Town of Swansboro
Board of Commissioners
August 11, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Mayor William Justice, Mayor Pro Tem Jeffrey Conaway, Commissioner Douglas Eckendorf, Commissioner Tamara Pieratti, Commissioner Tim Vannoy, and Commissioner Wayne Herbert.

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Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm and Mayor Justice 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 Mayor Pro Tem Conaway, seconded by Commissioner Vannoy, the agenda as prepared and the consent items below were approved unanimously.

- May 19, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes
- Support for ONWASA Wastewater Capacity and Resiliency Initiatives

Appointments/Recognitions/Presentations
Recognition of Law Enforcement Cadet Summer Camp Program & Graduates
Police Chief Dwayne Taylor recognized participants in the 2026 Law Enforcement Cadet Summer Camp and thanked Deputy Chief Ben Brim and participating officers for their commitment to the program. Deputy Chief Brim provided an overview of the camp and discussed activities focused on leadership development, teamwork, physical fitness, career readiness, and community engagement. Participants were recognized for successfully completing the program, and a certificate of appreciation was presented to Chief Taylor for his continued support of the Swansboro Police Cadet Program.

Board members commended the program for providing meaningful opportunities for local youth.

In response to questions from the Board, Deputy Chief Brim noted that participants ranged from middle school age through young adults under twenty-one years of age and that seven cadets completed this year's program, which represented the third cadet class offered by the department.

Mayor Justice also recognized volunteer officers Brooke and Josh for receiving positive community recognition following their assistance to a local business owner after a recent downtown event.

Fire Services Update

Fire Chief Jacob Randall presented a mid-year update regarding Fire Department operations and performance measures. Chief Randall reviewed response statistics, service demand trends, emergency response performance, and departmental initiatives intended to improve service delivery and regional coordination. Information reviewed included:

- Incident response statistics through July 1, 2026, compared to the same period in 2025.
- Trends involving in-town responses, mutual aid responses, and overlapping incidents.
- Working fire incidents and common causes.
- Dispatch, turnout, travel, and total response times.
- Water rescue responses and factors affecting rescue operations.
- Regional coordination efforts and training initiatives.
- Development of a navigable waterway response plan and enhancements to multi-agency emergency response procedures.

In response to inquiries from the Board, Chief Randall clarified the following:

- Department leadership receives automatic notifications when EMS response times exceed established thresholds to assist with coordination and performance review.
- The majority of structure fire responses occur outside Town limits through mutual aid and automatic aid agreements.
- Increased response times associated with water rescue incidents are primarily attributable to vessel deployment requirements.
- Future improvements to marine response capabilities may include consideration of a boat lift or similar infrastructure improvements.
- The regional waterway response plan was intended to improve communication, incident location identification, and coordination among responding agencies.

Board members expressed appreciation for the department's continued efforts and regional partnerships. Chief Randall also announced a cancer awareness fundraising campaign benefitting the Kay Yow Foundation and UNC Health.

Public Hearing

Annexation of Certain Real Property

Town Clerk Alissa Fender presented a request to annex approximately 0.54 acres of Town-owned property associated with the future Emergency Operations Center and Public Safety Facility project. The property represents the remaining portion of a previously consolidated parcel located within the Town's extraterritorial jurisdiction. The Board previously adopted Resolution 2026-R8 expressing its intent to annex the property.

Mayor Justice opened the public hearing. No comments were received, and the public hearing was closed.

On a motion by Commissioner Douglas Eckendorf, seconded by Commissioner Tamara Pieratti, the Board unanimously adopted Ordinance 2026-O7 annexing the subject property into the Town of Swansboro corporate limits.

Business Non-Consent

Future Agenda Topics

Future agenda items were shared for visibility and comments. In addition, an opportunity was provided for the board to introduce items of interest and subsequent direction for placement on future agendas. The following items were addressed:

- Review/consider revision to Sam Bland Nomination eligibility
- Schedule presentation from OUTS
- Schedule presentation from JOED
- Considerations for Boat Lift for the Fire Department boat

Public Comment

Amelia Dees-Killette, President of the Swansboro Historical Association, addressed the Board regarding the Association's lease of the Emmerton School facility. Ms. Dees-Killette requested continued consideration of a lease agreement that would allow the museum to reopen and resume operations within the building. She also highlighted ongoing restoration efforts, organizational growth, and community support for the museum.

Manager's Comments

Town Manager Jon Barlow provided updates regarding several ongoing Town projects and initiatives, including:

- Continued review of a proposed lease agreement with the Swansboro Historical Association.
- Remaining improvements associated with the Emmerton School rehabilitation project.
- Preparation of grant applications for the Municipal Park Revitalization Project through the LWCF and PARTF programs.
- Upcoming street resurfacing projects scheduled to begin in September.
- Progress toward acquiring easements needed for priority sidewalk improvement projects.

In response to Board inquiries, staff discussed upcoming grant application deadlines, project funding opportunities, and options for proceeding with sidewalk improvements as funding and easements become available.

Board Comments

The Board collectively expressed appreciation to Town staff, volunteers, public safety personnel, and community partners for their continued dedication to serving Swansboro residents.

Commissioner Vannoy commended the Swansboro Police Cadet Program and thanked the Town's volunteer board and committee members for their service.

Commissioner Eckendorf encouraged residents to prepare for hurricane season and utilize available emergency preparedness resources.

Commissioner Herbert provided updates related to ONWASA initiatives, National Night Out activities, and the success of local library programs.

Commissioner Pieratti highlighted the success of youth-focused programs offered by the Town and local community partners throughout the summer.

Mayor Pro Tem Conaway provided updates regarding transportation initiatives, historic preservation activities, veterans services, and recent recognition received by Major Capers.

Mayor Justice discussed recent meetings concerning infrastructure funding opportunities, regional resiliency initiatives, upcoming community events, and partnerships with state and federal agencies. He also recognized Major Capers for his recent distinction and thanked local organizations for their continued contributions to the community.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Conaway, seconded by Commission Herbert, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.