

September 10, 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, September 10, 2026, at 6:00 pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women Hamlett, Shepherd, Mull and Proctor present the following proceedings were held. Alderman Hamlett and Alderwoman Mull ran late, arriving at 6:03 pm.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Smathers called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers stated that Assistant Manager Walker, Deputy Clerk Young were present. Attorney Morgan was unable to attend due to the passing of his mother. Manager Stinnett was also absent.

C. Pledge

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

D. Approval of Minutes: August 27, 2026

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the August 27, 2026, minutes as presented. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated Labor Day was amazing. This year we had the largest crowd and the most tickets sold. Clay Walker put on a great show. Mayor Smathers stated on Monday, September 7th, we received the devastating news that one of our long-time employees had passed away very unexpectedly. Wanda was the deputy tax collector and payroll specialist for the Town of Canton. Mayor Smathers stated they just don't make them like Wanda anymore. She was a legend; she was strong and supportive. Wanda had the highest tax collection rating, but she did her job with class and respect. She had a thankless job. The loss of Wanda leaves a void that can't be filled. Mayor Smathers asked for a moment of silence as we reflect on Wanda.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Alderman Hamlett stated he had no comments at this time. Alderwoman Proctor stated Wanda showed up and did her job well. She is thankful to have known her. Alderman Shepherd thanked the Town staff for their work at Labor Day. He stated Wanda did an excellent job and will be hard to replace.

G. Public Comments

David Harley of 793 Rice Cove Road addressed the Board. Mr. Harley stated that two weeks ago his attorney at Ward and Smith requested records (see attached) from Byron Hickox and hasn't received them yet. He stated he would like an update as he needs these records for a pending lawsuit. Mayor Smathers asked Mr. Harley for his address, and he stated he owns several properties in the Beaverdam area.

Debbie King addressed the Board. Mrs. King stated she has requested comprehensive plan drafts, zoning maps and other public records since May. She did receive an email August 27 containing eight sets of Planning Board minutes, but they did not contain her requested information. Mrs. King stated the roster for the Planning Board that she was sent conflicts with the roster she received from the county deputy clerk. Mrs. King stated the appointed and expiration dates are contradictory. The record provided by the county fails to list the alleged ETJ representatives. Mrs. King asked the Board if two of the alleged ETJ representatives currently sitting on the Planning Board are siblings to active members of the Town Board. Mrs. King stated she audited the online minutes from May 2024 to present and found no votes to appoint Planning Board members. Mrs. King also asked the Board if they planned to appoint a new Planning Board and

if so, when. She asked if there are any vacancies from seats that expired in 2024. She also asked about vacancies for ETJ representatives. Mrs. King stated records show an ETJ position filled for the Rough Creek Watershed with a Buncombe County representative. She stated that under Town Code Section 2-7021, Buncombe County must appoint this resident. Mrs. King asked the Board if the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners voted for this individual currently in that seat. Mrs. King stated that records from the Haywood County Clerk show Haywood County Commissioners did not vote to appoint current Canton ETJ representatives. She stated the Advisory Committee sheet is missing term start dates, lengths and expirations. Mrs. King asked when the Board voted on these advisory members and when their terms expire. She also asked if there are vacancies on that committee and when and where they meet. Mrs. King stated that is her opinion if this Board is unvoted and expired then it is invalid and possesses no legal or constitutional authority to strip away private property rights or enforce bankrupting penalties. Mrs. King also stated the meeting minutes for March 12, March 25, April 23 and May 14 all of 2026 are missing from the Town's website. She has formally requested that the Town immediately update the website or provide physical copies. She stated that property owners demand transparency and have the right to know who is positioned to regulate their land. Mrs. King concluded by stating she does not consent to any down zoning, reduced permitted uses or decreased densities on her private land or the penalties that may accompany them.

H. Reports from the Manager

Assistant Manager Walker stated there is no tax or cash report. Assistant Manager Walker stated that Wanda was much more than a coworker, she was a friend. Wanda truly cared about this Town. Assistant Manager Walker thanked the staff for all their work during the Labor Day festival, especially the Police Department. They stepped in for us and worked gates when we received the news about Wanda. Assistant Manager Walker also stated that Joe and Devon did an outstanding job with the car show again this year.

I. Old Business

None.

J. New Business

1. Haywood Waterways Letter of Support

Assistant Manager Walker presented a letter of support for the Haywood Waterways Association (HWA) (see attached). The Town has partnered with HWA for nearly 30 years and works hand in hand to ensure water quality protection and improvement. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to sign the Letter of Support. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. Resolution: AIA Grant Support

Attorney Jeff Goss presented the Board with a Resolution for AIA Grant Support (see attached). Attorney Goss stated this grant will provide a rate study for water and sewer that should be done by January or February 2027. When those results are completed, there will be a written study and presentation. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to sign the Resolution for AIA Grant Support. Alderman Shepherd seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Proclamation: Constitution Week

Asstant Manager Walker presented the Board with a Proclamation for Constitution Week (see attached). The Proclamation states Constitution Week would be observed September 17-23. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to sign the Proclamation for Constitution Week. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. Mowing Agreement: Dwight Henson

Assistant Manager Walker presented the Board with a contract from Dwight Henson (see attached). This contract would allow Mr. Henson to continue mowing and cutting hay off the

tract of land located off Hwy 110 that was gifted to the Town of Canton by the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Assistant Manager Walker stated the only thing we would suggest changing is the workers compensation insurance in section 11.1 section C. We would change that to Hold Harmless Agreement. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to sign the contract with Mr. Henson pending the change of section 11.1 section C. Alderman Shepherd seconded that motion. The motion carried.

5. Personnel Policy Updates

Assistant Manager Walker presented the Board with changes to four personnel policies (see attached). Those policies include, Personal Hygiene, an amendment to the Health Care and Life Insurance for Retirees, an amendment to Uniforms and Clothing Allowance and the Holiday Schedule. The amendment to the Health Care and Life states employees hired on or after July 1, 2026 will continue to be covered under Town insurance after 20 years of service until they are eligible for Medicare or other health insurance. The Uniforms and Clothing Allowance amendment was rewritten to include that employees become eligible for boot reimbursement after their 6-month probationary period. The Holiday schedule clarifies the days the Town will be closed in observance of holidays. Alderwoman Proctor asked that Section C be removed so that people are free to express themselves with hair color. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to accept these policies. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion pending changes to Hygiene Policy. The motion carried.

6. Deputy Tax Collector appointment

Assistant Manager Walker asked the Board to appoint Lexus Hall as Deputy Tax Collector. Mrs. Hall has been training with Wanda already in preparation for her retirement. Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to appoint Lexus Hall as Deputy Tax Collector. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. The motion carried.

7. Budget Amendment

Assistant Manager Walker presented a Budget Amendment that would allow an increase of \$2,000 for tax and payroll training (see attached). Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to accept this Budget Amendment. Alderman Shepherd seconded the motion. The motion carried.

K Adjournment

Next Regularly scheduled meeting will be held September 24, 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 6:25 pm. Alderman Shepherd seconded. The motion carried.

Amanda Young

Deputy Town Clerk