

August 27, 2026

At the regularly called meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at 85 Summer Street, Canton NC, August 27, 2026, at 6:00 pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women Hamlett, Mull and Proctor present the following proceedings were held. Alderman Sheppherd was unable to attend the meeting.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Smathers called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers stated that Manager Stinnett, Deputy Clerk Young and Town Attorney Morgan were present. Attorney Morgan ran late and arrived at 6:08 pm. Assistant Manager Walker was unable to attend.

C. Pledge

Alderwoman Mull led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes: August 13, 2026

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the August 13, 2026, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated he would give his comments after Detective Taylor was recognized.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Alderman Hamlett asked for an introduction to the new reporter for the Mountaineer newspaper. She introduced herself as Sydney. Alderman Hamlett stated he received a letter from Pat Smathers, former mayor of Canton, and wanted to talk about how thankful we are for the Cruso Endowment Fund and all they do for the Town of Canton. They have renovated the gazebo in town and are involved with Labor Day. The Cruso Endowment, Mr. Pat Smathers and Ms. Doris Hall, have donated \$500 to local high school bands to encourage them to participate in the Labor Day parade. Alderwoman Proctor thanked everyone for coming and stated she is excited for Labor Day, she has gotten several messages from people looking forward to the festival. Mayor Smathers asked Joe Garnace, owner of Primered Black inc, if he was ready for the car show that will be held over the Labor Day weekend. Last year was a huge success. Mayor Smathers asked Mr. Garnace if he needed anything. Mr. Garnace stated he needed to speak with Manager Stinnett about porta johns. Manager Stinnett stated they have been ordered and are set to be delivered on Monday September 7th. Mayor Smathers thanked Jed Godfrey for the antique car tags and stated Mr. Godfrey would be selling them at the car show on Labor Day.

G. Public Comments

Debbie King, did not state her address, addressed the Board. Mrs. King stated that she wanted it on public record that the independent land records audit, backed by the Haywood County Clerk, raises serious questions regarding the legitimacy of the planning, zoning and steering committee boards. Mrs. King asked if anything she presents is incorrect to please have the town attorney send her those corrections. Mrs. King stated the town has a multi-month pattern of withholding public records and hiding meeting schedules. She stated that she did receive an email from the town attorney this evening but has not had a chance to read it. Mrs. King stated the county deputy clerk told her there are no records of any appointments from the Haywood County Board of Commissioners to the Town of Canton zoning and planning board regarding representatives from January 2021 to August 19, 2026. Mrs. King stated that if the Town is moving forward with an unverified board and withholding public records the Town could be looking at some devastating lawsuits and high court fees. Mrs. King urged the Board to think about the administrative fallout, financial exposure and number of town officials and staff members who may be formally deposed under oath if this goes into a court of law. Mrs. King asked the Board if they were willing to turn their backs on the very people who stayed through the good times, the bad times and the catastrophic times just to cater to special interest groups, wealthy developers and out of state interests? Mrs. King stated that mountain people take their ancestry, land and property right seriously. This is a constitutional crisis. Mrs. King stated recreation, greenways and blue ways on land the Town owns or has donated to them are supported along with some of the floodplain ideas. However, not when it comes to their personal property through the severe restrictions and bankrupting penalties. Mrs. King stated they will withhold consent from any down zoning or land devaluation. She requested the hidden maps be put out for public inspection and stop all proceedings until there is a legitimate board. This process needs to start from scratch with open, honest public engagement that the people of Canton are entitled to. Following Mrs. King's comments Mayor Smathers asked Mrs. King what her address was. Mrs. King stated she didn't have to give her address. Mayor Smathers asked if she lived inside or outside the city limits. Mrs. King stated she lives in and alleged ETJ and would leave it at that. Mayor Smathers stated so outside the city limits to which Mrs. King replied alleged ETJ before taking her seat.

H. Reports from the Manager

Manager Stinnett stated she wanted to give the Board an update on Labor Day. The Labor Day festival is starting to come together. There are a few changes this year, starting with Adams Street and the parking between First Citizens Bank and the Colonial Theater being closed. Due to the construction, there is no safe way to have people parking there. There are 16 food trucks and 62 craft vendors lined up to participate this year. Also, this year, we will not have the Air Dogs but will be having a petting zoo for kids and an inflatable obstacle course for older kids. Mayor Smathers asked where the kids' zone would be located this year. Manager Stinnett replied that it will be where the Air Dogs has been in years past. Alderwoman Proctor asked where the petting zoo would be and Manager Stinnett stated closer to old Town Hall. Alderwoman Mull asked how

many floats were signed up to be in the parade. Manager Stinnett stated she was unsure of the exact number but the last number she heard was about 40.

I. Old Business

None.

J. New Business

1. Employee Recognition

Manager Stinnett stated the Town wanted to recognize Detective Megan Taylor. Detective Taylor has a great work ethic and because of her tireless work and countless hours, justice has been served and we are all a little safer. We are very fortunate to have her working in our community, whether she is working on a case or patrolling the streets. Chief Scott Sluder stated that Detective Taylor is one employee that does what she is supposed to, she is hard working and anytime she is asked to do something she does it. Chief Sluder stated that Detective Taylor worked very hard to get her certifications and continues to take classes for more certifications so that she can work on different kinds of cases such as fire. She takes all the cases she works to heart. Mayor Smathers stated although the Mountaineer has already covered this story about Detective Taylor, he feels it is important to state that Board is transparent, clear and focused on families. At the end of the day, we must keep our kids safe. This case took a young victim and forced her into an adult situation and Detective Taylor and Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Kate Robinette made her feel safe and because of that the bad guy was prosecuted. The world needs to hear the good news too. Alderwoman Mull thanked Detective Taylor for her hard work. Alderwoman Proctor thanked Detective Taylor for her sacrifices and dedication to her job. Mayor Smathers stated that it is important for young girls to see her Detective Taylor and know they can be an officer too. Alderman Hamlett states that although we say thank you a lot, it's important that it is known we mean it. It is not an empty slogan that is thrown around. Detective Taylor thanked the Board for recognizing her and stated she could not do what she does without help.

2. New Employee Introductions

Manager Stinnett introduced Lexus Hall and Kinley Gilliam as the new employees in the front office. Manager Stinnett stated the Town is fortunate to have them; they are both bright and bring great things to the table. Alderman Hamlett stated he sees things getting better in the future. Mayor Smathers welcomed them aboard. He stated the kindness matters and he wished them the best. Alderwoman Proctor welcomed them and thanked them in advance.

3. Resolution: Surplus Property for Scrap

Manager Stinnett stated that the vault door from old Town Hall can not be utilized in the new Police Department and asked for it to be scrapped. The door weighs 12,000 pounds. If approved

to scrap, we will haul the door to a certified scrap yard. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to scrap the vault door. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. Gov Deals Surplus Equipment

Manager Stinnett presented the Board with a list of equipment (see attached) that is worn out. Manager Stinnett stated we are cleaning out some things that we can list on Gov Deals that may be used for parts. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to list the equipment for sale. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. The motion carried.

K Adjournment

Mayor Smathers stated to Chief Sluder that his team is doing a great job with the school flow. Chief Sluder stated that Officer Dean Clontz is the SRO at Canton Middle School and is doing a great job there with traffic. Manager Stinnett stated that RiverFest was this past weekend and they did a great job with it.

Next Regularly scheduled meeting will be held September 10, 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 6:30 pm. Alderman Hamlett seconded. The motion carried.

Amanda Young

Deputy Town Clerk