

December 11, 2025

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at the Town Hall at 85 Summer Street, December 11, 2025, at 6:00pm with Mayor Zeb Smathers, and Aldermen/women Mull, Proctor, Shepard, and Hamlet were present.

Mayor Smathers stated that Manager Stinnett, Assistant Manager Walker, Clerk Dunbar, and Attorney Morgan were present.

A. Swearing in Ceremony

- Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation
Clerk Dunbar led those in attendance in reciting the pledge of allegiance.
- Caleb Simmons led the invocation.
- Oath of Office Administered by the Honorable Chief District Court Judge Donna Forga

Honorable Chief District Court Judge Donna Forga sworn into office.

Mayor Zeb Smathers

Alderman Tim Shepard

Alderwoman Kristina Proctor

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

B. Organizational Meeting

- Meeting date schedule

Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the meeting schedule, being the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 6p.m. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

- Mayor Pro-Tem appointment

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to reappoint Alderwoman Mull, Mayor Pro-Tem. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

C. Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Smathers then asked the Board for approval of the minutes for the November 13, 2025, meeting. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2025, meeting and Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

D. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers thanked K-9 officers Matt Ralph and Stephen Allison for the actions they took last night during the hit and run accident on interstate 40. Mayor Smathers stated that both officers almost lost their lives because they were saving someone else's.

Mayor Smathers stated that many people love the hot chocolate cup decorations that are downtown and thanked the Street Department for their work decorating the Town.

Alderman Hamlett stated that he called both Alderwoman Proctor and Alderman Shepard after the election and congratulated them both. Alderman Hamlett continued and said it is going to be an honor serving with you.

Alderman Shepard and Alderwoman Proctor stated that it was a great honor to be reelected.

Mayor Smathers thanked Lake Silver for his work around the region while working in Congressman Edwards office. Mayor Smathers commended Mr. Silver on his accomplishments and his continued work throughout the region. Mayor Smathers wished Mr. Silver luck working with the State Auditor's office.

Mayor Smathers thanked all of the Town Staff for the Christmas Parade and the Santas Workshop Event.

E. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Alderman Hamlett thanked Town Staff for their work during the Christmas Parade. Alderman Hamlett stated what makes a parade a success is the people, and Town employees were cleaning the streets after the parade was over. Alderman Hamlett again thanked town staff for their hard work. Alderman Hamlett stated that there is a couple of cases of the measles in South Carolina. Alderman Hamlett continued that he wants everyone to safe and healthy.

Alderwoman Proctor stated that the Labor Day and the Christmas parade are one of the fun things she does as a board member.

Alderwoman Proctor thanked Byron Hickox for working with the consultants from Townstudio in developing a comprehensive and future land use plan for the Town of Canton. Alderwoman Proctor stated that the first community meeting was a success and it was well attended.

Alderman Shepard thanked Town Staff for their working during the Christmas parade, and it is great to see everyone enjoy it.

Mayor Smathers asked when the playground fence would be completed. Clerk Dunbar answered that the plan is before Christmas.

F. Public Comments:

Robert Bruce addressed the Board about the new water rates and presented to the Board a data sheet explaining what the rates should be. Mr. Bruce then asked the board if they would consider changing the water rates because they are difficult to pay.

Lake Silver congratulated mayor Smathers, Alderwoman Proctor, and Alderman Shepard on their reelection.

Matt Allen governmental realtor wanted to offer himself as a resource to the Board and to the Town. Mayor Smathers thanked Mr. Allen for being in attendance.

Mayor Smathers addressed Mr. Bruce about the water rates. Mayor Smathers stated that affordability in WNC is difficult. Mayor Smathers stated that during the work session that they can look over the rates and cut cost if they can.

Alderwoman Proctor thanked Mr. Bruce for providing this water rate break down sheet.

G. Managers Reports

Manager Stinnett stated that February 4th would be a great time for a work session starting at 8am.

Manager Stinnett reminded the board about the Fire Department and Police Department awards ceremonies.

Assistant Manager Walker gave the cash report

Manager Stinnett gave tax report.

H. Old Business

Request For Qualifications Owner Advisor For Existing Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements and New Wastewater Treatment Plant Design Build Project.

Alderman Shepard made a motion to select Bolton and Menk to become the owner advisor for the wastewater treatment plant project. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

Alderwoman Proctor recused herself during the vote.

I. New Business

1. Approving the Acceptance of a donation of property and conveyance of a conservation easement to the Southern Appalachian Highland Conservancy

Manager Stinnett presented the Board with an agreement with the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy to transfer property next to Chestnut Mountain to the Town.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the donation of property from the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

2. Budget amendments

Assistant Manager Walker presented the Board with two budget amendments. Assistant Manager Walker stated that the first budget amendment is in the amount of \$50,000 from the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina grant and move it to Planning and Economic Development.

Assistant Manager Walker stated that the second budget amendment is \$390,000 from the General Revenue Fund and moving it to Planning and Economic Development.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

3. Fire Apparatus Bay Lease Agreement: Wit Contracting of Franklinton, LLC

Manager Stinnett presented to the Board a lease agreement with Wit Contracting. Manager Stinnett continued that the lease is \$20,000 a month for the fire apparatus bay, but it is FEMA and it is reimbursable. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the Apparatus Bay Lease Agreement. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

4. Get your Gear in Rear Co-Sponsorship

Clerk Dunbar presented to the Board a Co-Sponsorship request from the colon cancer coalition. Clerk Dunbar stated that the group wants to do a 5k fundraiser in Canton and the only support they need is one officer to direct traffic during the race.

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the co-sponsorship request. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

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

At 7:08 p.m. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3)(4)(5). Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion, and all were in favor and the motion carried. At 7:42p.m. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session and Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion will all in favor 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.

K. Adjournment

The next Special Called meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2025, 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 7:42p.m.

Sam Dunbar, Town Clerk

