

January 7, 2026

At the Special Called meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at the Town Hall at 85 Summer Street, January 7, 2026, at 6:00pm with Mayor Zeb Smathers, and Aldermen/women Mull and Alderman Hamlett, Proctor, and Shepard were present.

A. Call to Order

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

B. Roll Call

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

C. Pledge/Invocation

Alderwoman Mull led those in attendance in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve December 2, 2025, minutes as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers asked about the fence for the playground. Clerk Dunbar answered stating that the goal is to have the rest of the fence installed this week, but he will follow up with the company if not.

F. Alderman/Alderwoman Comments

Alderwoman Mull stated she hoped everyone had a nice Christmas

Alderman Hamlett thanked Chief Wheeler for the challenge coin from the Fire Department.

Alderwoman Proctor thanked Chief Sluder and Chief Wheeler for the invitation to their awards ceremony.

Alderman Shepard thanked Chief Sluder and Chief Wheeler for the invitation to their awards ceremony. Alderman Shepard also thanked Town Staff for decorating the Town for Christmas.

G. Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

H. Managers Reports

Assistant Manager Walker gave the cash report

Manager Stinnett gave the Board an update on the new Police Department and new Town Hall projects stated that the projects are still on a hold

because FEMA is on a furlough. Manager Stinnett stated that FEMA should be back to work shortly.

Mayor Smathers stated that he will be in Washington in a couple of weeks to speak about FEMA, and the Town not getting the resources it deserves.

Manager Stinnett stated that Camp Hope is with a structural engineer and she plans to bring those drawings to the Board shortly.

Manager Stinnett reminded the Board that she is waiting to see if the museum and the fire department will be accepted into the buyout program.

Mayor Smathers asked about the progress on the A&P building project. Manager Stinnett answered and said that Harper Construction is trying to get price down before they present the plans to the Board.

Alderman Hamlett asked what happened to the Mountain Eye building and then asked if this was FEMA related. Manager Stinnett answered that the decision was the owner's choice.

I. Old Business

New Business

1. Mama T's Summer Celebration

Clerk Dunbar presented to the Board a Special Event application. Clerk Dunbar stated that this would be the fourth year for the Mama T's Summer Celebration event. Clerk Dunbar stated that the only change is they asked to use the Town's parking lot by the mill. Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to approve the Mama T's Summer Celebration special event application. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

Alderman Hamlett complemented Mrs. Evans on her timely application.

Mrs. Evans stated that she won an award for small radio stations in North Carolina. The Board congratulated Mrs. Evans on her receiving the award.

2. Armory Re-advertisement

Manager Stinnett explained to the Board that the Armory project needed to be re-advertised due to not enough bidders. Manager Stinnett stated that the closing date for bids is the end of February. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the re-advertisement of the Canton Armory Project. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

3. Professional Engineering Services for Technical Assistance & Engineering for Infrastructure Projects Contract McGill & Associates

Manager Stinnett presented the Board with a contract with McGill and Associates for technical assistance and engineering for infrastructure projects. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the contract with McGill and Associates. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

Alderwoman Proctor recused herself from voting.

4. WRDA Supporting Documents

Manager Stinnett presented to the Board three supporting documents for the Pigeon River flood study. Manager Stinnett stated that there will not be any transfer of money and this is an entirely different WRDA project. Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to approve the WRDA supporting documents for the Pigeon River flood study.

Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

K. Closed Session: Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3)(4)(5)

At 8:01 p.m. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3)(4)(5). Alderman Shepard seconded the motion, and all were in favor and the motion carried. At 9:54p.m. Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to enter open session and Aldermen Shepard seconded the motion all were in favor and the motion passed. No action was taken. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

L. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, January 22, 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 9:54p.m.

Sam Dunbar, Town Clerk