

TOWN OF SWANSEA
COUNCIL
Regular meeting
August 24, 2026
6:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

We sent all notifications to the appropriate outlets. A quorum was present. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor David McElreath of the Swansea United Methodist Church delivered the invocation.

The Mayor asked for consideration and approval of the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of July 27, 2026.

Council did not receive the minutes in its packet. Clerk-Treasurer agreed to print and make them available after Executive Session.

Councilman Luongo moved to consider and approve the minutes after Executive Session. Councilwoman Williams seconded the motion. Motion Passed Unanimously

Mayor asked for a motion to separate some of the town's General Funds into a Money Market account to earn interest and reduce exposure to potential bank account hacking.

Councilman Luongo presented the motion, and Councilman Daugherty seconded the motion. Motion Passed Unanimously.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the Ordinance with a rate increase for Sanitation for Residents from \$20.63 to \$25.00 and Commercial from \$21.09 to \$28.00. Councilwoman Alley moved to approve the Sanitation rate increase for the town. Councilman Luongo seconded the motion to increase the Sanitation rate. Motion Passed Unanimously.

The Mayor asked for a motion to extend the Resolution on the Budget for 2025-2026 to October 31, 2026.

The town will have a Budget Workshop:

- September 14, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.
- First Reading of the Budget: 9/28/2026 Public Hearing
- October 5, 2026: Second Reading

Councilman Lungo moved to approve, and Councilwoman Alley seconded, to extend the Resolution on the Budget. Motion Passed Unanimously

Margaret Harvey, Clerk Treasurer, shared the following with the Council. Business License monthly information. For the Town of Swansea: three new Business accounts opened, totaling \$519.00 collected. Two Business License Renewal accounts from businesses totaled \$377.94, for a total of \$926.24.

The totals for the License year from 05/01/2026 to present total \$50,734.89

A master Business list was provided for all new accounts opened for the month.

Hospitality Tax Report

Current payments collected for July: \$11,810.27

Past-due accounts:

- 398 / 1 month
- 752 / 1 month
- 759 / 3 months (later clarified as closed)
- Year-to-date hospitality revenue (May 1, 2026 -April 30, 2027): \$58,301.26
- Payments as of today total \$11,810.27 for the month of July.

Accountants Report

Timothy Hillian shared the monthly financial activities for July with Council. The information included the Cash and Debt statement.

He had the Revenue and Expenses Report, which he reviewed with Council.

Mary Daugherty of Helping Hands presented information to Council for consideration and approval of scarecrow locations within the Town of Swansea.

Council reviewed proposed locations for the annual scarecrow displays. Locations include Highway 6, Highway 321, and the fountain area. Other in-town sites were also considered. The goal is to keep displays visible, safe, off sidewalks, and away from road obstructions. Residences and businesses will place their own scarecrows. No placements will be made at Swansea Baptist Church this year to keep displays concentrated along main travel routes.

Councilwoman Alley moved to approve the suggested scarecrow locations for residences, businesses, and organizations, with displays beginning October 1 through October 31 and removed November 14th. Councilwoman Alley moved to approve the use of scarecrows throughout the town; Councilman Daugherty seconded. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Karen Stidom - Coordinator Report

Christmas Parade & Holiday Weekend Planning

- Christmas Parade will be in lights this year
- Date: Sunday, December 6
- Tree lighting & activities: Saturday, December 5
- Line-up: 3:00 PM
- Parade start: 5:30 PM
- 14 floats already registered
- Santa will appear both at the fountain on Saturday and on a dedicated float on Sunday

- Committee is exploring a Santa throne, seating, decorations, and float setup.
- A budget request will be prepared for the September 28 meeting.
- Potential Grand Marshal candidates discussed:
 - Minnie Jackson (age 101)
 - Tony Gold
 - Coach Ben (turning 100)
 - Bruce Cook (WWII veteran)

Public Comments:

Iva Hall, 131 Monroe Avenue, Swansea, SC 29160, wanted Council to know that whoever did the sidewalks did a beautiful job.

(Ray Mullins) Town maintenance personnel, Council shared

Linda Butler, 444 Swansea Heights, Swansea, SC 29160, thanked Council for all they are doing in town.

Christmas Decorations – Lights, Bulbs & Brackets

Discussion: The town needs replacement Christmas light bulbs (estimated 3,000–3,500 bulbs), pole brackets, and repairs to the Christmas tree lighting system. Swansea High School's electrical program previously refurbished fixtures and repaired the tree wiring.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve purchasing Christmas light bulbs, brackets, and Christmas tree repairs using hospitality tax funds. Amendment: needed, per Councilman Luongo, to use Hospitality Tax Money, and seconded by Councilwoman Alley. Total cost not to exceed \$3000; any amount above must return to Council for approval. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Councilwoman Alley shared the following:

Ray Mullins is very passionate and takes pride in what he does for the town.

Trunk-or-Treat, Vintage Market & Car Show

Events:

- Trunk-or-Treat: October 31 on Monmouth Street; businesses may participate
- Vintage Market & Car Show: October 3
- Vendor and car registration
- NuCor expressed interest in a future partnership and possibly hosting a larger joint car show next year.
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Road Closures: Council discussed requesting closures for:

- Second Street at Monmouth
- Portions of Third Street (stopping before Paparoni's)
- Possibly extending toward the fire department depending on car show turnout.

The Mayor asked for a motion to go into Executive Session; Councilman Luongo made the motion, and Councilwoman Williams seconded. Motion Passed Unanimously

Mayor asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Councilman Luongo made the motion, and Councilwoman Williams seconded. Motion Passed Unanimously

No actions were taken in Executive Session.

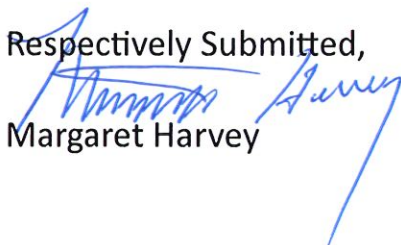
Copies of the minutes were provided to Council members.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2026 Regular Council meeting.

Councilwoman Williams moved to accept the minutes of July 27, 2026, and Councilwoman Alley seconded. Motion Passed Unanimously

Mayor asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Councilman Daugherty made the motion, and Councilwoman Williams seconded. Motion Passed Unanimously

Respectively Submitted,


Margaret Harvey