

October 9, 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, October 9, 2025, at 6:00pm with Mayor Zeb Smathers, and Aldermen/women Mull and Proctor and Shepard were present, Alderman Hamlett was absent the following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Smathers called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

B. Roll Call

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

C. Pledge/Invocation

Alderman Shepard led those in attendance in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

D. Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Smathers then asked the Board for approval of the minutes for the September 25, 2025, meeting. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2025, meeting and Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers stated that Chief Sluder is out sick with the flu, but he congratulated Chief Wheeler and Chief Sluder for the success of National Night out.

Mayor Smathers commented that he was frustrated with the time frame of the playground construction and he attended a meeting with the playground company, he continued stating that he knows that there are some delays out of their control, but he wants expects good information from the company so we can give accurate updates to the public.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderwoman Mull welcomed everyone to the meeting. Alderwoman Mull stated that she enjoyed National Night Out and it was good to see the community out as well.

Mayor Smathers stated that we are still waiting on funds from the Federal Government for Tropical Storm Fred. Mayor Smathers continued stating that the new town hall, police department, and Armory has been put on hold. Mayor Smathers said Town Staff need a place to call home and these delays are out of the staffs control.

Alderwoman Proctor stated that she is excited for the Kris Kringle Market and reminded everyone that tomorrow is the last day to register to vote.

Alderman Shepard stated that downtown looks great, and he is excited that Chestnut Mountain is open.

G. Public Comments:

Joe Garnace of 165 Wesley Street wanted to say thank the Board for the opportunity to conduct the car show at Labor Day and he hopes to do it again next year. Joe presented the Board T-shirts form the event. Mr. Garnace asked to be involved in any work session regarding Labor Day.

Mayor Smathers stated that Mr. Garnace delivered a good product and Mayor Smathers thanked Joe for keeping his

business here after going through two floods. Mayor Smathers asked Joe what his biggest surprise was, Joe answered, the turnout was more than what he expected.

H. Managers Reports

Assistant Manager Walker gave the cash report.

Manager Stinnett stated she was approached by the Town of Clyde about the elected officials riding on a parade float together again and splitting the cost of the float. The Board agreed to the idea, as they enjoyed riding with other elected officials during the Labor Day Parade.

I. Old Business

1. Watts Street Easement Request

Manager Stinnett stated that she conducted research about the proposed easement and met with the Water Department Supervisor and Police Chief Sluder about the road, and the security for the water tank. Manager Stinnett stated that the road would need to be brought up to code if the Board approved the right of way easement, which would be a large financial impact. Attorney Morgan stated that there are some potential liabilities, once it is made public, currently the road is a maintenance road, however the easement could still be approved at the Towns' cost.

David Chason stated he wants a driveway not a highway. Mr. Chason asked if this is a private driveway, why does it need all the safety measures.

Alderwoman Proctor asked what safety measures needed to be added to the road to allow the easement. Manager Stinnett answered, the Town would need to add guard rails, widen the road, and pave the road.

Mr. Chason asked about the other companies using that road, but the Town does not have safety measures for them. Also, Mr. Chason stated that there are numerous driveways inside city limits that do not meet the required code.

Planner Byron Hickox stated that some houses in Town limits are grandfathered in from when the ordinance was changed, however, any new development must meet the proper code.

Fire Chief Wheeler added that a fire truck will not fit on Watts Street.

There was no motion to approve the Watts Street Easement.

New Business

1. TownStudio

TownStudio, a consulting firm that was awarded the contract to provide the Town of Canton a zoning ordinance, comprehensive plan, and future land use plan, gave a presentation on the future of Canton. These plans are provided by the CDBG grant. Mayor Smathers and the Board stated that they want to make sure citizens are involved as much as they can be during the planning phase.

2. Kris Kringle Market

Clerk Dunbar presented to the Board with a Co-sponsorship request from Mill Town Market. Clerk Dunbar stated that the

group wants to have a Holiday Market at Sorrells Street Park on December 5th, 2025. Clerk Dunbar continued by saying that they have done this event before, and the only support they need from the Town is to close Sorrells Street and a portion of Park Street for their vendors. Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to approve the Kris Kringle Market. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

3. Holiday Meeting Schedule

Manager Stinnett suggested to the Board to cancel the regular called Board meetings on November 27th and December 25th because of the Holidays. Manager Stinnett reminded the Board if something that needed to be addressed, the Board could have a Special Called meeting.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to cancel the regular called Board meetings on November 27th and December 25th. Alderman Shepard Seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

4. Designated Applicant for Grants

Manager Stinnett stated this agreement is giving herself and Assistant Manager Walker permission to sign grants, primarily for mitigation grants.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the designated applicant for grants. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

5. Retirement Policy

Manager Stinnett asked the Board to table the retirement policy for a later meeting.

6. Highway Safety

Manager Stinnett presented to the Board the NC Highway Safety grant that the Police Department applied for. Manager Stinnett stated that the Police Department is applying for \$11,500. Alderwoman Proctor made a motion to approve the NC Highway Safety grant application. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

1. Pool Buildings Bid Award: J Evans Construction

Clerk Dunbar presented to the Board a contract for the concession stand, ticket booth, and outside bathrooms for the pool. Clerk Dunbar stated that J Evans construction was the lowest bidder. Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the construction contract from J Evans Construction. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

7. Christmas Parade Grand Marshal

Manager Stinnett suggested the Baptist on Mission organization being the grand marshal for the Christmas parade. Manager Stinnett stated that the group has done a lot for the community after the last two floods. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to ask the Baptist on Mission to be the grand marshal for the Christmas Parade. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

8. Labor Day Update

Assistant Manager Walker gave the Board an update on the Labor Day Festival.

Mayor Smathers asked if Bearwaters Brewery could have two locations instead of one during the festival. Mayor Smathers asked if this year's Labor Day was a success? Manager Stinnett stated yes, this year was a success. Manager Stinnett stated that the production manager for the Labor Day Festival said it was the biggest crowd he has seen in Canton since running the festival.

9. Wastewater Update

Manager Stinnett stated that she and Jeff Goss met with three groups interested in running the wastewater plant if it became the Towns to control. Manager Stinnett stated that we are getting a panel to choose a qualified operator, after all the RFQs are received.

10. Spruce Street Water Tank Roof Repair

Manager Stinnett stated that the Department of Environmental Quality was concerned about the condition of the roof on top of the Spruce Street water tank. Manager Stinnett continued saying that the cover will be a temporary fix until the new water tank is constructed during phase two of the ARPA Project. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the contract for the temporary roof cover for the Spruce Street water tank. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

11. Camp Hope Proposal

Manager Stinnett gave the Board a proposal for the Domoker Associates, the selected architects for Camp Hope. Manager Stinnett stated that this is a fair price, and the firm is eager to start working. Manager Stinnett stated that this approves the planning and the design phase. Manager Stinnett reminded the Board this is a project from Tropical Storm Fred. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the proposal. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

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

At 7:21p.m. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3). Alderman Shepard seconded the motion, and all were in favor and the motion carried. At 8:10p.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.

L. Adjournment

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, October 23, 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 8:10p.m.

Sam Dunbar, Town Clerk