

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

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, September 25, 2025, at 6:00pm with Mayor Zeb Smathers, and Aldermen/women Mull and Hamlett, Proctor and Shepard were present 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 and Deputy Clerk Lurvey were present as well as Attorney Morgan.

C. Pledge/Invocation

Aldерwoman Proctor led those in attendance in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Smathers then asked the Board for approval of the minutes for the September 11, 2025, meeting. Aldерwoman Mull made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2025, meeting and Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that this time last year preparations were being made for the impending Tropical Storm Helene which was projected to hit Western North Carolina on Friday, September 27, 2024. Mayor Smathers stated that the Town had learned disaster preparations lessons in Tropical Storm Fred in August 2021 that assisted the Town in preparing for the impending storm. Mayor Smathers further stated that no amount of preparation could protect the Town from the disastrous flooding when the Pigeon River crested at 25'.86" this flood stage that occurred with Helene was worse than previous floods in the past. Mayor Smathers then stated that there would be a remembrance ceremony in front of the old historic Courthouse in Waynesville on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at 9:00a.m.

Mayor Smathers then notified the Board that there would be a delegation from the United Kingdom visiting Canton at the Grateful Table and Southern Porch on Friday, September 26, 2025.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

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

Alderman Hamlett also welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Alderwoman Proctor then commented on the anniversary of Tropical Storm Helene and the work that has been accomplished in a year. Alderwoman Proctor stated there is still work to be done but what has been accomplished so far is a testament to the dedication of Town Staff.

Alderman Shepard wanted to thank Town Staff for what they do, and the hard work and sacrifice made during the past year. Alderman Shepard then thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting.

Mayor Smathers then requested Police Chief Sluder address those in attendance on the installation of the 3-way stop signs installed on September 17, 2025, at the corner of Williams Street and Smathers Street next to Wells Funeral Home.

Chief Sluder then addressed the audience to explain that traffic volume in the area had increased over the years with additional traffic coming from Bethel and Cruso and there have been many close calls at that intersection. Many citizens have complained that speeding in that area has also increased. Chief Sluder further advised that this safety issue was presented to the Board and approved a year ago just prior to Tropical Storm Helene. Because of Helene this was delayed until now. Chief Sluder stated that his department has placed a sign board alerting everyone to the new 3-way stop. In addition, Chief Sluder stated that the Street Department had already placed new "Stop Ahead" signs making the public aware of the changes. Chief Sluder then stated that violators were not being ticketed at this time, but they would stop any violators, and they would be informed of the new traffic pattern. Chief Sluder stated that he would also monitor the intersection of Williams Street and Asheville Highway and in the future, may request a traffic light be placed there by DOT.

Mayor Smathers then asked if the yellow lines at the library could be repainted as they are badly faded. Manager Stinnett stated that it would be the State DOT.

G. Public Comments:

Ms. Michelle Schaefer addressed the Board stating that she was displaced by Tropical Storm Helene and that she found her way

to this lovely community.

H. Managers Reports

Manager Stinnett stated that Finance Officer Walker was on vacation and there is not a cash report for this meeting. Manager, Stinnett, then asked Deputy Tax Collector Lurvey to present the tax report. Ms. Lurvey reported that the collection rate as of September 25, 2025, was 99.67%. Deputy Tax Collector Lurvey then advised the Board that 2025 tax billing would take place on Friday, October 10, 2025. Ms. Lurvey then stated that the property, located at 122 Watts Street, which was a tax foreclosure, was finally closed, and the Town recovered 11 years of taxes.

Manager Stinnett then advised the Board that there had been a miscommunication with Cinderella Partners with regards to Chestnut Mountain. Apparently, they were told to leave a 10' open trail when moving dirt and that did not happen. The 10' trail is an emergency trail to allow ATV rescues in the event a rider is injured. Because the 10' trail was not passable the park had to close until the rescue trail was recreated. Manager Stinnett stated that the park should open next week.

Manager Stinnett told the Board that the concrete at the playground should be formed for new concrete tomorrow by playground company.

Manager Stinnett wanted to remind the Board that National Night Out will be October 7, 2025, from 5:00p.m.- 8:00p.m. at Sorrells Street Park

Manager Stinnett advised the Board that Haywood Waterways received a grant to stabilize the riverbank and assist in the upstream clean up.

Manager Stinnett relayed to the Board that the Town received a SRF Helene grant for \$15 million dollars. \$10 million would be for water interconnections and \$5 million would be for wastewater.

I. Old Business

1. Wastewater Update

Mr. Jeff Goss, the Town's legal counsel for wastewater then advised the Board that Town had two RFQ's. The first is Wastewater Operators and that closes on September 30, 2025. The second RFQ is for Improvements Owner Advisor (Design and Build Team) and that closes on October 23, 2025.

Mr. Goss proceeded to tell the Board that Phase 1 of the due diligence had concluded, and they were moving into Phase 2 of the due diligence. Mr. Goss explained that Phase 1 was perfunctory marking areas of interest while Phase 2 would be boring of the land. Once completed, if everything is good the Town would look for a Purchase/Sales Agreement with TBD.

New Business

1. Budget Amendment

Manager Stinnett presented a Budget Amendment to the Board which involved a grant for the Fire Department to purchase Communications Equipment as well as upgrades to the communications repeater. Manager Stinnett stated that it was just moving money between Revenue and Expenditures. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment for the Fire Department grant and Alderman Shepard seconded the motion with all in favor and the motion carried.

2. Offer to Purchase 882 Champion Drive

Manager Stinnett then presented to the Board an offer from the Pigeon River Masonic Lodge for \$152,000.00. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to open for discussion this purchase, and Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion and a discussion ensued. Once the discussion concluded on the flooded property there was no motion made to pursue this offer.

3. MOU: Greater Haywood Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

Manager Stinnett stated this MOU should have been renewed in May and somehow was overlooked. This MOU just continues the agreement that has been in place. Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to approve the MOU with Greater Haywood Chamber of Commerce; Manager Stinnett then presented the invoice for the Haywood Chamber of Commerce for Economic Development in the amount of \$3,000.00 to be approved for payment. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the payment to Haywood Chamber of Commerce Economic Development, and it was seconded by Alderman Hamlett with all voting in favor the motion passed.

4. Resolution to adopt 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Manager Stinnett stated this was a requirement of the SRF Regular Grant application process, and it will also be added to the CDBG grant CIP as additional information. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the adoption of the

Resolution for the updated 10-year Capital Improvement Plan and Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion and all voted in favor of adoption.

5. Resolution to apply for SRF Funding: New Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewer Regionalization

Manager Stinnett presented a Resolution to apply for the SRF grant for the new WWTP. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the Resolution and Alderman Tim Shepard seconded the motion. Alderwoman Proctor abstained from voting. With the rest of the members voting in the affirmative the motion carried.

6. ARPA: Water Treatment Budget, Scope Amendment, Contract Amendment

Manager Stinnett then presented to the Board the ARPA Water Treatment Budget Amendment and stated that due to the deteriorating condition of the Spruce Street tank she requested that the ARPA budget be amended to install a new reservoir for Spruce Street. Manager Stinnett also stated that DEQ was concerned with the state of the Spruce Street reservoir tank. Manager Stinnett stated that this change in scope could result in the deletion of sewer improvement funds at the end of the project. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the budget amendments and Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Alderwoman Proctor abstained from voting. With the rest of the members voting for the budget changes the motion passed. Manager Stinnett then presented the contract amendments from McGill. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the amendments made by McGill and Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Alderwoman Proctor abstained from the vote. With the remaining members voting in the affirmative the motion was passed.

7. Record Retention Policy: Documents Created or Maintained Pursuant to the ARP/CSLFRF Award

Manager Stinnett presented the Record Retention Policy required by the APR/CSLFRF award with regards to the Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the Record Retention Policy and Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All voted in approving the policy and the motion passed.

8. Nondiscrimination Policy

Manager Stinnett next introduced the Resolution acknowledging adoption of the Nondiscrimination policy for receiving the CSLFR funds. Alderwoman Mull made a motion

to approve the Resolution and Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

9. Allowable Costs and Cost Principals Policy

Manager Stinnett presented the Resolution for Allowable Costs and Cost Principal for Expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the Resolution and Alderman Shepard seconded the motion with all members voting to approve the Resolution the motion passed.

Mayor Smathers then asked if there was any more business to be presented to the Board. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens' of 192 Skyland Terrace then requested to be heard. The Stevens' are wanting to purchase an alleyway near their property which is a gravel area. Mayor Smathers requested that the Stevens' put their request in writing and deliver it to the Town Manager to follow up.

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

At 7:23p.m. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (4) Economic Development, (5) Attorney/Client (6) Personnel. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion, and all were in favor and the motion carried. At 7:40p.m. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter open session and Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion will all in favor the motion passed. No action was taken.

Manager Stinnett asked the Board for consensus to proceed with possible interconnects and grant funding. The Board by consensus granted approval for Manager Stinnett to proceed.

L. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2025, 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 7:40p.m.

Wanda M. Lurvey, Deputy Town Clerk