

ORDINANCE 2026-01
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 152 OF THE SWANSBORO UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE TO ADD §152.034 APPEARANCE COMMISSION

WHEREAS North Carolina General Statute 160D-605 requires that zoning regulations shall be made in accordance with a Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS NCGS 160D-605 also states that when adopting or rejecting any zoning text or map amendment, the governing board shall approve a brief statement describing whether its action is consistent or inconsistent with an adopted comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners finds that the proposed text amendments are consistent with the current Comprehensive Plan, specifically the CAMA Land Use Plan, Land Use Compatibility, Create Zoning Standards that Enhance the Function and Appearance of the Gateway Corridor; and Implementation Recommendations and Strategies, Other Community Priorities, Enhance Appearance and Maintain Small Town Coastal Character, and considers the action taken to be reasonable and in the public interest.

NOW BE IT ORDAINED by the Town of Swansboro Board of Commissioners that the Unified Development Ordinance is amended as follows:

TITLE XV: LAND USAGE

CHAPTER 152: UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

§152.034 THE APPEARANCE COMMISSION

(A) Establishment and Purpose

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160D-304, there is hereby established an Appearance Commission (“Commission”) for the Town of Swansboro. The Commission shall serve as an advisory body to the Board of Commissioners and shall work to enhance and preserve the aesthetic and visual character of the Town.

(B) Membership

The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Six (6) members must be a bonafide resident of the Town of Swansboro corporate limits and one (1) member must be a bonafide resident of the town’s Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). A majority of the Commission shall consist of individuals with demonstrated experience or education in architecture, horticulture, landscape design, urban planning, public art, or other related fields. Members shall serve staggered three-year terms and may serve no more than two consecutive full terms.

(C) Organization

The Commission shall elect from its membership a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson annually. The Town Clerk, or a designee, shall maintain accurate minutes of all meetings.

(D) Meetings

The Commission shall meet monthly at a regularly established date and time. All meetings shall comply with the North Carolina Open Meetings Law. A majority of the Commission’s membership shall constitute a quorum, and all actions shall be taken by a majority vote of members present.

(E) Powers and Duties

In accordance with NCGS §160D-960, the Appearance Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) To initiate, promote, and assist in the implementation of programs of general community beautification within the Town.
- (2) To coordinate the activities of individuals, agencies, and organizations—public and private—whose plans, activities, and programs bear upon the appearance of the Town.
- (3) To provide leadership and guidance in matters of area or community design and appearance to individuals, public and private organizations, and agencies.
- (4) To make studies of the visual characteristics and problems of the Town, including surveys and inventories, and to recommend standards and design policies for the whole community, individual neighborhoods, or specific projects.
- (5) To prepare both general and specific plans for the improved appearance of the Town, covering public property, public rights-of-way, open spaces, buildings, and any project within the Town’s planning and development regulation jurisdiction.
- (6) To participate, in any way authorized by the Board of Commissioners, in the implementation of its appearance plans.
- (7) To promote public interest and understanding of appearance issues, enhance community awareness, and support beautification efforts.
- (8) The Board of Commissioners may confer any additional powers that align with NCGS §160D-960, provided they advance the improvement of visual and aesthetic characteristics of the Town.

(F) Funding

The Commission may receive Town appropriations and may accept contributions, grants, and donations from individuals, organizations, governmental agencies, and other lawful sources. All funds received, held, or expended by the Commission shall be administered strictly in accordance with the Town of Swansboro’s financial policies and procedures, and in compliance with the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (G.S. Chapter 159). No funds shall be obligated or expended except as authorized through the Town’s adopted budget, purchasing procedures, and applicable fiscal regulations.

Section 2. All ordinances in conflict with this amendment are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners in regular session, January 27, 2026.


William Justice, Mayor

Attest:


Alissa Fender, Town Clerk

