

TOWN OF SWANSEA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2025
6:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

All media notifications were sent out and the agenda was posted at town hall, the police department and the town's website.

The town had a quorum for the meeting. After which, council had a 20 second moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor asked if there was a motion to amend the agenda, so the dates of December 23, 2025, show as January 27, 2025.

Councilman Luongo made the motion to change the agenda to reflect the change from December 23, 2025 to January 27, 2025. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Butler. ***Motion Passed Unanimously.***

Motion to approve the Regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2025, with any necessary corrections presented by Councilwoman Butler and seconded by Councilman Williams. ***Motion Passed Unanimously.***

A motion was offered to amend Town Council Meeting Schedule for May 29, 2025 and December 17, 2025 by Councilman Luongo and seconded by Councilman Williams. ***Motion Passed Unanimously.***

A motion for a Second Reading to amend a Town Ordinance, Chapter 27 Procurement, to add Section 27.17. A motion was presented by Councilman Luongo to accept the Procurement Chapter 27. The motion was seconded by Councilman Williams. ***Motion Passed Unanimously.***

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Christine Keefer shared her monthly activities for the month of February.

The Council Retreat is rescheduled for Saturday December 11, 2025. They rescheduled the goal setting session with the, benefit of doing it at the end of the year after elections.

Chris is reviewing past annexation, addressing and rezoning request to make sure, the county has corrected zoning and addressing for everyone in the town limits should be in the list of addresses

These actions to get things cleaned up for elections and Zoning maps clean up and have a clean slate.

Chris asked for a definitive action from Council, if they wanted to proceed with redistricting or don't. If so, they can secure the help of the State Revenue and Fiscal Affairs office.

She gave Council a draft of the Resolution to authorize the towns engagement with SC RFA that needs to be signed by the mayor.

Councilwoman Butler stated years ago the redistricting took place because they could not get a Black person on Council. The NAACP worked with them to help make the change.

She stated they needed to make sure they are doing the right thing and not jeopardize what has already been done.

Attorney Dickey shared with Council that in regards to redistricting, it has to be done usually with the Census. The purpose is to get the Council districts to have a certain level number of population within the district to get them more aligned with other districts. When it starts getting out of whack. You would be concern looking at the disparaging impact. The concern is there would be a disparaging impact. However, the town can get many different options and ultimately, it would come to Council for approval. Redistricting will happen.

However, the town can get many different options and ultimately, it would come to Council for approval. Redistricting will happen. There should be stats that are provided to the town. Such as different maps, different options along with the demographic's break down and percentage. So, they will be able to see as to how the lines are drawn and who is in what district. Those are things, they will be able to consider beforehand.

He said Council concerns are well founded, understandable. It is a process not to try and change it or try to get any disproportionate composition.

Mayor wanted to know if they would be looking at the lines.

Chris shared that the Resolution gives the Revenue Fiscal affairs office the authorization and they need if Council decides to seek their assistance in redistricting.

The Mayor asked if they would be looking at their lines and population. Chris explained why redistricting is tied to the Census. It indicates if there is any change in populations moving in or out this is their opportunity to make changes.

Councilman Williams asked, what was the benefit of redistricting.

Chris shared, everyone wanted equal footing in their voter base per district.

Councilwoman Simmons said the town has not had any redistricting since 2005.

Chris told Council she is trying to make sure that people who live in the town who are registered voters are in the right voting district, so that Revenue and Fiscal Affairs can get equal numbers within the four districts are as best they can.

In addition, there is an opportunity for Councilwoman Butler to identify communities of interest they think should be left intact. RFA will take that community in consideration when looking at the map.

Councilman Williams told Council he has to do his own research as he does not have enough information to even consider making a decision that night.

Mayor stated, Council will read and have it placed on next month's agenda. She asked, what was the rush for the redistricting?

Chris told the mayor that she is trying to clean up things for the next election. It was said the town is 5 years plus post past Census.

JOINT MUNICIPAL REPORT

Jay Nicholson told the town about his monthly activities for the month of February.

There were no significant items to report. They were able to repair the Nucor Drive station. They were able to clean all lift stations for their quarterly maintenance protocol. There were a few leaks and service calls no major outages.

They did have a meeting according to the scope of the planning Viability Grant. Part of W. K. Dickson scope was to close out the study with the final -- stakeholder's holder with a final power point presentation. Councilman Luongo and Councilwoman Simmons were able to attend.

It provided some healthy discussions. There is a lot to be figured out. They are also going to pursue an agreement in good faith on the results of that report. They will be preparing applications for town signature to both RIA and to SRF for eligible projects that they can provide funding for and those will be in the town's name regardless, of whether we have a long-term agreement, with them in those negotiations. "You will have some stuff in front of you, if you decide to do that on your own".

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief William Charlton shared his February monthly report with Council. They continue to work tirelessly, to ensure safety, security and well-being of the community.

They face various challenges, but they are driven by our wavering mission to serve with integrity, compassion and professionalism.

He and Christine Keefer did a walk through with SLED in January 2025. It was recommended they needed to make a lot of changes.

- How we handle Criminal Justice information
- How we can secure it better
- Make sure it is not breached

They will be back for an audit in May 2025.

Some key things have to be changed before they return or they will fail the audit.

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- Cjis information concerns
- Make sure everyone is Cjis certified and tested
- Conduct back ground checks to see the level on file
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Chief reported he had received some medical calls and acquired 7 tasers free usually at a cost of \$2500.00. He is also going through town ordinances to update and amend Chapter 17 as the town no longer contracts for law enforcement services with Lexington County.

The department also has 4 vehicles it would like to dispose of.

Mayor inquired about the agents who came in and told Town Administrator there were no violations but recommendations. Chief said they were violations; they were kind of giving them the answers to the test.

Sled said we have to separate the Servers from the Criminal Justice Information to the Water Server. They have to be separate. Whoever has access to the server is required to be Cjis Certified.

BOOKKEEPER REPORT

Timothy Hillian shared his February monthly Financial Reports.

He presented the information concerning the following:

- Statement of Cash and Debt
- Balances on Credits
- Revenue & Expense Report
- Police Department and Water Department
- Expenses and Operating Income

Mayor asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Motion made by Councilwoman Butler and seconded by Councilman Luongo.

Motion passed Unanimously

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Motion passed Unanimously

Councilwoman Simmons made a motion to move forward with Joint pursuing a Contractual Relationship with Joint Water and Sewer as discussed in Executive Session subject to legal review. Motion seconded by Councilman Williams.

Councilman Luongo asked if the current Ordinance on contractual issues base on the new thing that was just accepted. If it was still legally bound to put it out there for bid. Once they have exhausted our resources can fall back on 27.7.

Secondly, Joint Municipal Water currently have an 18-month contract. How is that going to be affected?

Attorney Dickey shared, as far as the current operating agreement, that would be something they will decide and actual finalize the contractual relationship which would be a mutual agreement to terminate.

Secondly, Joint Water would be an intergovernmental agreement to terminate. It would be outside of the procurement code.

The town has an intergovernmental agreement is which exempt from all procurement.

Mayor asked for a vote on the motion presented first and seconded that was on the floor after discussion. ***Motion passed Unanimously***

Mayor asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Motion presented via Councilwoman Simmons and seconded by Councilman Williams.
Motion passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned

Respectively Submitted,

Margaret Harvey
2/24/2025
8:36 P.M.