



Board of Commissioners Agenda

Town of Swansboro

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Board Members

William Justice, Mayor | Jeffrey Conaway, Mayor Pro Tem | Douglas Eckendorf, Commissioner
Tamara Pieratti, Commissioner | Wayne Herbert, Commissioner | Timothy Vannoy, Commissioner

I. Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Pledge

II. Public Comment

Citizens have an opportunity to address the Board for no more than three minutes per speaker regarding items listed on the agenda. There is a second opportunity at the end of the agenda for the public to address the Board on items not listed on the agenda.

III. Adoption of Agenda and Consent Items

The Town Clerk respectfully submits to the Board, the Regular Agenda and the below consent items, which are considered to be of general agreement and little or no controversy. These items may be voted on as a single group without Board discussion "or" if so desired, the Board may request to remove any item(s) from the consent agenda and placed for consideration separately.

III. Consent Items:

- [a.](#) May 19, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes
- [b.](#) Support for ONWASA Wastewater Capacity and Resiliency Initiatives

IV. Appointments/Recognitions/Presentations

- a. **Recognition of Law Enforcement Cadet Summer Camp Program & Graduates**
Presenters: Dwayne Taylor – Police Chief and Ben Brim – Deputy Police Chief
- b. **Fire Services Update**
Presenter: Jacob Randal – Fire Chief

V. Public Hearing

[a.](#) **Annexation of Certain Real Property**

Presenter: Alissa Fender, MMC – Town Clerk

The Town of Swansboro owns real property located in Swansboro, Onslow County, North Carolina that is contiguous, within the ETJ, and identified as Parcel ID 178381 of which a small portion (.54 acres) of the parcel is in the ETJ. The parcel will be the future location of the Swansboro Emergency Operation Center/ Public Safety Facility. The Swansboro Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution #2026-R8 in support of annexation of the property on July 14, 2026.

Recommended Action:

- 1. Hold a public hearing; and*
- 2. Motion to adopt Ordinance# 2026-07 annexing Certain Real Property as described by its legal description and all exhibits into the Swansboro Town Limits*

VI. Business Non-Consent

a. Future Agenda Topics

Presenter: Alissa Fender – Town Clerk

Future agenda items are 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.

Recommended Action: Discuss and provide any guidance.

VII. Items Moved from Consent

VIII. Public Comment

Citizens have an opportunity to address the Board for no more than five minutes regarding items not listed on the Agenda.

IX. Manager's Comments

X. Board Comments

XI. Closed Session

XII. Adjournment

Town of Swansboro
Board of Commissioners
May 19, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes

Item III - a.

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. The purpose of the meeting was for discussion/direction on the FY 2026/2027 Budget. The PowerPoint presentation reviewed during the meeting is herein attached.

Town Manager Jonathan Barlow reviewed that at the boards May 14, 2026, regular meeting, staff had outlined several budget scenarios, with Scenario 7 seeming most suitable, noting that Senate Bill 889, which could pause the new property valuation numbers that took effect in January 2026, had passed the Senate and received a first reading in the House but had not advanced further. Finance Director Sonia Johnson created a budget based on Scenario 7, adhering to the 35-cent tax rate. This plan maintained spending levels from the current year but necessitated a fund balance appropriation of about \$486,000, including a capital reserve transfer of \$102,000 and reduced capital outlay of \$226,000, addressing a lingering deficit.

Town Manager Barlow shared that larger municipalities in Onslow County, including Jacksonville, utilized new valuation figures – a strategy currently impractical for Swansboro due to its size. Staff remained ready to pivot to Scenario 4 while keeping Scenario 7 as a fallback. Barlow referenced House Bill 1082, aimed at more permanently controlling property tax revenue through capping rate changes, with a potential constitutional amendment on future voting ballots.

Town Manager Barlow outlined the budget timeline: a June 1 requirement to present a budget to the Board, practically translating to May 29, permitting a 10-day period for inspections before the June 9 public hearing. After the public hearing, the Board could tweak the budget up to its official adoption and tax rate finalization. Significant budget drivers for both scenarios were cost-of-living and merit adjustments at 1.35 percent, a 0.75 percentage point hike in state retirement contributions, and notable increases in insurance rates. Scenario 7 revealed no new personnel, a drop in capital outlay to \$34,000, alongside an unfunded land use plan update, despite a revised valuation cut of \$8,000,000.

Finance Director Johnson provided a detailed explanation of the budgetary balance. She highlighted that there was an unused fund balance approaching \$657,719 and an unassigned balance amounting to \$3,673,757, both significantly exceeding the board's minimum requirements. Finance Director Johnson reviewed the allocations for capital improvements, where \$75,000 was set aside for the fire department and \$11,500 for the

acquisition of a police vehicle. Additional allocations were made for public works and stormwater initiatives, aligning with requests that had not been met in previous budgets. Finance Director Johnson also revisited the allocations for the Storm Water enterprise fund, stating that there were no changes from prior years, thus maintaining a level of consistency in the funds allocations. Furthermore, she provided justification for an increase in the solid waste rates, pointing out that these rates had remained unchanged since the fiscal years of 2018-2019, suggesting the need for an adjustment in response to current financial demands and service requirements.

During the discussion, the Board explored a possible tax rate for Scenario 4. Initially, some suggested reducing it to 33 cents, but eventually, the Board agreed on maintaining a 35-cent rate. This decision took into account the financial challenges, such as past unpaid projects, upcoming debt increases, and the need to keep crucial public safety staff. The conversation also showed concern about the upcoming laws and considered other ways to ease financial burdens, like changing stormwater fees. In the end, the plan was to move forward with Scenario 4 at a 35-cent rate, using the monetary plans from Scenario 7, with a focus on new staffing additions. The Board decided not to fund the land use plan update at this time, citing the anticipated change in personnel for the Planner position and the possible removal of ETJ designation authority through pending legislation. The main focus was on ensuring public safety resources and protecting capital, while keeping a strong financial balance, all under careful financial management, until the final budget adoption.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Conaway, seconded by Commissioner Herbert, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.



Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda Item Submittal

Item To Be Considered: **Support for ONWASA Wastewater Capacity and Resiliency Initiatives**

Board Meeting Date: **August 11, 2026**

Prepared By: **Alissa Fender, MMC – Town Clerk**

Overview: ONWASA is seeking the Board’s support for a regional request related to future wastewater capacity and infrastructure planning. The request includes: (1) pursuing federal funding for a new regional wastewater treatment facility, (2) restoring a previously approved wastewater treatment capacity allocation at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, and (3) exploring a second wastewater connection between ONWASA and the Base to improve system resiliency and accommodate future growth. If approved, the Mayor would join other local elected officials in signing the letter of support.

Background Attachment(s): Draft Letter of Support

Recommended Action: Motion to authorize Mayor Justice to execute the ONWASA letter of support on behalf of the Town.

Action: _____

July 31, 2026

Brigadier General Andre M. Ingram, Commanding General
Marine Corps Installations East – Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune
1005 Michael Road
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542

Subject: Request for Marine Corps Support and Partnership in Meeting Future Wastewater Capacity and Resiliency Needs in Onslow County

Dear Commanding General Ingram:

On behalf of the Onslow Water and Sewer Authority (ONWASA), Onslow County, and the municipalities we collectively serve, we extend our sincere appreciation for the longstanding partnership among the United States Marine Corps, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, and our local governments. For more than two decades, this partnership has demonstrated how military and community leaders can work together to advance shared objectives, support regional growth, and improve the quality of life for the Marines, Sailors, civilian employees, and families who call Onslow County home.

We are writing to request the Marine Corps' support in addressing two closely related wastewater capacity and resiliency needs:

- 1. Support for pursuing approximately \$100 million in federal funding toward the planning, design, and construction of a new regional wastewater treatment facility located outside the installation that could serve both Camp Lejeune and the surrounding community; and**
- 2. Support for ONWASA and local Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune leadership to work together to restore all or a suitable portion of the 3.5-million-gallon-per-day treatment allocation previously approved for ONWASA in 2007.**
- 3. Support the idea of a second connection between ONWASA and the Base for shared wastewater treatment capacity through MARSOC/Stones Bay.**

These requests build upon a successful military-community partnership and would provide long-term benefits for Marine Corps readiness, infrastructure resiliency, military families, and the communities surrounding Camp Lejeune.

Our community is honored to support one of the nation's premier Marine Corps installations. Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River are critical to our national defense and serve as major economic drivers for Eastern North Carolina. The military presence in our region supports approximately 135,000 active-duty personnel, family members, retirees, and civilian employees and generates over \$4 billion annually in economic activity through payroll, contracts, and related expenditures.

More importantly, more than 70 percent of Marines and their families live outside the installation in communities served by ONWASA and our local governments. These military families rely each day on the same water, wastewater, transportation, public safety, educational, and recreational infrastructure as other Onslow County residents. As the military and surrounding communities continue to grow, sustained investment in regional infrastructure is necessary to support military readiness, quality of life, and responsible community development.

One of the most successful examples of this partnership is the wastewater treatment relationship between ONWASA and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. Since the original Wastewater Sales Agreement was executed in 2004, the Marine Corps and ONWASA have worked together to maximize existing critical infrastructure, avoid the unnecessary duplication of facilities, and provide cost-effective wastewater treatment solutions that benefit both the installation and the surrounding community. Previous analyses associated with our Intergovernmental Support Agreement recognized that Camp Lejeune benefits from increased wastewater treatment efficiencies while the community avoids the substantial costs associated with constructing redundant treatment capacity.

Today, Onslow County continues to experience significant residential and commercial growth, particularly along the Highway 24 corridor, in the Swansboro area, and in other portions of the county that are home to substantial numbers of military families. ONWASA is making major investments in wastewater collection and transmission critical infrastructure to serve this growth responsibly. These investments, however, must be supported by adequate long-term treatment capacity and coordinated regional planning.

As part of our longstanding partnership, ONWASA was previously approved to use an additional 3.5 million gallons per day of wastewater treatment capacity under the existing agreement framework. That capacity was determined to be available, in the public's interest, and necessary to support the community's future needs. ONWASA respectfully requests the Marine Corps' support in working with local leadership at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune to restore this allocation and provide sufficient treatment capacity for the communities in which Marines and their families live.

Restoring the allocation would support the substantial wastewater collection and transmission systems investments already being made by ONWASA while continuing the mutually beneficial regional approach established through our existing agreements. It would also provide time for ONWASA, the Marine Corps, and our local government partners to develop a comprehensive long-term capacity and resiliency strategy.

In addition to restoring the previously approved allocation, we believe there is an opportunity for ONWASA and the Marine Corps to jointly pursue a regional wastewater treatment facility located outside the installation. ONWASA respectfully requests Marine Corps support in seeking approximately \$100 million in federal funding toward the planning, design, and construction of such a facility.

A new regional facility could provide several important benefits to the Marine Corps and the surrounding community. It could:

- Establish an additional treatment option and provide the Marine Corps with greater long-term operational flexibility;
- Reduce dependence on treatment capacity located entirely within the installation should future mission requirements require a change in how that capacity is used;
- Provide potential emergency or backup treatment capacity during major maintenance activities, system interruptions, natural disasters, or other unforeseen events;
- Strengthen regional infrastructure resiliency and redundancy;
- Support future military and civilian growth without unnecessarily duplicating public infrastructure; and
- Improve the reliability of wastewater services for Camp Lejeune and the military families who live throughout Onslow County.

We believe this approach aligns with the shared objectives of mission assurance, infrastructure resiliency, fiscal responsibility, operational flexibility, and community support. A coordinated federal, military, and local investment would allow us to develop a system that serves future generations of Marines and their families while strengthening the infrastructure upon which both Camp Lejeune and the surrounding community depend.

The third request is one that has also been discussed in the past and that is to consider the idea of a second connection between ONWASA and the Base for shared wastewater treatment capacity. This connection can also serve as enhancing resiliency for both the Base and ONWASA if we design the system to flow in both directions. The Southeast service area of ONWASA is rapidly growing and having additional options for wastewater treatment is critical in our ability to serve this area which includes homes for many of those that work on Base or support the quality of life for everyday operations around the base.

We respectfully request your support for continued collaboration among Headquarters Marine Corps, Marine Corps Installations East, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, ONWASA, Onslow County, and our municipalities. Specifically, we request assistance in identifying and pursuing appropriate federal funding opportunities for the proposed regional treatment facility and support for local discussions regarding restoration of ONWASA's previously approved 3.5-million-gallon-per-day wastewater treatment allocation or a suitable portion of that allocation as well as the idea of a second connection between ONWASA and the Base at MARSOC.

The partnership between our organizations has served as a model of military-community cooperation for more than twenty years, and the overall community collaboration between the county and our local Marines has flourished for decades. We look forward to building upon that success and working together to develop infrastructure solutions that strengthen military readiness, protect public investments, and support the Marines, Sailors, civilian employees, and families who make Onslow County their home.

Thank you for your leadership, your service to our nation, and your continued commitment to the Marines and families of Onslow County. We greatly appreciate the Marine Corps' enduring partnership and stand ready to work collaboratively toward solutions that benefit both the installation and our shared community.

Respectfully,

Michael R. Bennett, Chairman
Onslow Water and Sewer Authority

Tim Foster, Chairman
Onslow County Board of Commissioners

Sammy Phillips, Mayor
City of Jacksonville

McKinley D. Smith, Mayor
Town of Richlands

Pete Parnian, Mayor
Town of Holly Ridge

Richard Grant, Mayor
Town of North Topsail Beach

William Justice, Mayor
Town of Swansboro

cc:

ONWASA Board of Directors
Onslow County Board of Commissioners
Jacksonville City Council
Town of Holly Ridge Town Council
Town of North Topsail Beach Board of Aldermen
Town of Richlands Board of Aldermen
Town of Swansboro Board of Commissioners
The Honorable Wyatt Gable, North Carolina House of Representatives
The Honorable Phil Shepard, North Carolina House of Representatives
The Honorable Carson Smith, North Carolina House of Representatives
The Honorable Michael A. Lazzara, North Carolina Senate
The Honorable Gregory F. Murphy, M.D., U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Thom Tillis, United States Senate
The Honorable Ted Budd, United States Senate



Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda Item Submittal

Item To Be Considered: **Annexation of Certain Real Property**

Board Meeting Date: **August 11, 2026**

Prepared By: **Alissa Fender, MMC – Town Clerk**

Overview: The Town of Swansboro owns real property located in Swansboro, Onslow County, North Carolina that is contiguous, within the ETJ, and identified as Parcel ID 178381 of which a small portion (.54 acres) of the parcel is in the ETJ. The parcel will be the future location of the Swansboro Emergency Operation Center/ Public Safety Facility. The Swansboro Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution #2026-R8 in support of annexation of the property on July 14, 2026.



Background Attachment(s): Ordinance 2026-O7

Recommended Action:

1. Hold a public hearing; and
2. Motion to adopt Ordinance# 2026-O7 annexing Certain Real Property as described by its legal description and all exhibits into the Swansboro Town Limits

Action: _____

Town of Swansboro
Annexation Ordinance

Ordinance No: 2026-O7

Property Annexed: Town of Swansboro Certain Real Property, Portion (.54 acres) of Parcel ID 178381

Ordinance Effective: August 11, 2026

Effective Date: August 11, 2026

Mail to:

Town of Swansboro
601 W. Corbett Avenue
Swansboro, NC 28584

ANNEXATION ORDINANCE

No. 2026-O7

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting on July 14, 2026, the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Swansboro adopted Resolution #2026-R8 approving the plan to annex an area described more particularly therein in lieu of a petition to annex the area; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners fixed a date for public hearing on the annexation and caused publication of notice of the hearing on August 11, 2026, a date in excess of ten (10) days prior to the date of the aforesaid hearing; and,

WHEREAS, the said public hearing was held in the auditorium at Town Hall, Swansboro, North Carolina, at 6:00 p.m. on August 11, 2026, at which time all residents of the Town of Swansboro and all interested persons were given an opportunity to be heard; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to annex the subject area into the corporate limits of the Town for the purpose of promoting the public's health, welfare, and safety through the incorporation into the Town's limits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

Section 1 - The July 14, 2026, Resolution of the Board of Commissioners and the subsequent hearing meet the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 160A-31.

Section 2 - The annexation is in the public interest and the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town of Swansboro will best be served by annexation of the subject area.

Section 3 - The area described on Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated by reference hereby is annexed to the Town of Swansboro.

Section 4 - This ordinance and the annexation of the aforesaid area to the Town of Swansboro shall be effective as of 12:01 a.m. on August 11, 2026.

Duly adopted this 11th day of August 2026.

Town of Swansboro

William Justice, Mayor

Attest:

Alissa Fender, Town Clerk

EXHIBIT A
Annexation Property Description

The Town of Swansboro intends to annex the following described property:

BEGINNING at a point, a control corner, "Axel#1", having bearings N: 349.964.928, E: 2,561.504.419, being the northwest corner of "Tract Two", as described in that instrument recorded in Deed Book 5523, Page 928, Onslow County Registry; thence South 21 degrees 29 minutes 53 seconds west 259.72 feet to a point, a control corner, "Axel#2", having bearings N:349.724.274 E:2,561.409.238; thence north 18 degrees 27 minutes 59 seconds west 285.51 feet to a point, "CP#4" on the southern right of way line of Main Street Extension (N.C.S.R. #1447); thence south 81 degrees 04 minutes 29 seconds east 187.89 feet, to the point and place of BEGINNING, containing .54 acres. Reference the plat entitled "Tracts on West Corbett Avenue & Main Street Extension" prepared by Tidewater Associates, Inc., dated 7-30-21, and recorded in Plat Book 87, Page 213, Onslow County Registry.

Being the same real property conveyed to Town of Swansboro by deed recorded in Book 6498, Page 949-952 in the office of the Register of Deeds of Onslow County; and being further depicted on that map recorded in Map book 90, Page 8.



Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda Item Submittal

Item To Be Considered: **Future Agenda Topics**

Board Meeting Date: **August 11, 2026**

Prepared By: **Alissa Fender – Town Clerk**

Overview:

The purpose of this memo is to provide the Board with matters that staff anticipate/propose for upcoming meetings. It should be noted that these items are tentatively scheduled for the specified monthly agenda but are subject to change due to preparation of materials, public notice requirements, etc.

In providing this memo each month, we hope it will also provide an opportunity for the Board to introduce items of interest and subsequent direction for placement on future agendas, which will allow staff the opportunity to plan accordingly.

August 25th

- * Zoe Empowers Presentation
- * Monthly Finance Report

September Meeting Dates

8th & 22nd

Future Agenda Items

- * Waterfront Access and Development Plan (*review/revision considerations*)
- * Community Presentations (*ongoing monthly*)
- * DOD Grant (*anticipated award date, August 12th*)
- * EMS Plan (*ongoing*)
- * Presentation – Proposal for Heritage Center Museum in Emmerton School Building
- * Senate Bill 382 Down Zoning review
- * Onslow County Fire Contract/Strategic Planning
- * Historic Preservation enforcement
- * Skatepark Update
- * Lease agreements for 502 W. Church Street (Emmerton School/Old Town Hall)
- * Town Manager replacement discussion
- * Sidewalk Priorities Progress