

TOWN OF SWANSEA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 27, 2026
6:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Doris Simmons
Pro Tem Michael Luongo
Councilwoman Melissa Williams
Councilman Tom Daugherty

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Doris Simmons.

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

The town had a quorum for the meeting.

Reverend Smith delivered the opening invocation, and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked if there was a consideration to approve the March 10, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes and the March 23, 2026, Special Called Meeting minutes.

Councilman Luongo made the motion to accept both the minutes, and Councilwoman William seconded. Motion Passed Unanimously

The Mayor presented to Council, for consideration, a motion to approve extending the 2025-2026 Budget until May 31, 2026, to allow for corrections and proper categorization for the upcoming 2026-2027 budget.

A motion was presented by Councilman Luongo to extend the Budget to May 31, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Alley to extend the Budget to May 31, 2026.

Presentation: Louis Csabon of the American Legion of North Hero Banners. Vice Commander, American Legion North.

- The program will install Hometown Hero banners honoring local veterans
- Cost: \$300 per banner (includes banner + mounting hardware Cost to the Town: \$0 except staff time to hang banners.
- Banners are displayed 3 times per year
- Memorial Day; July 4th Veterans Day
- Eligibility: Any honorably discharged veteran with ties to Swansea

Presentation: John Kidwell, Billboard request

- Request for Council to waive the 2000 ft municipal buffer rule so a billboard can be placed near American Tool & Die
- Billboard would still require Lexington County + SCDOT permits
- Only on the billboard is possible due to spacing and business – location rules

The Mayor stated that they will discuss before issuing a letter.

Mayor & Council Comments

The Mayor shared the following:

- Two New businesses:
- Design Team (Tennessee-based; installed Hardee's sign)
- Lapidary Arts (next to town hall)

Budget

- The Mayor is still working on cleaning up some information in the accounting categories to prepare for the FY 26-27 budget.
- The Mayor addressed the scheduling of the May meeting. There was a discussion and determined that the next Meeting will be on May 26, 2025.
- There was some additional discussion about having Council meetings twice a month.
- Gary Bailey the town auditor has reached out to find out if they wanted to do the audit in the Spring or September 2026. He will start on the audit in late August 2026.

Public Comments: Swansea Business Association (GSBA)

Speaker: Joel Gordon

- Welcomed new business Waymaker Plumbing
- Lapidary Arts planning a grand opening in mid – May
- GSBA is willing to assist with Memorial Day events.
- GSBA now has a Facebook page
- Strong support for Crime Watch; next meeting May 12, 6:00 P.M.
- Councilman Dougherty encourages the support of the community.
- Exploring:
 - Cluster mailboxes with USPS Councilman Dougherty, working with the necessary individuals on this project.
 - Farmer's Market (possible Comporium property)
 - Annual Blue Berry & Honey Festival
 - Generating a Logo with the town and its colors
 - Directional/wayfinding signage for downtown businesses
 - Requested a Town Council liaison to GSBA
 - Noted safety concerns: unpainted curbs causing vehicle damage.
 - To have a discussion to start tapping into those hospitality funds for what they are designed for.
 - They have created a mission statement.

Councilman Dougherty shared that they were doing away with the rose garden
The first week of May 2026.

JOINT WATER & SEWER

Jay Nicholson shared the following:

Meter Replacement Project:

- Mass meter changeout begins this month; expected to be mostly complete by June 1.

Billing Issues:

- Some customers are reporting high bills (\$200 to \$400). Joint Water is:
- Testing questionable meters

- Adjusting bills when old meters were inaccurate

System Findings

- Many old meters under- reported usage: July bills may reflect higher, accurate usage
- Sewer system issues: grease buildup, root intrusion, and needed repairs
- Upcoming letters to commercial customers about:
- Backflow testing
- Grease Trap compliance.

Infrastructure Coordination

- Joint Water is coordinating with Lexington County on Cardiff Street repaving to avoid tearing up new pavement.
- Town received a C-Fund grant to repave from Third Street to Oak Street.

Accountant Report

- The new monthly financial format shows month-by-month cash flow.
- Investment income is now appearing in reports
- Some categories consolidated for clarity
- \$26,000 currently in uncategorized income pending proper classification, but know the account it goes to.
- Hospitality Councilwoman Alley wanted to know if the totals of H-tax jumped up that much in the month of March, collecting \$11,328.00.
- Councilman Dougherty inquired about the number of inoperable vehicles, paying for liability insurance.

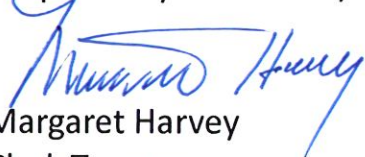
The Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Pursuant to SC Code Section 30-4-70 (a) Personnel Matters, Contractual Matters. The motion was presented by Councilman Luongo and seconded by Councilwoman Williams. Motion Passed Unanimously

The Mayor wanted to know if there was a motion to adjourn from Executive Session to General Session. A motion was presented by Councilman Luongo and seconded by Councilwoman Williams. Motion Passed Unanimously.

The Mayor said no actions were taken during the Executive Session or were to be voted on by the Council. Therefore, she inquired if there was a motion to adjourn.

Councilwoman Williams made the motion to adjourn, and Councilman Luongo seconded. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Respectively Submitted,



Margaret Harvey
Clerk Treasurer
Town of Swansea
803 568 2835

8:15