

**Town of Swansboro
Board of Commissioners
May 27, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes**

In attendance: Mayor William Justice, Mayor Pro Tem Jeffrey Conaway, Commissioner Pat Turner, Commissioner Joseph Brown, Commissioner Douglas Eckendorf and Commissioner Tamara Pieratti.

Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Pledge

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 made.

Adoption of Agenda and Consent Items

On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Conaway, the agenda and the below consent items were adopted unanimously.

- March 25, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
- March 25, 2025, Closed Session Minutes
- April 8, 2025, Closed Session Minutes
- April 8, 2025, Closed Session Minutes
- ONWASA Administrative Service Agreement
- Tax Refund Request totaling \$503.86

Appointments/Recognitions/Presentations

Recognition of Isabella Smith – Military Child of the Year

Mayor Justice presented a proclamation honoring Isabella Smith, a 17-year-old junior at Swansboro High School, recognized as the 2025 Operation Homefront Military Child of the Year for the United States Marine Corps.

Isabella Smith spoke briefly about her award, stating that it was a reflection of Swansboro and the opportunities provided for military children in the town. She emphasized that she had been in Swansboro for most of her life and had benefited from programs like the student-to-student program at her school.

Swimming Pool Committee Presentation

Matthew Prane, the Pool Committee Chair, presented a detailed overview of the committee's findings and potential options for developing a swimming pool in Swansboro. He discussed various cost estimates, ranging from a \$13 million three-pool facility to a \$7.5 million outdoor 8-lane programming pool. Prane also presented a more affordable option using a Mega

InstaPool, which could cost around \$60,000 for the pool itself, with additional expenses for staffing, maintenance, and other necessities.

Prane emphasized the need for programming to drive the design of the pool and requested guidance from the board on location, budget, and the town's vision for the project. He presented potential revenue streams, including memberships and swim lessons, suggesting that the pool could potentially become a sustainable business model for the town.

Board members asked several questions about the proposal, including concerns about the durability of the Mega InstaPool, potential locations, and more detailed cost breakdowns.

The board suggested scheduling a future workshop meeting with the pool committee to discuss the project in more depth.

Board Appointments

Town Clerk Fender reviewed that due to a vacancy there was an appointment opportunity for the Alternate seat on the Historic Preservation Commission and there were two interested applicants.

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Conaway, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with unanimous approval, Brad Phillips was appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission alternate seat.

Public Hearing

Proposal to Extend an Economic Development Incentive Grant to JOED

Town Manager Barlow shared that pursuant to NC General Statute Section 158-7.1, holding a public hearing to extend an economic development incentive grant to Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development Partnership (JOED) was required. He reviewed that the town of Swansboro and Onslow County each proposed to appropriate \$250,000 to JOED as a required local match for receipt of a North Carolina Industrial Development Grant of \$1,813,500. The grant would be used for site improvements at the property referred to as Project Coffee, located at the intersection of Highway 24 and Belgrade Swansboro Road.

The public hearing was opened at 6:51 pm, no comment were made.

On a motion by Commissioner Eckendorf, seconded by Commissioner Pieratti, unanimous approval was given to authorize execution of the Non-Profit Agency Reimbursable Grant Contract between the Town of Swansboro and Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development Partnership, Inc. (JOED), for execution of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Town of Swansboro and Onslow County Board of Commissioners and adoption of Resolution 2025-R5.

Business Non-Consent

Monthly Financial Report as of April 30, 2025

Finance Director Sonia Johnson presented the monthly financial report for April 30, 2025. Key Takeaways were:

- Total excess revenues over expenditures in the general fund were \$503,961 with encumbrances and \$630,830 without encumbrances
- Overall expenditures were at 65.62% of the budget

Updates on stormwater and solid waste enterprise funds, town debt, and current cash and investment accounts were provided.

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. No new items were added.

Public Comment

Citizens were offered an opportunity to address the Board for no more than five minutes regarding items not listed on the agenda. No comments were made.

Manager's Comments

Town Manager Barlow shared that progression of the Main Street dock's grant application, highlighting the Town was invited to submit for a full application, indicating a promising step towards securing funding. The Riverview Boardwalk grant proposal was not accepted this year; however, the Town would continue to seek support in subsequent cycles.

Board Comments

Board members conveyed their appreciation to the staff, residents, and presenters for their hard work and participation during the meeting.

Commissioner Doug Eckendorf shared a letter from the County Commissioners intending to strengthen ties with Swansboro to boost operational efficiencies and advance local services.

Mayor Justice acknowledged all contributors to the well-received Memorial Day service hosted at Bicentennial Park, specifically thanking local businesses, town departments, and the Military Affairs Committee for their efforts. He encouraged residents to reach out with queries or feedback, reinforcing the board's openness and willingness to engage with the community.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Conaway, seconded by Commissioner Eckendorf, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.