

THE TOWN OF SWANSEA
GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 25, 2024
6:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

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

ABSENT

Councilman Jerome Williams

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Viola McDaniel at the Swansea Municipal Court Room, 320 West Third Street, Swansea, SC 29160.

All media notifications were sent and the proper postings at town hall, the police department and the town website.

The town had a quorum for the meeting. Therefore, Council had a 20 second prayer and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor asked if there was a consideration to approve the minutes of the Special Call meeting of October 9th and Public Hearing meeting of October 28th at 5:30 PM and General meeting @6:00 PM. Motion presented by Councilman Luongo and second by Councilwoman Butler.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Mayor recognized three individuals by Certificate with recognition for services render after Hurricane Helene in helping the town in cutting down and removing Trees. There were two of three present Carson Stroud, Robert Anderson and Brian Martin.

JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER REPORT

Jay Nicholson presented his October monthly finding for the town of Swansea. There were no major operation issues to report. He shared update information on the Visibility Study with the COG. The first draft due in one month to get back for review and send to RIA.

Mayor had a discussion on a number of complaints from customers on water leaks.

Most towns have something for adjustments on Water leaks. The town of Swansea does not reference in the Town Ordinance 8.8.

- All services will be metered and shall be read and billed monthly as previously stated. No adjustments shall be made to Water Bills, unless there is an error in billing on the part of the Town.

Councilwoman Butler suggested, they come back to discuss giving a break to citizens of the town.

Mayor stated, they would have to amend the 8.8 Ordinance with 2 readings.

Mayor comments regarding an e-mail and other statements.

Sent out was sent to an online gossip forum and to the newspaper. It said a lot of innuendos and disparaging remarks about her and the town financial situation. She stated, she has not mis appropriate any money of the town of Swansea. The e-mail sent out about the town revenue; she stands by it. The town does not have any money.

- 2018-2019 number of people paid from litigations and paid grant
- General Fund gets it money.
- She does a lot for the town and proud of it
- January 2022 Standard Allowance from the ARP Funds were made available to the town and all the bills were paid
- She has been a good steward of the towns money.
- She asked Council to make a plan. They have not done it yet.
- Mayor stated, they are trying to tarnished her representation.

- She is going to stick around as she is a fighter. She is a steward of the town's bills. No questions were taken.

BOOKKEEPER'S REPORT

Timothy Hillian shared the monthly financial report.

- Statement of Cash and Debt.
- Water and Sewer and Sanitation YTD.
- Revenue and Expense Report

Mayor asked, the bookkeeper..... The town has a 2-million-dollar budget. How much money do we have in the bank? How the town has a 2-million-dollar budget with no money.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Christine Keefer shared her monthly report with Council.

- Council retreat scheduled for January 11th.
- They need the participation of all of Council.
- Open to the public, however no involvement from them
- Council Planning retreat, a strategic planning session will be
- asked 5 things you think are important goals for the town to accomplished in the coming year.

Councilwoman Butler mention she thought the retreat was for council to be bonding. Team building added Chris.

Mayor agreed with Councilwoman Butler as to her understanding as well from the suggestion in their last meeting.

She also shared the two events for the month of January offered to Council. Hometown Legislative Action Day January 21, Columbia Airport.

Municipal elected officials training at the Hilton/Columbia January 22, 2025.

POLICE REPORT

He would like council to give him authorization to sell two unused vehicles the Swansea Police Department is not using. It would save the Police department money in cost for property taxes, insurance fees and repairs.

IT Grant for police equipment at no cost or pay back as long the equipment is maintained under the guidelines of the grant. This grant is offered quarterly.

Sheriff office is meeting with all police chiefs to do a strategic plan for Crime Prevention Law enforcement. They will be out for the holidays and work together as a team.

Sign for the park is needed for opening and closing. This will allow the Police Department to be able to enforce with rules and guideline to go by.

A SRO officer, Zachary Sharpe was hired 11/13/2024 for the town.

Motion was presented to give Chief William Charlton authorization to sell the two vehicles that are out of service by Councilwoman Butler and second by Councilman Luongo.

Motion passed Unanimously

Mayor asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Motion presented via Councilwoman Butler and second by Luongo.

Motion passed Unanimously

Mayor stated, there were no actions taken while in Executive Session

Mayor asked, for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion presented by Councilman Luongo and second by Butler.

Motion passed Unanimously

Councilwoman Butler put a motion on the floor to adjourn and second by Councilman Luongo

Motion passed Unanimously

Respectively Submitted,

Margaret Harvey
Clerk Treasurer

8:05 pm