

Canton City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2025

Members present: Kristy Ziegler, George Hafner, Jason Magnuson, Jen Dowling

Members absent: Jeremy Hanson

City staff present: Anne Koliha, Barb Kerns, Jon Nordsving, Jim Davis

Visitor(s) present: Sabine Hafner, Kevin Graves (WHKS), Victor Holland (WHKS)

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

Motion by Dowling, seconded by Magnuson to approve the agenda, motion carried.

Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of October 8, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b) Approval of November Disbursements
- c) Approval of \$3,000 donation from Canton Fire Relief Association
- d) Approval of \$3,000 contribution to PERA on behalf of Canton Fire Department

Motion by Hafner, seconded by Dowling to approve the consent agenda, motion carried.

Public comments: none

Reports:

Mayor: Mayor Ziegler reported: Brrr...The weather has reminded us that snow is on its way. Please pay attention to future announcements regarding alternate street parking. The plows need this additional space to efficiently clear the streets.

Last month, we had an information meeting on the street and utilities project that will start in 2026. This project will address our aging well, water tower, water main, sanitary sewer, and make updates to our wastewater treatment facility. New streets will be reconstructed after the utility construction is complete. Main street construction, a county project, is planned to occur in 2027.

*City streets will be 24 feet wide asphalt and put back in the same approximate location

*Curb and gutter or sidewalk is not part of the street project

*Main Street will have the sidewalk, curb and gutter and storm sewer replaced

*Main Street, south of Hudson St will not have the sidewalk replaced

The city is in the process of applying for funding to have the lead water service lines replaced on owner's private property with hopes to coordinate this work with the larger utility project but not guaranteed to happen that way.

Proposed project timeline is:

West Side of Main Street: Construction in 2026 with 1st layer of asphalt and 2027 with 2nd layer of asphalt applied

East Side of Main Street: Construction in 2027 with 1st layer of asphalt and 2028 with 2nd layer of asphalt applied

Construction may affect: Access to driveway; Home mail delivery; Garbage pick-up changes in location; Temporary water service; Trees and landscaping; Buried dog fences; Buried irrigation pipes

An interruption will occur during the transition to the temporary service lines. Temporary service lines will bypass the meter so utility bills will be calculated using the average usage of previous months.

Only trees affected by the construction will be removed with no additional cost to the landowner.

Owners interested in widening driveways or installing paving for off-street parking, can do so at their own expense. A separate contractor will be needed to have work done on private property. Sewer lines from property line to the home can be replaced during this project at the owner's expense. The total estimated project costs = \$16,383,000. The City has received (2) Rural Development grants = \$10,983,000. The City received a Rural Development low interest loan = \$3,741,000 (40 years). The City will fund \$1,659,000. Utility rates will need to be adjusted to pay the utility portion of the project. The tax levy will be used to pay the streets portion of the project which will hopefully avoid having any special assessments to property owners for the project. Fillmore County will pay for their portion of County Road 21 reconstruction.

Please contact the office for concerns regarding access issues for those disabled and in need of special accommodations. Also the City will be in contact with specific property owners regarding easements for utilities for the project.

Deputy Clerk: none

Clerk: Clerk Koliha reported: *Street & Utility Improvement project: begin work on easements that will be needed as part of the project; *Lead Service Line Inventory: finished up inventory with WHKS and final report submitted to MDH – notification letters to be sent out to affected property owners with lead and galvanized lines; WWTF: work with MPCA and WHKS on the reissuance of the permit for the sewer plant and working on the different limits that need to be met for future regulations; Reminder of joint meeting with Mabel-Canton School Board and Mabel City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday December 3 at 6pm at Mabel-Canton High School Science Room #50

Public Works: Nordsving reported:

*Consider quote for heater for wellhouse

Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Dowling to approve purchase of heater for the wellhouse from Kingsley Mercantile; motion carried.

Fire Department: Davis informed council that the 1986 Ford fire truck has been sold and is gone

Police: Written Quarterly report (July, August, September)

Planning Commission: none

Other: none

WHKS Report

- a) Consider approval of authorization to submit Water Tower Repainting documents to USDA Rural Development for review

Motion by Hafner, seconded by Dowling to approve authorization to WHKS to submit Water Tower Repainting documents to USDA Rural Development for review; motion carried.

Old Business

- a) 2026 Preliminary Budget Review
Clerk Koliha reviewed the preliminary budgets with the council with discussion regarding level of final tax levy
- b) Consider approval of 3% COLA
Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Dowling to approve a 3% COLA for city staff for 2026, motion carried.
- c) Consider approval of Resolution 2025-14: Increase Sewer Rates
Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Dowling to approve Resolution 2025-14: Increase Sewer Rates, motion carried.

New Business

- a) Consider approval of Resolution 2025-15: Certify Unpaid Charges
Motion by Dowling, seconded by Hafner to approve Resolution 2025-15: Certify Unpaid Charges, motion carried.
- b) Review of Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2026
Clerk Koliha reviewed current schedule of fees and suggested increases and changes to fees for 2026.
- c) Consider approval of Resolution 2025-16: Canton Community Association gambling exempt permit application
Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Dowling to approve Resolution 2025-16: Canton Community Association gambling exempt permit application; motion carried.
- d) Consider approval to purchase replacement audio equipment for the Town Hall
Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Dowling to approve the purchase of the replacement audio equipment for the Town Hall; motion carried.

Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Dowling to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m.; motion carried.