

TOWN OF SWANSEA
TOWN COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING
August 28, 2023
6:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Viola McDaniel
Mayor Pro Tem Linda Butler
Councilman Michael Luongo
Councilwoman Doris Simmons
Councilman Jerome Williams

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Viola McDaniel at the Swansea Municipal Court, Room 320 West Third Street, Swansea, South Carolina 29160.

All media notifications were sent out and the proper posting at town hall, police Department and the town website.

Mayor determined, there was a quorum for the General Meeting, followed by a 20 second silent Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor asked, if there was a motion to approve the minutes of July 24, 2023. Councilman Luongo presented the motion and second via Councilwoman Simmons. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The consideration to extend the towns last budget 2022-2023, Councilwoman Simmons made the motion for the Extension of the Budget for the Town of Swansea until September 30th, but later amended the motion until October 30, 2023 and second by Councilman Luongo. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Gary Bailey of Love Bailey did a comparison of 2021 and 2022 reporting what was reported in that audit.

Finding of the audit outside firm got everything in order. Reconciled up to 6/30/2022 up to line item.

Comparison of 21 & 22 reporting was in the financial statements.

Issued: Capital Assets:

GASB reported what was in the financial statement, reconcile to 6/30/2023.

Government Wide: Finding outside CPA Firm to help get everything in order to reconcile books to 6/30/2022.

Issue: Capital Assets: Debt what is budget on every year is Fund Financials = Cash basis type of account. Fund Financials issued and unmodified Opinion = a Clean Opinion. Government Wide – Assets are listed as a qualified Opinion, because the town does not have any back up nor could the town provide any backups.

Assets gets fully depreciated and there is no basis.

Find cost basis to support assets – back up.

Town needs to maintain an Asset Ledger with support. Continue to get an unqualified opinion on the government wide.

Line items need to be in the proper categories.

Capital Assets not audited because, he did not have the backups for it.

Overall town need to clean it up. Re-class to get expenses and revenue in the proper order.

Out source the accounting to get the budget and monthly financials.

Budget actuals to be able to make timely, good decisions for the town.

Timely bank reconciliation. However, before done all at one time in the past.

Get the books in order to see where the money is being spent.

As a town, it is the First Priority. See what Revenues are coming in. How the money is being spent every month to be able to make good financial decisions for the town.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Williams shared; he had a great experience at the Annual MASC Conference. In one of the meeting the focus was Traffic with a comparison of traffic in Greenville versus Walmart in Camden being about the same in size and needs benefits from the traffic. Although a small town, Council has an opportunity to take Swansea to a different level. It's going to take all of Council working together as a whole with a positive spin. He would like to see the town growing and doing a lot more as there is a lot of things they can do. The only way they can accomplish it is, if they work together as a team. He thinks they are on the right track, with conversations with Councils Butler, Simmons and Luongo a lot not at the meeting. They are into working together on Council for the Town. He feels those days are behind them. He would like to see the town end on a positive note for 2023 and the town working together in their future.

Councilwoman Butler told Council this was her second conference at MASC. She enjoyed the first one and certainly, the second conference in Greenville. Council's Williams and Simmon's help taking care of her in getting to where they needed to be. She went to a lot of meetings, but a lot of her take aways were from sitting around talking to other people. They sound so much better than the bickering that goes own with them. If they as a council, can get it together, she thanked, Margaret Harvey so much for the work, she put in to included Chief Williams as she knows it is hard; the staff for all they do, as well as the Citizens of the town for they deserve better.

It is up to them, if they can get council together and not let it spill over to the citizens. They cannot be nasty to the citizens nor council members. They as Mayor and Council need to get it together, because if they don't, it will not work. Listening to the other towns all of them had issues, however, Councilwoman Butler stated, she felt they had more than all the other towns put together.

She indicated, Councils Luongo, Williams, Simmons and herself were trying to be on the right track.

She prays, they get it together for the sake of the citizens and the town.

Councilwoman Simmons enjoyed the MASC Annual Conference Meeting In Greenville. She had some take aways that might help their town.

- HDAC issue by equipment, program help with the bidding and best price.
- Retail 360 offering a service, survey, auto count to see if you want to put a business in a specific location.
- Cobble Stone Hotel - Investors, land pay for everything and build, if the traffic is right, no charge for it.
- Information people buying new houses. FHL bank programs give you money to buy a new house, give you down payments.

Utility Managers to towns are at a shortage, in the state they contract it out (Clear Water Solutions. Contract a Utility Manager cutting down on the cost for repairs, testing the water instead of contracting out to different vendors.

She too thinks they are working better together, and do what they need to do, so they can go forward, hopeful things will change.

Councilwoman Simmons, said she was inspired. It was a very good conference and was happy she was able to go.

Councilman Luongo, unfortunately could not go, but shared Councilwoman Simmons informed him of the conference. Clearwater Solutions trained existing employees to become a Utility Manager and help them get their certifications.

Councilwoman Butler, shared every time Councilwoman Simmons spoke with someone about something really good, she came to get both her and Councilman Williams to be apart of the conversation to know as well.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Williams shared, his July monthly activities: Traffic Tickets at 54, Accident Reports at 6 and other Reports at 35.

He shared the following information to the Town:

1. Rail Road Crossing Closure

2. Hot Sheet Warrants
3. Crime Watch Meeting (9/21) @ 6:00 P.M.
4. Sheriff Letter/ Police Explorer Recognition for Officer Mouser

The Mayor asked, if there was a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion presented by Councilman Luongo and second by Councilwoman Simmons. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor stated, there were no actions, taken while in Executive Session. Therefore, she asked if it was a motion to adjourn. Motion presented, via Councilman Luongo and second by Councilwoman Simmons. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectively Submitted,



Margaret Harvey
Clerk Treasurer
Town of Swansea