

THE TOWN OF SWANSEA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2026
6:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Doris Simmons at 6:00 P.M. at the Swansea Municipal Building Courtroom, 320 West Third Street, Swansea, SC 29160.

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

The Mayor stated that the Town had a quorum for the meeting. The Invocation was presented by Mayor Pro Tem Michael Luongo, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Simmons swore in the town's new Council Member from District 4, Tom Daugherty. After being sworn in, he began his term as Councilman Daugherty and said he looked forward to working with all of Council and helping make their community a better place for everyone. If he could do anything for any of them, let him know; they work for all constituents and would do what they could to help.

The Mayor asked for consideration of approving the minutes of the December 1, 2025, Special Call Meeting, and December 30, 2025, Regular Council Meeting. A motion was presented by Councilman Luongo and seconded by Councilwoman Williams. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Mayor inquired if there was a motion for the Second Reading of the Sanitation Rate increase. A motion was made by Councilman Luongo to approve the

Sanitation rate increase, and seconded by Councilwoman Alley. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Mayor asked for a Continuing Resolution of the 2025-2026 Budget to March 31, 2026. Councilwoman Alley moved to continue the 2025-2026 Budget Resolution to March 31, 2026. Councilman Luongo seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Mayor stated that a family at 223 Roach Avenue wanted their property to be annexed into the Town limits of Swansea—a motion for the First Reading of the Annexation Ordinance. Councilman Luongo presented a motion to approve the First Reading of the Annexation Ordinance of said property, and seconded by Councilwoman William. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Joel Gordon presented an update on the Merchant Association. Their name is The Greater Swansea Business Association. Their meeting last week was hosted by 1058 Auto and Towing, where Councilwoman Angie Alley spoke on Networking.

The Greater Swansea Business Association brought in 6 new members:

- Lapidary Arts Workshop – Stidom Family
- Cierra Jenkins
- Bee Haven Berry Farm – Dawn Duperre
- All American Sign – Brent & Charlie Joskert
- Jennifer Hill
- Bishops at The Mill

They are still discussing the process of incorporating and obtaining a 501(c)(3) status. In addition to creating a mission statement that will guide the organization, submit it when complete.

Festivals and Events ideas to draw attention to the town and highlight the downtown area. Such as the Blueberry & Honey Festival location to be determined, and work directly with the Town on all event planning.

A town cleanup is needed to attract visitors.

They will work with the town to obtain civic improvement grants and secure grants independently.

The Greater Swansea Business Association would like to be involved in the town's growth. They would like to work toward helping the town get a Welcome The sign entering the town.

Mary Dougherty, who spoke on behalf of the South Carolina Helping Hands group, congratulated the new Mayor and Council. She thanked them for everything they are doing for the town. One of the main focuses in Swansea is helping its seniors. This is a big movement they do mostly in the spring months, helping them with yard work, hauling off trash. If they know of anyone who has any of these needs and could volunteer, please let them know. They have some big jobs coming up.

Another reason is that every year, starting with what their group was called, Promoting Swansea, South Carolina. They would do the Scarecrow showdown. It was locally located at the Baptist Church in Scarecrow Alley between Truist Bank and the church. They wanted to ask the town if they could spread it out rather than keep it at a central location. To find places in town to map out residential and business areas, you could put scarecrows all around the town. They wanted to see if they could get permission to spread it out so people would not have to drive to a single location.

The Mayor stated that she did not see a problem as long as a request for the activity was submitted. Council could look at it at that point.

Mary indicated that she would get an idea of the best places to put them. In addition to having, it mapped out to see if they agree.

Councilman Luongo stated he knows the town of Lexington does something similar; all the businesses would have their scarecrows outside their businesses.

Chris of Pollock Company shared information with the Council on the IT Services it provides.

He shared that the company already provides equipment and service management for the Town of Swansea with its printers and copiers. Some of the things the town is lacking are the following:

- In-House IT Support
- Unlimited labor and support
- User trainer and Set Up
- Preventative Maintenance
- Remote Monitoring and Management
- Help Desk Support, etc. Day-to-Day Operational Support
- UCIO -Long-term Plan for the town partner

Council and Mayor Comments

The Mayor asked Deputy Bird-Gaston, Resident Deputy, to speak to the Swansea Residents about Park signage. Basic areas of crime, just to be aware of, and to prevent being a victim. The statistical numbers from January 1, 2025, to the current year, 2026.

- 176 current offenses related to property crimes.
- General highs are larceny 67 in Swansea
- 41 burglaries; 26 thefts of motor vehicles
- 25 vehicles thefts; 8 thefts from business
- 9 incidents of vehicle burglary

As a general rule of thumb, lock everything up, vehicles, nothing in plain sight
As well to add security and lighting, with valuable items out of sight.

Crime Watch requires two formal meetings, a sign-in roster to account for residents, and contact with the Action Team and Lt. Barrett to review criminal activity.

The Mayor explained, they have had some homeless people in and out of the L O Rast Park. They had an incident with a gentleman who was off his medication and was not rational in his actions.

She spoke with the sheriff's department before and learned they needed to obtain their information, as the sheriff's department would either make them leave or, if they returned, arrest them for trespassing.

The Deputy stated that a government official must authorize the trespass and be present when the individual is to be arrested.

Councilwoman Alley did some research on the Park Signage rules that were sent out a couple of months ago, as the only information found was on Ordinance 15.6. She shared the data with the Mayor, Council, and Town Attorney Joseph Dickey. She indicated that, after the information is reviewed, the Council will determine which direction the town should take.

Councilman Luongo said the Signage list needs to be refined by the Council.

Under Social Media, the town owns its Facebook Page because it wants to use every means possible to get the information out.

Councilman Daugherty and Alley suggested starting a new Facebook Page. The Mayor asked for a vote to create a Facebook Page.

Attorney Scott stated it was not necessary to. If they choose to vote, they can. He indicated that the credentials are procedural and will be tied solely to the town's account. The control would always be maintained; no individual would prevent access or go through any authorization for an individual's personal account.

The mayor asked whether they could include Social Media in the town's ordinance.

Attorney Scott told Council he does not think that necessarily has to make its way into the ordinance, preferably as policy. They will be happy to draft something.

John Hanson of the Council of Government shared information on the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Swansea. There has been an agreement between the COG and the town for one year, covering the 2024 and 2025 Fiscal Years. This was for COG to start work on the Comprehensive Plan. They have 5 to 6 chapters of the Comprehensive Plan in draft form as of now. They just need to renew the agreement to move forward. Most of the conversation was with the previous administrator.

The previous agreement was a set-amount bill, not to exceed a certain monthly limit, that could be spread out.

We need the Planning Commission to tell them their goals and objectives. He also suggests that the Planning Commission may want to include the town's policy document.

There were no Public Comments for the Town of Swansea.

Joint Municipal Water Report

Jay Nicholson shared his monthly report. Their 40-year agreement commenced on February 1, 2026.

They had a good turnout for the community meeting. There were good questions and a lot of follow-ups about some items in the account register and what needs to be done.

They had the mid-20s range, where the account had a meter but no account on record. These accounts had address issues. A letter will be sent to everyone about the change. He is not pleased with the sales contractor with the meter supplier.

He was able to get the Grant extended for the evaluation of the meter supplier. He had their contractor come out and do an audit to see what was there.

The March Reading will be by the Joint Municipal Water. The most accurate and comprehensive information as soon as possible.

April – May season, the first bill after irrigation will have high call volume. He met with the funding agencies for the 4 million for the projects. Guy is trying to coordinate that mix, a little of that with the RIA stuff. Rural Infrastructure does not pay for engineering; SRF does. If they can bundle some of the packages, they will.

They had a successful onboarding meeting with Commissioner Luongo and two other appointed Commissioners.

Joint Municipal Water is paying off \$75,500 plus of the Truist loan as of March 2, 2026.

Councilman Luongo said he had his first meeting in January and wanted everyone to know about it. The town will be very proud of Jay with Joint Municipal Water, as they are in good hands.

The Accountant Report

Timothy Hillian shared his monthly financial report with the Council.
The Statement of Cash and Debt balance is as of 10:00 this morning.

He shares the balance from Town Hall of the Hospitality Tax of \$72,112.84
The Police Department, funds, the Mayor told Council, we were still collecting a lot of funds.

Timothy shared the town's liabilities, which were Truist, USDA Bank, and the town's credit card. In addition to reviewing the Revenue and Expense Report for December 2025 to January 2026.

The Mayor told the Council in January that something had happened with the October, November, and December USDA payments, which were not made.

Council Luongo stated there was a government shutdown.

Timothy went on to review the Budget from the Revenue Expense to the Budget.

The Mayor asked for a motion to go into Executive Session Pursuant to SC Code Section 30-4-70 (a) to discuss (1) Personnel Matters, (2) Planning and Zoning Applicants, (3) Code Enforcement.

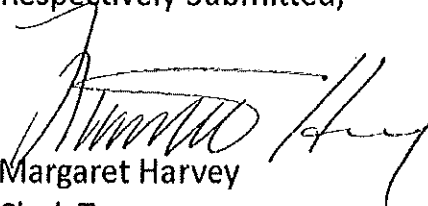
The motion was presented by Council Luongo and seconded by Councilwoman Williams. **Motion Passed Unanimously**

Mayor said there were no actions taken or voted on while in Executive Session.

There was nothing else to discuss, and the Mayor asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

Motion was presented by Councilwoman Alley and seconded by Councilman Daugherty. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectively Submitted,



Margaret Harvey
Clerk Treasurer

Time: 8:50

SWANSEA
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M.
February 23, 2026, 2026

SIGN-IN SHEET
(Please Print)

NAME

Del Gorton

ADDRESS

290 S Main Street

NAME

ADDRESS