

TOWN OF SWANSEA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 26, 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 notifications were sent to the appropriate outlets
- There was a quorum for the meeting.
- The Invocation was delivered by Pastor Michael Copeland, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The Mayor asked for consideration to approve the minutes
- Motion presented by Councilman Luongo to accept the minutes for April 21 (Special Call) and April 27 (Regular Council Meeting).
- Motion Passed Unanimously.

BUSINESS LICENSE REPORT

Clerk Treasurer shared that current reports show 163 businesses, but many need to be purged due to closures or inactivity as part of a one-time job.

- Some companies are late due to out-of-state processing.
- Late penalties: 5% per month on annual gross income.
- DOR provides gross receipts for verification.

Speaker Joel Gordon

He spoke on behalf of the Greater Swansea Merchant Association.

- Correction noted: name is Greater Swansea Business Association
- New member: Big Dog Barbershop
- Ribbon cutting for Lapidary Arts on June 6 at 10:00 A.M.
- Cluster mailbox project delayed; installation likely July 1
- Discussion about whether the Council should send a representative decision: attendance is fine, but do not formally call it a liaison

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public speakers

PARK RULES RESOLUTION

- Council reviewed and adopted Park Rules (with amendments). Key rules in Exhibit A.

Hours: Park opens at Sunrise and closes at Sunset.

The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the Park Rules. Motion presented by Councilman Luongo to adopt the Park Rules. Councilwoman Alley amended the motion to approve the Resolution, subject to the stated revision. The motion to amend the motion to the Park and Fountain rules, whereas the Park opens at Sunrise and closes at Sunset. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tom Dougherty. Motion Passed Unanimously

FIRE MARSHAL BURN ORDINANCE RESOLUTION

Lexington County Fire Marshal requested authority to enforce burn restrictions inside town limits.

Councilman Luongo made the motion to update the Code of Enforcement of the Burn Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Alley.
Motion Passed Unanimously

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

The Mayor presented the Budget to the Council, which was received prior to the Regular Council Meeting.

Councilman Luongo had several line items questioned.

Revenue Concerns:

- Homestead Exemption Reimbursement appears low this year. We received around \$15,000, and all of a sudden ...\$900.00.
- Business License revenue appears down by \$26,000, possibly due to prior-year overpayments.
- The Insurance Revenue line appears off by -\$113,000 and needs review.

GENERAL NOTES

- Budget must be advertised 15 days before the next meeting for public hearing and Second Reading.
- Several upcoming expenses not yet resolved:
 - Building repairs (roof, HVAC)
 - Police Department grant status
 - Outstanding debts

DOMINION ENERGY BANNER CONTRACT

- Dominion changed requirements for holiday banners and fixtures.
- Town will not be charged this year for existing fixtures.
- Future increases may cost \$100.00 per pole.
- Insurance requirements may require a separate public liability policy.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL DISCUSSION

SURPLUS VEHICLES/POLICE CARS

- Several inoperable vehicles are stored behind Town Hall.
- The town is paying insurance on them unnecessarily.
- State Surplus can remove them at no cost.

- Councilman Luongo made a motion to authorize the Mayor to proceed with identifying which Police vehicles need to be sold. The motion was seconded
- by Councilman Dougherty. Motion Passed Unanimously.
- One Malibu police car is in good condition and will be kept.
- Discussion about possibly repairing a Dodge Charger for future police use.
- The Mayor shared information on the 2026 MASC Annual meeting in Greenville, SC. In addition to asking the Council members interested in attending July 15-19, 2026.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Baccalaureate Service: June 5 at 7:00 P.M. (Performing Arts Center).
- Lapidary Arts Ribbon Cutting: June 6 at 10:00 A.M.
- Juneteenth Celebration: June 19 (time TBD)
- July 4th 250th Anniversary Celebration is being planned.
- Back-to-School Bash: July 25 at Town Hall parking lot.
- Working on the Water Fountain

POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANT

Grant submitted for \$65,500 for cybersecurity and IT upgrades required for SLED certification. This is the starting point for getting the police department back up and running. Award expected in 4-5 months.

JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER REPORT

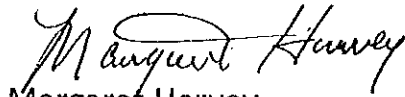
- Are meter changeouts over 50% complete?
- Water loss is currently around 35%.
- 146 delinquent accounts, 47 above cutoff threshold.
-
- First cutoff scheduled for June 23.
- Sewer project design phase 4 – 8 months, construction likely early Next year.
- Cardiff Road resurfacing may be this summer: water/sewer work must be coordinated, before paving.

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

- Hospitality Tax (H-Tax) is now tracked separately.
- Attorney fees split differently due to police department closure
- Some line items will be reorganized for the next fiscal year.
- The Mayor shared that Merchant Inventory Disbursement should be under MASC.
- Timothy Hillian reviewed the expenses by month for the Council.

The Mayor asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Councilman Luongo presented the motion, and it was seconded by Councilwoman Williams. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Margaret Harvey".

Margaret Harvey

Clerk Treasurer

Town of Swansea

803 568 2835

7:25 P.M.

EXHIBIT A

Park and Fountain Rules

- **Park opens at Sunrise and Closes at Sunset**
- **All tables are for public use**
- **Service animals are allowed. All other animals are prohibited from the playground area. Pets must always be leashed. Animal waste must be picked up and disposed of immediately. Pets must not be left unattended.**
- **Playground equipment should only be used as intended by design**
- **Electrical outlets are for Town of Swansea use only**
- **No Littering. Please use the trash receptacles located throughout the park.**
- **All Private Events and Activities must be approved by the Town of Swansea**
- **NO Abusive language, insulting or indecent conduct, loud music or any behavior which interferes with visitors**
- **NO Alcoholic beverages , unless permitted by the Town of Swansea**
- **NO Smoking, Vaping and or use of similar products.**
- **NO Glass Containers**
- **NO fires, grilling or Fireworks unless approved by the Town of Swansea**
- **NO Loitering, Sleeping or camping**
- **No vending, selling or peddling**
- **No Damaging, removing, sitting on top of, and /or disfiguring the playground equipment and /or tables**
- **NO Skateboarding in playground area and Pavilion**
- **NO display and /or brandishing of firearms**
- **No Climbing on retaining walls, brick walls and /or fencing**
- **No Overnight parking or recreational vehicles, campers, trailers, or similar vehicles unless permitted by the town of Swansea**