the Chestnut Chase. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

J. New Business

1. River Baseball Field Bid Award: J Evans Construction

Manager Stinnett stated that J Evans Construction won the bid for the repairs for the baseball field at Recreation Park. The contract for this award was in the amount of \$143,211.75 Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the bid for the baseball field repairs. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

2. Special Event Request: Lions Club

Deborah Reed from the Cantons Lion Club introduced the two members with her and presented to the Board a special event application for a carnival. Mrs. Reed stated that the carnival will be held for the week of July 4th, there will be rides and games like the event they had last year. Mrs. Reed talked about the festival, she said that she plans the event to be bigger than last year, and the group will shut down the carnival early on July 5th for the fireworks. Mrs. Reed stated that the ticket prices are \$1.25 per ticket, wristbands \$30, or \$25 with a coupon. Mrs. Reed stated that the Lions Club has no issue paying the \$1,000 deposit for the area they plan on using. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the special event application for the Lions Club. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

Mayor Smathers stated that the Lions Club carnival was a wonderful success last year and it is great to have rides in Canton. Mayor Smathers asked is this a different vendor and a different carnival. Mrs. Reed answered, the vendor usually has carnivals in Ohio, but there is too much competition in Ohio. Mayor Smathers stated that he wants to make sure the carnival is as well done as it was last year. Mayor Smathers stated that he wants the same professionalism and cleanliness as it was last year. The members of the Lions Club thanked Mrs. Reed for her hard work and dedication for this event.

3. Set Public Hearing for Annexation

Manager Stinnett asked the Board to set a public hearing on May 22nd for the Robinson Ridge annexation. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to set a public hearing on May 22nd for the Robinson Ridge annexation. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

4. Storm Water Infrastructure RFQ Award

Manager Stinnett presented to the Board three RFQs for storm water infrastructure. Manager Stinnett suggested to the Board to use McGill and Associates because they are familiar with our work and with the Town. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve McGill and Associates for storm water infrastructure work. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

Alderwoman Proctor abstained from voting

K. Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4)(5)(6)
Aldерwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to 143- 318.11 (a)(4)(5)(6) at 6:21pm. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. With all in favor the motion carried. After a brief discussion and no action taken. Aldерwoman Proctor made a motion to enter open session at 7:44pm. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

Waste Water Agreement with Two Banks LLC

Aldерwoman Mull made a motion to approve the contract with Two Banks LLC to treat the Towns Wastewater for \$140,000 a month. Aldерwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

Manager Stinnett discussed the ongoing work on the proposed insurance plan for retirees. Manager Stinnett stated that there will be a meeting on Tuesday to discuss supplement options for these individuals.

Mayor Smathers stated that the Town has passed an agreement to treat wastewater through Two Banks LLC. Mayor Smathers stated that the Town will pay \$140,000 per month for this service. Mayor Smathers told Vicki Hyatt "We knew we would have to pay for wastewater. This is a fair price for the Town."

Mrs. Hyatt asked, are the new rates passed yet? Assistant Manager Walker said no, but they will be added to the budget.

Mayor Smathers stated that the purpose of the new rates is to begin saving funds toward building a new wastewater treatment plant. Mayor Smathers emphasized: "We are setting rates at a bare minimum level to accomplish this, without raising water rates to an extreme. We want to stay competitive for future grants."

Alderman Hamlett added: "We are being financially responsible by raising rates, but we are also being empathetic toward our residents." Mayor Smathers assured: "We are not rushing into anything."

Manager Stinnett discussed the trash service with Vicki. The Town's municipal waste is currently handled by the county, that this issue was an oversight with Wastepro.

Manager Stinnett noted that adjustments have been made to the Police Department parking lot to ensure adequate space is available. There is still plenty of room for deliveries.

L. Adjournment

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall located at 85 Summer Street, Canton, NC 28716. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Sam Dunbar, Town Clerk