

TOWN OF SWANSEA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 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 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.

The invocation was delivered by Rev. Jones, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

The Mayor asked if there was a consideration to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 23, 2026.

Councilman Luongo moved to approve the minutes of February 23, 2026, and Councilwoman Angie Alley seconded the motion. Motion Passed Unanimously

The Mayor had a Second Reading for the Annexation Ordinance for the property at 223 Roach Avenue, Swansea, SC 29160. Councilman Luongo made the motion for the approval of the Second Reading of the Annexation Ordinance for 223 Roach Avenue, Swansea, SC 29160. Councilwoman William seconded the motion of the town moving forward with the Annexation Ordinance for the property at 223 Roach Avenue. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Clerk Treasurer Margaret Harvey presented the Town of Swansea Business License information. Business licenses are a major revenue source besides franchise fees

(Dominion, Aiken Electric, Comporium). MASC broker taxes, insurance tax program, and debt set-off. The town adopted the SC Business License Tax

Standardization Act (Act 176 of 2020)

- Standard license year: May 1 – April 30.
- Business license schedules must be updated annually
- 176 businesses listed for 2025-2026
- 113 active/paid
- 63 inactive/closed/one-time jobs
- Renewal letters mailed; Mayor exploring email notifications
- Revenue collected so far: \$54,675.00(as of 4/30/25).
- Payment methods: cashier's check, money order, cash, online portal (credit/debit).
- Penalties: 5% per month after May 1
- In-town base fee: \$100 +\$1 per \$2000 gross. Out-of-town: \$200 + \$2 per \$2000 gross.

The New Business Licenses Report

- 11 new accounts opened (January 1 – March 15, 2026).
- Revenue collected: \$21,776.61
- Gross reported sales: \$537,848.56 total cost of jobs.

Hospitality Tax Update

- Hospitality tax began in July 2025 (prepared foods and beverages).
- Businesses remit by the 20th of each month.
- Two businesses are 2+months past due; letters will be sent.
- Allowable uses (per prior Town Administrator and Hospitality booklet).
- Façade Improvements
- Directional signage
- Street tree planting/maintenance
- Fountain Park improvements
- L. O. Rast Park improvements
- Marketing/tourism material

Council and Mayor Comments

Councilman Luongo reminded each Council member that they had until the 30th to do their Ethics filing.

Councilwoman Alley and Mayor Doris Simmons attended the Military Ball at the Swansea school Saturday night. It was a wonderful community event.

She participated in a yard clean-up for senior citizens and a litter pick-up throughout the town on Sunday afternoon.

Strictly Running will have a 5K race at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday through town. The residents may hear music around 7:45, along with extra noise, due to the race. The police will manage crossings.

Councilman Dougherty wanted to thank Councilwoman Alley for the bench and flowers in front of the town hall. It's first class, and it looks really nice.

Councilman Dougherty District concerns:

- Garbage pickup failures:
- Missed streets; trash stayed out one week.
- Council demands improved service or considers alternatives.

Loose dogs:

- Reports of roaming dogs and safety concerns.
- Tom volunteered to help secure animals until the county arrives.

Dangerous intersection (Martin Neese Road & Hwy 6):

- DOT only added signs & a
- larger stop sign.
- Council believes more is needed (roundabout, flashing light).

Dangling wires around town:

- Safety hazard: likely Aiken Electric/Spectrum.
- Calls will be made for immediate correction.

Railroad track landscaping area:

- Needs consistent maintenance or removal
- Volunteer available to maintain if the town commits.

Councilwoman Williams shared that her Pastor was planning a big yard sale and asked whether a Permit was required. The information was provided by Mayor Simmons. The answer was no.

- Nonprofit yard sale: No permit required.
- Trash truck breakdown: Caused delays; personnel shortages noted.

The Mayor shared the CSX Railroad Crossing Notice of Temporary Closing.

- Repairs scheduled:
- March 30 – 1 week
- April 6 – additional period
- Crossings may be closed intermittently for up to 2-3 weeks, depending on the field conditions.
- Detours will be required; updates to be posted.

Public Comments

Tom Stidom, co-owner of the Lapidary Art Workshop, shared some information on behalf of Joel Gordon.

- Kozy Kitchen now open Friday – Sunday, 6:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.
- Lapidary Arts Workshop signage installed; Open house planned April 10-12
- Services included gemstone cutting/polishing, 3D printing, sublimation, tumblers, and T-shirts.
- Classes: \$50-100/day, approximately one week for gemstone faceting.
- 280 West Third Street is the Retail side, and 290 West Third is the Workshop

Joint Water and Sewer Report

The Mayor read the Water and Sewer report in Jay Nicholson's absence.

- The water payment drop box now belongs to Joint Water for payments.
- Meter replacements begin in April; major contractor work starts in May.
- Recent repairs:
 - 2" main break – East Crabb and North Bartow
 - 3" main repair 726 South Church Street
 - Sewer lateral repair –
- Two project questionnaires submitted to DHEC for funding
- Continuing design phase for existing 2025 grant.

Accountant Report:

Timothy Hillian shared his monthly financial report with the Council.

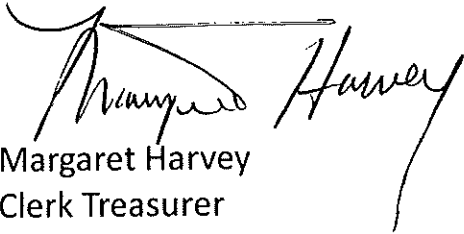
- Hospitality account balance updated.
- Two loans removed from town responsibility:
 - Small loan (Truist) paid off.
 - Large USDA loan now paid by Joint Water
- Saves the town approximately 13,000/month
- February revenue/expense report reviewed
- FY budget (July – February) reviewed; categories compared to budgeted amounts.
- \$75,000 unclassified revenue pending Nicholson breakdown. Mayor checking with Jay for the breakdown.
- Permit fee revenue questioned: zoning/sign permits have occurred but have not yet been reflected.
- The Mayor does not have a Police Department, but the town is still collecting money.

The Mayor asked for a motion to Adjourn to Executive Session. A motion was presented by Councilman Luongo and seconded by Councilman Dougherty.
Motion Passed Unanimously

The Mayor requested a motion to come out of Executive Session. The motion was presented by Councilman Luongo and seconded by Councilwoman Williams.

There was no other business to discuss; therefore, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Councilman Dougherty and seconded by Councilwoman Williams. Motion Passed Unanimously

Respectively Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Margaret Harvey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Margaret Harvey
Clerk Treasurer
Town of Swansea
803 568 2835

SWANSEA
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M.
MARCH 23, 2026
SIGN-IN SHEET
(Please Print)

NAME

ADDRESS

Tammy Coady

175 N Lady St

Joel Gonsky

290 S Milmar St

Karen Stidom

280-290 West Third

Mike Stidom

280-290 West Third

Tom Stidom

280-290 West Third

Rep. H. Gary Jones

406 Bx Rish Pond

NAME

ADDRESS