

Town of Swansea
Council
Regular Council Meeting
December 1, 2025
6:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Doris W. Simmons
Pro Tem Michael Luongo
Councilwoman Melissa Williams
Councilwoman Angie Alley

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, S.C. 29160.

All media notifications were sent, and the agenda was posted at the Town Hall, the Police Department, the Town's website, and the Mayor's Facebook page.

The Mayor stated that the Town had a quorum for the meeting. The invocation was presented by Rev. Lucius Smith, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for consideration of approving the minutes of August 25, 2025, September 4, 2025, September 22, 2025, September 29, 2025, October 13, 2025, and October 27, 2025.

Councilman Luongo stated he was missing the October 13th and October 27th minutes and put a motion to table until the next meeting. Councilwoman Angie Alley seconded the motion. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

A motion was put on the floor to approve the minutes of August 25, 2025, September 4, 2025, September 22, 2025, and September 29, 2025 by Councilman Luongo and seconded by Councilwoman Alley. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

Mayor Simmons inquired if there was a motion to appoint a Mayor Pro Tem. Councilwoman Alley nominated Councilman Michael Luongo as Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilwoman Williams seconded the motion. The vote was three for yes, and one abstained. **Motion Passed.**

The Mayor asked whether there was a motion to reappoint the Law Firm of Haynsworth, Sinkler Boyd.

Councilman Luongo, "There is a motion here that we move that we re-appoint the Law Firm of Haynesworth Sinkler Boyd to serve as Town Attorney. I think we need to open the floor for discussion. "

The Mayor said the motion had not been seconded; therefore," Councilwoman Alley seconded the motion that we appoint the Town Attorney, it says Joseph Dickey, but sounds like it was the firm," Councilman Luongo Haynsworth, Sinkler Boyd.

Councilman Luongo, "This is not personal, what I am fixing to say, but due to the financial constraints of this Town, I feel it is in our best interests as a Town, to get a handle of our finances first, before we start moving forward with expenditures, because I am very concerned that we no longer have, a water department expense to help pay for that. We no longer have, right now currently, we don't have a police department. That is part of the way the expense is break down in this. So I am a little overly concern about that right now. I would like to actually see all of these are put back out for bid. That's just me, that's my take."

Councilwoman Alley, it's a contract, right? What's the term of the contract?

Councilman Luongo, where do we stand on this, Joseph?

Attorney Dickey shared that, because it is a contract, the Town would not want to discuss it in General Sessions. They would have to talk about it in Executive Sessions.

The Mayor stated that they would table and move to Executive Session and would discuss tonight in Executive Session, if they had time, or move to the next meeting.

Councilman Luongo made a motion to table it until we could determine the Town's financial strength. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Alley.
Motion Passed Unanimously

The Town Attorney stated that contracts have to be discussed in Executive Session. The Mayor inquired if it could be tabled until the next meeting. Councilman Luongo made a motion to table the reappointment until the next meeting for discussion in the Executive Session. Councilwoman Alley seconded the motion.
Motion Passed Unanimously.

The Mayor presented to Council the Town of Swansea Holiday Schedule for 2026.

Councilman Luongo made the motion to accept the Holiday Schedule as presented to Council. Councilwoman Williams seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Alley wanted to amend the motion on the Holiday Schedule by removing Confederate Day. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams.
Motion Passed Unanimously.

The Mayor asked if there was a motion to accept the 2026 Town of Swansea Council Meeting dates. Councilwoman Alley presented the motion to accept the Council Meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Councilman Luongo, with any necessary changes to be made within the year. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

Joel Gordon of Kozy Kitchen gave a presentation to the Town. He congratulated everyone elected to the Council. He likes seeing the fresh faces and, hopefully, some good leadership. He is starting to see a lot of that energy starting to come out—the Christmas decorations on the light poles. Alex, Angie, and Mary worked on putting everything up, helping with Helping Hands in the park, and cleaning it up. They did a fantastic job. These are some of the energies they are starting to see.

The parade and the tree lighting. A program is being put together afterward called the Meet Me Downtown initiative to bring attention to the businesses that are here in downtown Swansea. To walk through or drive through the Town to see

the companies. Several businesses will open late, with special programs to highlight the business community.

There is an interest in forming a Merchants Association in Town. They want to build the business community as a united group. They also want to work with the Town Council to develop the Town's business and to encourage people to come into town.

They would work with Helping Hands and the P.U.L.L. Organization to improve things. A get-together on Wednesday, December 10th, at 7:00 at Kozy Kitchen. They are inviting every business owner or manager to submit a concept to advance the initiative. He had Flyers available for the attendees.

Wade Cucleasure of the Babcock Center, who works with adults with long-term disabilities. They have a mobile Coffee Trailer initiative of the Babcock Center, which provides meaningful, community-based employment and training opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They want to be a part of the Christmas Parade and the business initiative in any way they can. They can help people get their businesses up and running and support people with disabilities in the community.

Permelia Luongo, the Chairperson of the Planning Commission, with dedicated members Suzanne Hackett, Rae Watson, and Tom Daughtery.

The Planning Commission was established in November 2022. All members have completed all the required Municipal Association training, as well as the continuing education courses for Planning and Zoning officials offered by the Central Midlands Council of Governments. They have participated in multiple workshops at the Town Hall through the Central Midlands Council of Governments.

They meet on the last Thursday of each month; however, they are considering changing the schedule and will notify Council when the changes are made.

In the coming weeks, they will be reviewing two projects, Elm Creek apartments, and a possible family to be annexed into the town.

The Planning Commission has one request for the Mayor and Council. They would like to request a joint meeting between the Planning Commission and the Town of Swansea Council to discuss and establish a shared vision for Swansea's future.

As part of the Planning Commission's responsibility to support and advance the comprehensive planning process, this collaborative discussion is a necessary step.

So, they believe a joint meeting will ensure alignment, clarity, and a unified direction as they continue to do this critical work?

JOINT WATER REPORT

Jay Nicholson was not in attendance for a report; however, on December 10, 2025, information was passed on to the Mayor that a Joint Municipal Water Meeting is scheduled for the Businesses of the Town of Swansea from 3 to 5 p.m. in the conference room at town hall regarding Joint Water and Sewer.

Another meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2025, for the public and residents from 6 to 8 at the Freshman Academy. The information shared would pertain to the transition of Swansea Water to Joint Water.

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

Timothy Hillian shared his monthly financials. The statement of Cash and Debt. The Town's credit card, two loans, and balances.

He had the Revenue and Expenses Report as of 10/3/2025. He summarized the additional financial information on the General Fund, Police, Water, Sewers, and the budget.

The Revenue and Expenditure report will end as of October 31, 2025.

Mayor - The reason for the October report was that the meeting dates last week, we are doing our right now. They will have another meeting in December, and the report will cover December.

Timothy Hillian— Income on the first page for the Water Department, Town Hall, and Police Department.

Mayor – Income for the four-month period was over \$430,000, including the General Fund, Police Department, Water and Sewer, plus Sanitation.

Timothy Hillian – Expenses on Page 2 of 6. Columns talk about the Classes for Police, Town, and Water.

The Mayor stated, "It's basically a breakdown like any other Business, a breakdown of what's been spent for various items. Whoever it is, if it's the Council, Police Department, Town Hall, or the Water and Sewer, that is what the report is. It's a breakdown of the income collected.

Timothy Hillian – Page 3 of 6, a series of numbers on the left side. The numbers correspond to a number on the budget's

Mayor – You think you get a lot of money out of the Police Department, but you get very little out of that money.

Timothy Hillian -Last Page 5 of 6 80000 Section flip to 608. "You will see something a little unusual. The Mayor requested this. Profit and Loss statement. We used to talk about the interest we pay. We brought over the balance for this section here. The Bottom section has no connection to the rest of the others. So, you can see the balance on the corresponding loan being paid, including interest.

Mayor – "The reason I did that, I'll explain, we pay out. We have 2 bonds that we pay money to the Town on. It doesn't actually have a Profit and Loss on a Revenue statement like a normal business would. But the thing is, we were paying out principal on the loans that were not showing up. It shows up and handles differently if you have a regular Profit and Loss. In this figure at the very end, we are at a loss of \$126,000 over the four months. That doesn't mean we don't have any money. It just means during these four months, we have income coming in, we had money carrying over that kept us flowing. You have been asking where is the money. It's there, but very limited. The bulk of the income is from February to June of each year. We will arrange to save some money by the end of the year."

Timothy Hillian shared the highlights of the Town Revenue Budget.

Mayor, we set aside a certain amount. We should try to make up the expense in that category to the amount it was budgeted for. Things fluctuate, and we may have to pull from one area without expenses to cover an area with all expenses.

Timothy Hillian has two budgets: one for the Municipality and the other for Enterprise Water.

Mayor, we are in the hole for the Water Department. The majority of the reason for that is that the sewer lines are in such bad shape that we have a reader for the amount of Sewer that goes out of town to a wastewater plant. Measure and go to the Cayce Sewer lines, which collect rainwater that goes to the ground, and measure that water through the sewer line. They cannot separate, and the Town is being charged for a tremendous amount of money.

The Mayor asked if there was a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilman Luongo made a motion to go into Executive Session and seconded by Councilwoman Alley. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

The Mayor asked if there was a motion to come out of Executive Session. A motion was presented by Councilwoman Alley and seconded by Councilwoman Williams. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

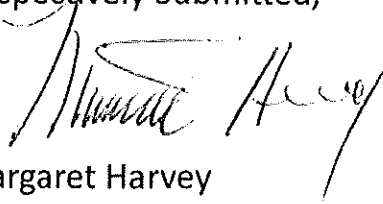
The Mayor asked whether any actions had arisen from the Executive Session. Councilman Luongo presented a motion for the First Reading of Ordinance 19-10 of the Lexington County Stormwater Management Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

The Mayor shared some other information as New Business to move forward to discuss the following:

Changing of Locks, Hiring of Code Enforcement officer, Credit Card transfer and authorization, Sanitation increase, Verizon Plan, phones, tablets, and Internet. Social media, a Rebranding slogan ("We believe in Swansea"), and a trademark.

The Mayor indicated there was no other business to discuss and asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Councilman Luongo presented a motion to adjourn, followed by a second by Councilwoman Williams. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

Respectively Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Margaret Harvey', written in dark ink.

Margaret Harvey
Clerk Treasurer