

Town of Swansboro
Board of Commissioners
April 24, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Mayor John Davis, Mayor Pro Tem Frank Tursi, Commissioner PJ Pugliese, Commissioner Larry Philpott, Commissioner Pat Turner, and Commissioner Jeffrey Conaway.

Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Pledge

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. Mayor Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Citizens were offered an opportunity to address the Board regarding items listed on the agenda. No comments were given.

Adoption of Agenda and Consent Items

On a motion by Commissioner Philpott, seconded by Commissioner Conaway, the agenda and the below consent item was approved unanimously.

- January 9, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

Appointments/Recognitions/Presentations

Employees of the Quarter

Fire Chief Randall shared that Ethan Polk was selected at the Fire Departments employee of the quarter. Mr. Polk had been a part time member of the department since 2018 and had over 400 hours of duty. Additionally, he most recently received a lifesaving award.

Police Chief Taylor shared that Teresa Stanley was selected as the Police Departments employee of the quarter. She started with the department in 2020 and has been very valuable at answering the phones and greeting the public.

Proclamations

Mayor Davis acknowledged *Administrative Professionals Week* April 23-29th, *Municipal Clerks Week* April 30-May 5th, and *International Firefighters Day* May 4th. Board members shared their appreciation for Admin staff, Clerks, and firefighters.

Board Appointments

Town Clerk Fender reviewed that due to a recent resignation that affected two boards, appointments for an in-town vacancy on the Planning Board and in-town ALT vacancy on the Board of Adjustment was needed. A Talent Bank Sheet was provided for those citizens with an interest in serving.

On a motion by Commissioner Philpott, seconded by Commissioner Conaway, John Fitzgerald was unanimously appointed to the in-town alternate seat on the Board of Adjustment.

On a motion by Commissioner Conaway, seconded by Commissioner Philpot, Clara Abalos was unanimously appointed to the in-town seat on the Planning Board.

Business Non-Consent

GFL Q&A and Discussion

Daniel Berry with GFL addressed the board regarding recent issues that had arisen with garbage collection and the quality of service. He shared that over the past weeks the company has put several procedures in place and felt confident that these would alleviate issues and poor quality. Those procedures included:

- Addressed vehicles that were causing debris to fall out of the truck.
- Any issues were to be reported to him and copied to 3 other employees to ensure handled.
- Spoke with drivers about the situations.

Community Meetings Discussion

At its February 13, 2023, meeting, Board members expressed desire to add discussion on facilitation of community meetings such as those currently being held monthly by Mayor John Davis. It was suggested that the board sponsor such meetings and discuss how they would be structured and ways to connect with the community.

Board members provided the following suggestions:

- Hold the meeting monthly, in the evening and serve refreshments.
- Target certain communities throughout town at different times.
- Location considerations could be the Recreation Center or at a local restaurant.
- Specify a certain topic for each meeting.

Attorney Parsons shared that the City of Havelock held a similar meeting in an area restaurant and attendees were responsible for their own food and/or drinks. The meeting is treated like a special meeting and notice was given.

The direction provided was for staff to research the cost of providing refreshments and locations where these meetings could be facilitated.

Future Agenda Topics

Future agenda items were shared for visibility and comment. In addition, an opportunity is provided for the Board to introduce items of interest and subsequent direction for placement on future agendas. The following items were added to the agenda by consensus.

- Revisit the Wayfinding signs project.
- Budget Workshop tentatively scheduled for May 17, 2023, from 8 am to noon.

Mayor Pro Tem Tursi suggested that the Planning Board begin working on creating a Wetlands policy which was one of the items identified in the Land Use Plan update.

Regarding High School recognitions, the board agreed that once the form was distributed to the school for nominations the cut off for submission would be two weeks.

Public Comment

Citizens were offered an opportunity to address the Board regarding items not listed on the agenda. No comments were given.

Board Comments

Mayor Davis requested that Chief Randall provide an update on the Fire Department Community meetings he had scheduled.

Chief Randall shared that citizens were invited to an informational session and community workgroup to assist in developing the 2023-2028 Fire Department Strategic Plan. Input will help build and reinforce organizational goals, objectives, and priorities. There were 3 sessions scheduled.

- Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Swansboro Town Hall Board Room
- Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. Swansboro Town Hall Board Room
- Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Swansboro Town Hall Board Room

Adjournment

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Tursi, seconded by Commissioner Turner, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.