

September 11, 2025

At the Regular Called Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at the Town Hall at 85 Summer Street, September 11, 2025, at 6:00pm with Mayor Smathers, and Aldermen/women Mull, Hamlett, Proctor, Shepard present. The following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

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

B. Roll Call

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

C. Pledge/Invocation

Alderman Hamlett led the pledge.

Mayor Smathers stated that since it was September 11, and with the recent events that took place, he thought it would be appropriate to have an invocation. Alderwoman Mull led an invocation.

D. Approval of Minutes:

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2025, meeting. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

E. Mayor Comments

Mayor Smathers thanked town staff, and all involved for their hard work during the 117th Labor Day Festival. Mayor Smathers stated that the Mill Around Town event went well and was well attended.

Mayor Smathers spoke about the twenty-fourth anniversary of the attacks that happened on September 11, 2001. Mayor Smathers stated he spoke to a Pisgah High School class about what happened 24 years ago, and he realized that this class did not live through this event. Mayor Smathers thanked Chief Wheeler and Chief Sluder for their service and all the things they do.

F. Aldermen/women Comments

Alderman Shepard thanked town staff for working the Labor Day festival, and he stated that he enjoyed the event. Alderman Shepard stated it is good we remember the events that occurred on September 11th and the people who lost their lives.

Mayor Smathers talked about the Twin Tower artifacts that are in Clyde and in Canton. Mayor Smathers stated that those artifacts are an important piece of our history.

Alderman Hamlett stated that it has been 24 years since the attack on the Twin Towers. Alderman Hamlett stated that this country sees a lot of tragedies a year and a lot of these tragedies are because of gun violence. Alderman Hamlett stated that we need to end gun violence, so families are not torn apart.

Alderman Hamlett stated that during the Labor Day parade, he and Alderwoman Mull had the privilege of riding on the grand marshal float with elected officials in Haywood County. Alderman Hamlett stated that this is the first time he can remember that these elected officials' rode on a float together, he continued by saying that all we have been through a lot together.

Mayor Smathers stated that the Alderman and Alderwoman from Clyde want to continue this tradition of riding on a float together during all parades.

Alderwoman Proctor spoke about the attacks that occurred on September 11th, and about the events that have taken place this week. Alderwoman Proctor stated that she is honored to serve in this area. Alderwoman

Proctor stated that she got a lot of compliments about Labor Day and thanked town staff for their work during the festival.

Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for coming.

Mayor Smathers Stated that the car show was great, and he hopes that Joe will do it again next year.

Alderman Shepard thanked Chris May and Bethel Christian Academy for letting the car show use their parking lots for the car show.

G. Public Comments

Benny Stevens wants to get RFI on a property that is beside his home in Canton. Mr. Stevens is interested in making the property better and get a handyman business out of his small shop. Mr. Stevens asked if there is an easement he can get from the Town, or does he have to buy the property.

Mrs. Stevens has an issue with a neighbor, with gas, oil, and batteries on the ground, stated that they work on cars all throughout the night. Mrs. Stevens stated that there is a group living in a tent and she is unsure about where they are using the facilities. Mrs. Stevens wants the property cleaned up.

Carl Cortright stated that the car show was amazing, and Joe did a great job facilitating the car show. Mr. Cortright commended Chief Wheeler on code enforcement this week and asked if agendas can be updated on the website if it is changed. Mr. Cortright would like to see the figures from the Labor Day Festival.

Mayor Smathers asked Assistant Manager Walker about adding the Labor Day Festival data to the website and Mayor Smathers asked how the Labor Day Festivals compares to other fairs in Haywood County.

Mayor Smathers addressed Mrs. Stevens about her neighbor. Mayor Smathers stated that Chief Wheeler will take care of the code enforcement.

There was a discussion about the right of way question from Mr. Stevens.

Assistant Manager Walker stated she would have the Planning Director look at the property and get his recommendations.

1. Mayor Smathers added these items to the agenda.

the Canton Flood Recovery Amendment 1
Park Street Storm Water EDA contract
Consultant Selection: TownStudio
Closed Session N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a)(3)

H. Manager's Reports

Assistant Manager Walker gave the Cash Report.

Assistant Manager Walker stated that on Saturday September 27, there will be a Hurricane Helene Remembrance Day in Waynesville, at the Court House. Assistant Manager Walker stated that it will be at 9am Saturday morning, the Board is invited to stand with Mayor Smathers as he makes a speech.

Clerk Dunbar stated that the playground construction is going well, and the group should finish installing equipment by next week. Clerk Dunbar stated that the next step in construction is the fence, curbs, and surfacing.

Clerk Dunbar said that Cinderella Partners have resumed their work for the emergency bridge at Chestnut Mountain.

Old Business

N/A

J. New Business

2. Trick or Treat on Main: Canton Merchant Partnership

Assistant Manager Walker presented the Board with a Co-Sponsorship request. Assistant Manager Walker stated that this is a recurring event that always goes well.

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the trick or treat event on Main Street with the Canton Merchant Partnership. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

3. NCACC Resolution

Assistant Manager Walker presented the Board with a resolution for the Opioid settlement. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the resolution. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

4. Recommendation of Award and Certified Bid Tabulation

Assistant Manager Walker stated that McGill and Associates recommended Hyatt Pipeline for the lift station bid award. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve Hyatt Pipeline for the lift station award. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

5. Resolution to Approve Disaster Recovery Memorandum of Agreement With North Carolina League of Municipalities

Assistant Manager Walker presented to the Board a memorandum of Agreement with the North Carolina League of Municipalities. Assistant Manager Walker stated that the NC League of Municipalities received grant funding from the State and help the Town with technical assistance.

Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the Disaster recovery memorandum agreement with the North Carolina League of Municipalities. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

6. Memorandum of Agreement for Disaster Recovery Services

Assistant Manager Walker presented to the Board a memorandum of Agreement with the North Carolina League of Municipalities. Assistant Manager Walker stated that the NC League of Municipalities received grant funding from the State and help the Town with technical assistance.

Alderman Shepard made a motion to approve the Disaster recovery memorandum agreement with the North Carolina League of Municipalities. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

7. Consultant Selection: TownStudio

Assistant Manager Walker stated that The Town of Canton received 7 proposals in response to the RFP for the complete update of the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map. After reviewing these proposals and interviewing the consultants, town staff has selected TownStudio, a planning and design firm based in Asheville. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve TownStudio as the consulting firm. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

8. Park Street Storm Water EDA

Assistant Manager Walker presented a contract with McGill and Associates to complete storm water improvements on Park Street.

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the contract. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Alderwoman Mull, Alderman Shepard, and Alderman Hamlett voted in favor of the motion.

Alderwoman Proctor abstained from voting.

9. Canton Flood Recovery Amendment 1

Assistant Manager Walker presented a contract amendment with McGill and Associates. Assistant Manager Walker stated that this amendment extends the timeline and fee to continue providing the tasks associated with delivery of Public Assistance support services for Tropical Storm Helene. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the contract. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. Alderwoman Mull, Alderman Shepard, and Alderman Hamlett voted in favor of the motion.

Alderwoman Proctor abstained from voting

k. closed session N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a)(3)

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to enter Closed Session: Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a)(3) at 6:41pm. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried. With no action taken, Alderwoman Mull made a motion to enter open session at 6:57p.m. Alderwoman Proctor seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Letter of Intent

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve a Letter of Intent to seek wastewater treatment operators for the existing wastewater treatment plant. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. All were in favor of the

motion and the motion carried,

Mayor Smathers asked Assistant Manager Walker to get Chief Sluder's opinion on the Watts Street easement and the proposed fence. Mayor Smathers asked to see the fence proposal at the next meeting.

L. Adjournment

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried. The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall located at 85 Summer Street, Canton, NC 28716. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.