



## Town Newsletter

April 2024

### Newsletter Relaunch!

For a small town, Swansea has a lot going on! We're relaunching the town newsletter--and doing so electronically to save time and money, and to deliver timely information straight to your phone or email box. Please forward this e-newsletter to others so that they can [subscribe](#)! Our plan is to send out the newsletter the first Wednesday of each month.

### Sanitation Rate Increase

On February 26, Town Council approved an immediate increase in the monthly sanitation (trash pickup) fee to offset a fee increase from Waste Management, the town's trash collection service provider. Residents will roll carts will see the monthly sanitation charge for servicing a single residential roll cart increase from \$15.75 to \$17. This increase took effect in the March utility bills. If you have any questions, please contact Town Hall at 803-568-3835.



### Utility System Evaluation Now in Progress

The Town of Swansea is currently working with Central Midlands Council of Governments and WK Dickson & Co. to evaluate the town's water and sewer system, with the goal of determining the best solutions for operating the water and sewer utilities.



Part of the evaluation requires field testing of the system, including water hydrants and underground sewer lines. Crews will be working in town starting the week of April 15 and continuing through June to conduct this testing.

Utility customers received an insert in their April utility bills that provides more details, and [it's linked to this newsletter](#). Residents and businesses will also receive advance notice of work in their area via door hangers and the town's website, Facebook page, and this newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact [Chris Keefer](#), town administrator, at 803-568-2835.

### Welcome Aboard!

Two new employees have joined the Town of Swansea over the last two months. Chris Keefer started on January 8 as the new town administrator, and works part-time at Town Hall on Mondays through Wednesdays. Tyrone Gordon started on February 12 as the new water & sewer technician, and he works full-time Monday through Friday. Both Chris and Tyrone are settling into their new roles and look forward to meeting and serving the Swansea community.

### Neighborhood Crime Watch Meetings Every Quarter

Each quarter, the Swansea Police Department hosts a Neighborhood Crime Watch meeting to help citizens learn how to keep our community safe. At the March



21 meeting, the discussion focused on the state's new gun laws, the Operation Identification theft prevention program, reminders to check on vulnerable adults, and a new scam where callers misrepresent themselves as Lexington County Sheriff's Department officials requesting funds to clear bench warrants.

Mark your calendars now for the next quarterly meeting on Thursday, June 20, at 6 PM, and watch for more details as the date approaches.

## Citizen Comments Welcome at Town Council Meetings

As residents, electors, and taxpayers, Swansea citizens are welcome to direct their suggestions, comments, and concerns to staff and Town Council. For the good of all, we ask that this be done in a civil and constructive manner—whether in person or in writing.

There are several ways citizens can make their concerns known: sending an email or making a phone call to town staff or elected officials, scheduling an appointment to meet one-on-one, or addressing Council during the Citizen Comment portion of Town Council meetings.

In Chapter 2 of the Town's Code of Ordinances, section 2.53 discusses the agenda and proceedings of Council meetings. In that section, paragraph (f) states the following:

*Any citizen of the Town shall be entitled to appear before council at any regular meeting to present any matters pertaining to the Town. Citizens or other persons desiring to make a presentation must notify the clerk-treasurer in writing prior to the agenda deadline. The notice shall state the subject on which the citizen or other person wishes to address the Council with particulars, if available. Other matters may be considered only by majority vote of council.*

Paragraph (a) of the same section defines the "agenda deadline" as the close of business two days preceding the meeting.

In other words, if you wish to make a presentation at the next Town Council meeting on April 22, you must notify Clerk/Treasurer Margaret Harvey no later than 5 PM on Monday, April 15. You must also tell her what topic or subject you wish to speak about, and your comments should pertain to the Town.

Council and staff will be monitoring how the Citizen Comments segment goes over the next few months to identify opportunities for improvement. If you have comments or suggestions, please send them to [Chris Keefer](mailto:Chris.Keefer@swanseasc.com) to share with Council.



Town of Swansea | PO Box 429, Swansea, SC 29160 803-568-2835

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