

**Canton Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2026 6:00 p.m.**

Canton Borough Council held a Regular meeting on Monday, May 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at The John A. Mosser Canton Borough Municipal Building, 4 North Center Street, Canton. Council members in attendance were Michael Shultz, George Jennings, Deanna Watkins, David Atherton-Ely and Joy Williams. Shawn Packard, Mayor, Cassi Blaney, Solicitor, Chief Strozyk, David Wilson, Street Department and Leighanne Ellingham zoning officer. Council member Jeff Cole was absent.

Visitors: Mary Ann Porter, Eric Anderson and Walter Woods(refused to sign in).

President Michael Shultz opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Atherton-Ely invocation..

Visitor Comments:

President Shultz noted Mary Ann Porter would be addressed later in the agenda. Mr. Woods noted a Sunshine Act violation - the agenda was not posted on the website 24 hours in advance. President Shultz responded that details would violate a privacy issue, but noted his comment.

Minutes

Mr. Jennings moved and Mrs. Watkins seconded accepting the minutes of the April 13th, regular council meeting. Roll call: All in attendance said "Aye"

Mr. Atherton-Ely moved and Mr. Jennings seconded accepting the minutes of the April 20th, special meeting. Roll call: All in attendance said "Aye"

Bills

Mr Jennings moved and Mrs. Williams seconded accepting the bills presented for payment and the issuing of checks since the April 13th meeting. Roll call: All in attendance said "Aye"

Letters of Interest and Appointment of Councilman

President Shultz reported one letter of interest received for the vacant council seat. Mr. Eric Anderson was in attendance and had filled out the proper paperwork. No questions from Council members. Mr. Jennings moved and Mrs. Watkins seconded the appointment of Mr. Eric Anderson to fill the vacant council seat. No further discussion. Roll Call: All in attendance said "Aye". Mayor Packard administered the oath of office and Mr. Anderson was seated.

Personnel

President Shultz deferred to Vice President Watkins for the hiring of Borough Secretary/Treasurer/RTK Officer. Mrs. Watkins asked for a motion to hire Jessica Shadduck as the Borough Secretary / Treasurer/ RTK Officer at \$22/hour, 40 hours/week, with benefits. Ms. Shadduck will be added to all bank accounts and a bank debit card issued. Start date of May 31, 2026, pending clearances and any needed paperwork. Mr. Jennings moved and Mrs. Williams seconded. Discussion: Mr.

Anderson asked if there were other candidates and council members provided information regarding other candidates and noted there were several excellent candidates, with Ms. Shadduck's experience making her the recommended choice. Roll call: Mr. Jennings, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Watkins and Mr. Shultz - "Aye". Mr. Atherton-Ely abstained to due personal conflict of interest, Mr. Cole was absent..

Police Department

Report:

Chief Strozyk reports the month was slightly slower than last month. Noted an arrest regarding the armed robbery at the Smoke Shop, and another arrest at the other Smoke Shop for illegal activity. He will be increasing patrols with summer being busier. He continues to have difficulty with manpower, but the part-time officer works a couple times a week. He has some information on a possible grant for a police car.

Street Department

Street Report for February:

No report for this month.

Mr. Wilson reported the playground mulch was refilled. Some signs repaired, the street sweeper was used, but wasn't as successful as anticipated, and is currently cleaning streets with pressure washer. A few residents are blowing grass into the streets and it is clogging the storm drains.

Mrs. Porter addressed council about the status of the sidewalk on South Center St. that was discussed at the April 13th meeting. Mr. Wilson reported that the sidewalk in question needs repaired and council approved the work. Mrs. Porter will pay for the portion that belongs to the home, with council paying for the portion that was removed and not replaced properly several years ago during a street renovation.. Mr. Wilson explained that the sidewalk will be installed level with the walk already in place on the neighboring property. Mr. Shultz explained the process to have the Street Department do the work for the homeowners portion.

Codes Officer Report

Mr. Jennings read a report from Nick Petrowski, Codes Officer. He reported his recent activities. Issuing warnings for violations of various types. He encouraged residents to utilize the spring cleanup @ \$75 per pick up load to get rid of unwanted materials and junk. He will continue issuing warnings, with repeat offenders receiving fines. He requested door knockers with his name and phone# and a code violation book. Ms. Ellingham, Zoning Officer, provided some of the materials, and the two Officers will communicate regarding the needs. Mr. Jennings will schedule a Codes and Zoning Committee meeting in early June.

Zoning Officer Report

Ms. Ellingham talks about her report for the month including number and types of permits issued. She gave an update on the Special Exception Application request received regarding the Personal Care Home on Montague Street. The 60 day Deadline for action is June 29, 2026. She talked about the appointment of the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor - Letters of Interest received from Patrick Barrett, Drier Law Office and Thompson Law Office. One seat on the ZHB is vacant and she described the duties of

the Board Members. Mrs. Watkins was in contact with a community member to fill the vacancy. The Board requires 3 or 5 members.

Appointment of ZHB Solicitor

Mr Jennings read a letter of recommendation for the ZHB Solicitor, sent by board member Mrs. Andrea Sutton, in favor of appointing Thompson Law Office. Mrs. Watkins also stated she received individual email recommendations from board members Mrs. Kim Bailey, Mr. Rua and Mrs. Sandy Most, also supporting Thompson Law Office. Mrs Watkins explained the ZHB members each received the letters of interest and emailed back their recommendations. Solicitor Blaney invited Mr. Woods to make his comment, after council finished discussing the recommendations received. Mr. Woods commented this is a violation of the Sunshine Act as he felt they had discussed this at the ZHB meeting in an executive session regarding employees. He felt they had held a vote and then sent their recommendations individually. Solicitor Blaney recapped his concern that the ZHB had a Sunshine Act violation at their recent meeting. Mrs. Blaney instructed the council on the procedure of appointing the ZHB Solicitor - taking the recommendation or not is the Council's decision. Council's job is to publicly discuss and appoint a Solicitor to that Board. Council discussed the candidates and their thoughts. Mr. Jennings moved and Mr. Atherton-Ely seconded the appointment of Thompson Law Office as Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor. All in attendance "Aye" Ms. Ellingham will get in touch with his office.

ZHB Member

No additional letters of interest received for the vacant seat. The community is encouraged to apply if interested. Due to the current even number of Board members, Solicitor Blaney explained that the Zoning Hearing Board could make the decision that one member does not sit in on a meeting / hearing or vote on the matter discussed., until a 5th member is appointed.

Recreation Committee Report

Mr. Atherton-Ely reported the dug-out painting is almost complete. He thanked Baldwin's Hardware for their donation of paint and supplies for this project. He is also going to solicit donations for new backstop fencing, and cut down the poles to a better height. Also possible donations to improve the t-ball/baseball field improvement.

President Shultz read a letter from Mr. Route, 6th grade teacher at Canton Area School District, requesting use of the park pavilion on May 28th , 11am - 2:45pm. A certificate of insurance is required.

Mr. Jennings moved and Mr. Atherton-Ely seconded approving the use of the grounds pending receipt of the COI, and waiving the fee. All in attendance "Aye"

Fire Department

Fire Report for March:

Mr. Jennings did not have an official report from the firemen, but offered some information on what has been happening. Mayor Packard also offered some information on EMS. A new Council member is needed to fill the seat on the Fire Board.

Recycling

Information will be discussed at the June Council meeting regarding NTSW recycling services. A representative from NTSWA will be present at the June meeting.

Downtown Celebration

The Canton Downtown Celebration will be held on July 11th, 2026.

Mr. Jennings moved and Mr. Atherton-Ely seconded approving the permit request from the Canton Chamber of Commerce Downtown Celebration Committee. A letter will be sent to them. The Street Department will assist with traffic barriers. A Certificate of Insurance is required from them. Roll Call: All in attendance "Aye"

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Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Deanna Watkins
Vice President Borough Council

Deanna Watkins
Vice President

Michael Shultz
President