

SWANSEA TOWN COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2020

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Jerald Sanders
Mayor Pro-Tem Woodrow Davis
Councilwoman Linda Butler
Councilman Michael Luongo
Councilwoman Doris Simmons

The Swansea Town Council held its monthly meeting at the Swansea Municipal Building 320 West Third Street, Swansea, SC.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Jerald Sanders, confirming The media was notified and the agenda had been posted at Swansea Town Hall the Police Department and the Website. The pledge of allegiance was recited and then led in prayer by Councilman Woodrow Davis.

Councilwoman Simmons asked council for a vote to add to the agenda about a FOIA request submitted. Mayor shared Attorney Dickey and her attorney was handling the FOIA. Councilwoman Simmons told Mayor and Council. She did not have an attorney or know what he was talking about.

Councilman Luongo, wanted advice from town Attorney Sidney Evering on the agenda. Who shared, they would get with the Mayor, for there is not a code or policy as to how this has to happen. This is something that has to be worked out as council.

The minutes were approved for January 27, 2020 with any necessary corrections. A motion was presented via Councilwoman Linda Butler and seconded by Councilman Woodrow Davis. The motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor shared the 2020 Census was coming up and recommended the information be read carefully and completed then sent back. It helps the town in areas to receive money for the Town of Swansea.

Councilwoman Simmons shared information about HGTV contest, TOS was entered in to see if it could be revitalized.

Mayor asked, for a motion to take the Temporary Vendor Event Amendment out of Session and put it on the agenda for the First Reading. The motion was made by Councilwoman Doris Simmons and second by Councilman Woodrow Davis.

Mayor asked for a motion to accept the package 8.63 Temporary Vendor Event Amendment to the Business License. A consideration for the First Reading Amendment, Councilwoman Simmons presented the motion with necessary corrections and seconded by Councilwoman Butler. The motion carried.

Councilman Luongo shared he had concerns to town attorney. 24 months to him no financial. How solvent is the town? If, the town can pay its bills, employment cost money, new leasing agreement for copier, no back ground check on individual application.

Mayor shared the town audit to be completed via Thursday. The Leasing agreement proposed payments are lesser than what are currently being paid. The lease agreement up in 2 months.

Councilwoman Linda Butler made a motion to go into Executive Session and seconded by Councilman Davis. Councilwoman Simmons recued herself from Executive Session and Councilman Luongo did not attend.

Upon, return Mayor asked if there was a consideration to come out of Executive Session. The motion via Councilwoman Linda Butler 2nd Councilman Woodrow Davis. Doing Executive Session there was no vote or action taken while in Executive Session. They were advised on the contractual matter to put it up for bid when the leases are over on the copiers. The town will wait until such time with other bids.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT

Kevin Houser – Reported on its monthly activities. He had 13 Service Orders 1 of which was a 6” Water Break. (2) H2O Taps, 52 H2O Value’s, starting to exercise on the Fire Hydrants.

STREET MAINTENANCE

Carlton Moore – shared his monthly activities from December 2019 to January 2020. He made 7 trips with 9.2 tons to the Land Fill and worked on trash.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Clif Hayes – Reported on the Police Department monthly activities. The issued 119 citations, work 1 accident, wrote 5 warrants, completed 52 reports and made 20 arrests.

OPEN FORUM

Viola McDaniels – She had no complaints, recommended the Executive Sessions be held at 5:30. So the citizens do not have to wait so long for them to come back in the middle of the meeting. The Mayor said he would take it under advisement.

Iva Hall – She had been coming to the monthly meeting for several months and nothing have been accomplished. Everything is about the minutes. She wanted to know, what was being done to Improve the Town? Mayor shared; he was moving the town forward. Unfortunately, some disagree.

She said the criticizing each other had gotten out of hand. They are council, name calling people as dogs and things about Free Water is unnecessary.

Mayor informed everyone he does not print anything in any papers, or make comments all of this is coming from others.

Ms Hall states, someone on council is going back to tell these things to Pen and Coffee. This only makes the town look bad.

Mayor wanted the town to know, he is working to rebuild the town and does not engage in stupidity or respond to the newspapers about what is being said. He was elected to do a job for the town and that is what he tries to do every day. You will not see or hear him do those things low for he will keep it high.

Samuel Smith – To council and citizens in attendance. He was out of the country traveling and heard a statement in Canada & Europe how bad the town looked. When he got back home, the downtown Town of Swansea looked worse than the country he had just visited. He too heard the same negative comments about minutes and wanted to know what we are doing to clean the town up. He sees old building that should be demolish that are rotten, rustic. On 321 looks like a yard sale Fleet market 7 days a week. He wants to know what is the town to clean up the town. They had planned to open a business in Swansea. However, he indicated, they did not think it was going to happen because there was so much friction going on with the board and council itself. He does not think this is a place to open up a business. His personal observations, there is constant Friction.

Councilman Luongo, wanted to know what advice he could give each council member to come together.

Mr. Smith told him there should be no personal dislikes, they should stay out the door black and white facts. What is the plan, the goal and how you get there?

The town has been a cash cow for years some are aware of it. They have to be careful how the buildings are handled.

Pastor Brown – He is the owner of the building on the corner. There will be a change in this town. It will take a little time and money. The building will be torn down and rebuilt.

He commends council for what they do, but need to do it in a more Respectful Manner. He indicated, the followings: As a leader myself, show yourselves strong and not your weakness. If there is Friction, anything that need to be brought forth, you do not need to come in asking questions. You should already have the answer before you get to the meeting. They need to be the ones asking the questions. They do not need to see you bickering with each other. There should

be a discussion time, before you present yourself as a board instead of fighting. The town needs to see you strong doing your job. If something is not right, work it out among yourselves not for the people to see or hear. You need to have your plan and agenda and be open for questions. These are the things that will bring the town together. It will not help us when you put on a show for the last months. You are adults not children. You are leaders of the town and they want to see you doing a good job for the town as well. It needs to start Today.

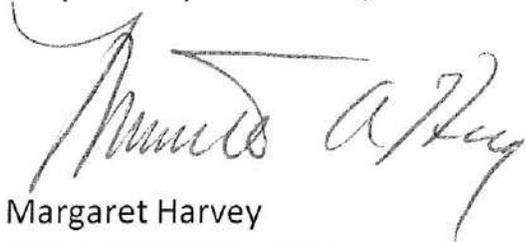
Jackie Robinson – Biggest concern was How they maintain the streets.

He would like to see the Town of Swansea Prosper. He does not see Black or White he sees Right and Wrong. He wishes the town get on the side of what Right and Wrong and not what is comfortable.

Councilwoman Butler, shared she knows Councilman Luongo has things to offer but he has NO Respect and that is something he needs to work on.

Mayors asked, if there was no other business, if there was a consideration to adjourn. A motion was put on the floor to adjourn, first and second. The motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,

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

Margaret Harvey
Town Clerk Treasurer
Town of Swansea