

May 28, 2026

At the Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at 85 Summer Street, Canton NC, May 28, 2026, at 6:00 pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women Mull, Hamlett and Proctor present The following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Smathers called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers stated that Manager Stinnett, Assistant Manager Walker, Deputy Clerk Young, and Town Attorney Morgan were present. Alderman Shepherd was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

C. Pledge

Alderman Hamlett led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: May 14, 2026

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the May 14, 2026, minutes as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers asked that Manager Stinnett have the street department investigate the bricks in the sidewalk in front of the Southern Porch. He received a call this week from a lady in the community about them being a tripping hazard. He states the movie premiere went well and was well attended. The new wine bar is open and encouraged all to stop in. The ABC store is open for business in their new location and the ribbon cutting was last week.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Proctor stated she is sorry for missing the last meeting, she was sick but is feeling much better. She stated the wine bar is open and doing well and she reports seeing lots of happy faces at the pool over the weekend.

G. Public Comments

Frank McGaha introduced himself and his new business in Canton, Armogan Consulting & Training. The business is located at 529 Main Street. The business will allow the front space to be set for training simulators for the public and LEO to use for free. They also plan on offering CPR classes. Mr. McGaha offered to set up training for Canton LEOs for free, Chief Sluder thanked him for the opportunity.

Mayor Smathers asked Mr. McGaha about renovations to the interior and exterior facade. Mr. McGaha let him know some renovations were complete, others will be completed in the near future. Mayor Smathers welcomed Mr. McGaha to Town and offered a ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Stinnett presented the tax report as stated.

Manager Stinnett recognized Byron Hickox to update the board on the Advisory Group meetings. Mr. Hickox reported attendance at these meetings averaged 30-35 people per meeting. Mr. Hickox stated the advisory board has been talking about zoning, land use, flood plain and the mill site. Mr. Hickox stated that the advisory board suggests ordinances that will help our Town in the future. Mr. Hickox reiterated that all the meetings are open to the public and encouraged others to attend and thanked the Mountaineer for helping to get the word out about the meetings. The date for the next meeting isn't set yet but will be mid-July.

Mayor Smathers thanked Mr. Hickox for taking on this role and asked when they might be ready to present their ideas to the Board. Mr. Hickox stated most likely in the Fall with the opportunity for the Board to vote by the end of the year. Mr. Hickox also encouraged everyone to please give out his contact information to anyone that has questions or input on these issues.

Manager Stinnett stated construction on the Amory will begin mid-June.

Manager Stinnett stated that the numbers for summer camp are up and this could be the biggest year yet. Manager Stinnett stated this is likely due to the park and pool being reopened.

Manager Stinnett stated that work at 225 Park St will start mid-June. Harper Construction should have required permits by the first of the week and then will stage and start work. Alderwoman Proctor asked if it will be finished by Labor Day? Manager Stinnett said it will not be done by Labor Day; the projected date is the end of October.

Manager Stinnett asked Attorney Goss to present an update on the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Attorney Goss stated that the Town of Canton received a third extension from Two Banks Development, with the same terms and monthly cost of \$140,000 per month.

I. Old Business

None

J. New Business

1. 2026-2027 Budget Public Hearing

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter a public hearing to discuss the 2026-2027 Budget at 6:16 pm. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. The motion carried. Assistant Manager/Finance Officer Walker gave an overview of the 2026-2027 Budget. Ms. Walker reiterated there will be no increase this year to water, sewer, trash or tax rates. Alderwoman Proctor thanked Ms. Walker for all her work on the budget. Alderman Hamlett also thanked Ms. Walker for her work and states he is very happy about the 3% COLA for the employees. Alderman Hamlett also wanted to make sure Wanda Lurvey was thanked for her work on tax collections. Mayor Smathers thanked Chief Sluder for being a team player and helping to cut budget costs. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 6:19 pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. The motion carried. The budget will be placed on the June 11th agenda for approval.

2. Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy Presentation

Hanni Muerdter gave a presentation (see attached) regarding the purchase of the “Freeman Tract” The 73 acres they are presenting lies along the Pigeon River off Hwy 215; the tract includes the Pisgah High School FFA farm and baseball fields. The lease with Haywood County Schools ends in late 2026 but they plan to negotiate a new lease with the Town of Canton for the farm and baseball fields. Hanni reiterated that the more land we can conserve helps for flood storage for future flooding events.

3. Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy: Resolution Approving the Purchase of the Property and Conveyance of Declaration of Covenants and Restriction. Parcel Numbers 1105 and 1291

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. The motion carried (see attached). Alderwoman Proctor thanked Hanni for being a great partner with the Town of Canton. Mayor Smathers thanked

Hanni for helping to preserve land and natural resources and their generous gifts to the Town of Canton for generations to come.

4. Budget Amendment

Assistant Manager Walker presented a budget amendment for the warehouse operation. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the amendment as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. The motion carried (see attached).

5. MOU Interconnect Revision

Manager Stinnett stated the revision rate of water at \$4.22 per 1,000 gallons. Alderwoman Mull made the motion to approve the revision as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. The motion carried (see attached).

6. 58 Park Street and 21 Adams Street Demolition Bid Award

Manager Stinnett presented the low bid for demolition of the old Town Hall (58 Park St) and the old Fire Department (21 Adams St). Both projects were awarded to Jeremy Jorstad, Lancaster and Southeast. The amount for the Fire Department (21 Adams St) is \$61,300.00. The amount for Town Hall (58 Park St) is \$138,900.00. The Board gave consensus to allow Manager Stinnett to execute the contract once approved by the attorney. Abatement is set to start in about 2 weeks. Alderman Hamlett asked that the William Stamey sign out front be preserved. Manager Stinnett assured Alderman Hamlett that all historical items would be removed prior to demolition. Alderwoman Mull made the motion to approve the bid award as presented. Alderman Mull seconded the motion. The motion carried (see attached).

7. Town Hall and Police Department: Ryse Construction Contract

Manager Stinnett stated Attorney Morgan is currently reviewing the construction contracts. Attorney Morgan stated he is looking over it currently but at glance doesn't see any problems at this time. Mayor Smathers asked what the time frame looks like once it is signed. Manager Stinnett states it is currently at Haywood County Inspections but should start by July 1, 2026. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the contracts once approved by the attorney. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. The motion carried (see attached).

8. Bolton and Menk: Contract Extension

Chris Rosenboom with Bolton and Menk stated the original budget had been expended and he is presenting a task order not to exceed \$50,000.00 to continue the O/A role for

wastewater. Alderwoman Mull motioned to pass the task order as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. The motion carried (see attached).

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

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to 143-318.11(a)(3)(4)(5) at 6:34 pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. Motion carried. At 8:19 pm Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. The motion carried.

L. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 6:00 pm at 85 Summer Street, Canton NC 28716. There being no additional business. Alderwoman Mull made the motion to adjourn at 8:21 pm. Alderwoman Proctor seconded. The motion carried.