

July 11, 2026

At the regular Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at 85 Summer Street, Canton NC, July 11, 2026, at 6:00 pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women Hamlett, Mull, Shepherd and Proctor present the following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Smathers called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers stated that Manager Stinnett, Assistant Manager Walker and Town Attorney Morgan were present. Deputy Clerk Young was absent.

C. Pledge

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

D. Approval of Minutes: June 25, 2026

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the June 25, 2026, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers thanked the Town employees for their work on the July 4th Plus One event; there was a great turnout. Mayor Smathers thanked Champion Credit Union for the fireworks. Mayor Smathers stated he has a meeting scheduled with the Department of Transportation about the lines on Academy Street. Manager Stinnett stated the Stormwater Project will help.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull stated the turnout for the employee picnic and the decorations for July 4th Plus One were great. Alderman Hamlett thanked the Mountaineer for an article about a woman who fell in her bathtub. We are nearing winter and people need to be reminded to check on others. Alderwoman Proctor stated she has received three positive messages about the Rec Park and there are TikToks being made in support. Alderman Shepherd thanked the staff for their work on the July 4th Plus One event.

G. Public Comments

Jed Godfrey and Roland Rhodes from Candler asked about historical license plates. Plates that used to be active. He would like to purchase them if the Town could sell them. Enka sells them for \$20.

George Tesla had a great picnic in the park.

Carl Cortwright stated that he appreciated the “Yard Ninjas”, they do an excellent job.

Mayor Smathers stated the Board has to do approval for the plates. Mayor Smathers advised against yellow/black. There are three colors, white/red, green/white, black/white. Alderman Hamlett stated this should come back to the Board as an item of new business. This would allow people to come in and speak their minds.

Enka had 500 and sold out.

Mr. Godfrey stated there is a watermark on them. Mr. Godfrey asked if we would be interested in a test run.

Alderman Hamlett made a motion for a test run for ID plates. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. The motion carried. Will need a letter

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Stinnett presented a notice to proceed on the Armory and 225 Park. Manager Stinnett stated the willow trees were planted by the Hardin family. The granddaughter contacted Manager Stinnett and offered to purchase new trees to be planted. Manager Stinnett stated Haywood Waterways also reached out to her about purchasing trees to replant. Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to approve the trees to be replaced. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. The motion carried. Alderman Hamlett asked if the Hardin family would be involved in the planting of the new trees. The Town needs to get a plaque recognizing their efforts. The Hardin family was an original family in the Town; Claude Jennings was also an original family. There needs to be a dedication. Manager Stinnett thanked Alderwoman Mull for the desserts at the employee picnic. Alderman Hamlett asked if there would be an event for Patty Rathbone since she retired. Manager Stinnett reminded him there was a small reception at Town Hall on June 27th, 2026. Alderman Hamlett stated he was sorry to have missed it.

I. Old Business

None

J. New Business

1. North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Grant

Manager Stinnett asked Chief Sluder to present the grant information (see attached). Chief Sluder stated the grant will pay \$10,000 per year toward overtime. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to accept the grant. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. New Employee Introduction

There is a virus going through the employees at Town Hall. Manager Stinnett will reschedule introductions at a later date.

K. Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.00 (a)(3)(4)(5)

Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S.143-318.00 (a)(3)(4)(5) at 7:03 pm. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried. At 7:22 pm Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to enter open session. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. The motion carried.

L Adjournment

Next Regularly scheduled meeting will be held July 28, 2026 at 6:00 pm at 85 Summer Street, Canton NC 28716. There being no additional business. Alderwoman Proctor made the motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm. Alderwoman Mull seconded. The motion carried.