

February 26, 2026

At the Regular called meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at the Board room in Town Hall, 85 Summer St. Canton, NC 28716, February 26, 2026, at 6:00pm with Mayor Zeb Smathers, Aldermen/women Mull, Proctor, and Hamlett, were present. Alderman Shepard was absent

Alderwoman Proctor arrived at 6:21pm

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, Attorney Morgan, and Clerk Dunbar were present.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Alderman Hamlett led those in Attendance reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

D. Approval of Minutes

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2026, meeting. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers thanked Bearwaters Brewery and stated that tonight was their last night operating the Canton location, he thanked them for being great partners with the Town of Canton.

Mayor Smathers congratulated Pisgah High School wrestlers for winning the state title. Mayor Smathers then congratulated the Pisgah High School women's basketball team for their accomplishments this season and wished them luck for their next game.

Aldерwoman Mull thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Thanked Bearwaters Brewery for being great partners and wished them luck in their future endeavors.

F. Alderman/Alderwoman Comments

G. Public Comments

Police Chief Sluder thanked the street department for their help with the recent snowstorm. Chief Sluder explained to the Board that the street department helped block roads and set up traffic cones with the police department.

Fire Chief Wheeler stated that he got a new rescue boat today and he was excited for the department to add an extra layer of safety. Mayor Smathers stated that he is glad the fire department got the boat, but hopes they will never have to use it.

H. Reports from the Manager

Tax: Manager Stinnett gave the tax report

Cash: Assistant Manager Walker gave the cash report

Manager Stinnett gave the Board updates on the FEMA process and told the Board that five projects were signed and obligated recently. Manager Stinnett stated we have received \$1 million, which means we have \$16 million left to receive.

Manager Stinnett reminded the Board that Camp Hope is still with a structural and civil engineer, and she plans on presenting those plans to the Board shortly. Manager Stinnett reminded the Board that the damage to Camp Hope was from Tropical Storm Fred.

Manager Stinnett stated that the new Town Hall and Police Department has been released from FEMA and she plans on sending those bids out by March 9th.

Manager Stinnett stated that the Armory Project could be awarded tonight, and hopefully start in a month, but it depends on the permitting process.

Mayor Smathers asked about the A&P building. Manager Stinnett answered that we are negotiating prices with Harper Construction.

Manager Stinnett informed the Board on a new grant possibility with NC renew and this could be used for funding the repairs for the Colonial Theatre.

I. Old Business

J. New Business

Pigeon River Garden Club: Co-Sponsorship

Clerk Dunbar presented to the Board a co-sponsorship with the Pigeon River Garden Club. Clerk Dunbar stated that the event will be held on August 22nd, 2026, at recreation park, orchid, boat ramp, and the field beside the baseball field. Clerk Dunbar stated that the group only asked for these areas, social media promotion, and the use of traffic cones for

parking. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the Pigeon River Garden Club River Fest Co-Sponsorship. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

Notice of Award: Canton Armory

Manager Stinnett presented to the Board the notice of award for the Canton Armory project. Manager Stinnett stated that we went through the bidding process, and Clayton Construction came in with the lowest bid. Manager Stinnett gave the number bid and stated that Attorney Morgan has looked at the proposal, and he says it looks good.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the notice of award to Clayton Construction. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

Manager Stinnett stated that we received \$800,000 for the repairs on the Armory after Tropical Storm Fred. Manager Stinnett explained to the Board that there is a huge gap in funding with this project.

Hannah Burnsiky asked if the Canton Merchant Partnerships Mill around Town event would be discussed tonight. Clerk Dunbar stated that he made a mistake and did not add it to this meeting's agenda. Manager Stinnett stated that she needed to look over the request before going before the Board. Mayor Smathers added this to Old Business for the March 12, 2026, meeting.

Manager Stinnett asked the Board about waiving a water bill due to the owner of the property passing away, and a pipe bust because of freezing temperatures. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to waive the water bill. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

Manager Stinnett gave the Board an update on a potential location for the new fire department.

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

At 6:24 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 Hamlett seconded the motion, and all were in favor and the motion carried. At 8:16p.m. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session and Alderwoman Proctor 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.

G. Adjournment

The next Regular called meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026, 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 8:16p.m.

Sam Dunbar, Town Clerk