

**THE OLANTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**Thursday, April 2, 2026, 6:30 P.M.**

**Town of Olanta Community Center**

**215 Main St, Olanta, SC 29114**

**PRESENT:**

Michael W. Welch, Mayor

Josh Jones

Leighann Beard

**In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a notice of the regular meeting of the Olanta Town Council was posted on the door of the Olanta Town Hall. A notice of the regular meeting was also provided to members of the public requesting copies.**

**CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Welch called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Ms. Leighann Beard gave the invocation. Mayor Welch led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA–THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026, TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the agenda as presented for April 2, 2026, regular town council meeting. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Beard seconded the motion. The agenda for the April 2, 2026, meeting was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 5, 2026, REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the minutes of March 5, 2026, regular meeting of the Olanta Town Council. Council Member Beard made a motion for Council to approve the minutes of March 5, 2026, regular meeting of Council. Council Member Jones seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 24, 2026, SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the minutes of March 24, 2026, special meeting of the Olanta Town Council. Council Member Jones made a motion for Council to approve the minutes of March 24, 2026, special meeting of Council. Council Member Beard seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Special Recognition**

Yard of the month: Mitchell Sims – 229 Thomas St

**Old Business**

**A. SCIIP GRANT A-23-C154 WATER EXPANSION - UPDATE**

Mayor Welch informed the council it is getting close to completion. Barwick Plumbing has 93,334 out of the 94,913 ft of pipe in the ground. All the jack and boars have been completed and still have a few directional drillings to do to tie the lines together, 2 hydrants to put in and about 100 taps left. Plan to be done by June 30 2026.

**B. SRF GRANT 210006-05 LEAD/COPPER/ASBSTOS LINE REPLACEMENT/WATER TANK REHAB**

Mayor Welch informed council that the project is close to going out for bids. The engineer drawing are almost completed. The drawings then have to be sent to SRF and approved. Once approved the bidding can start.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. FY BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Mayor Welch informed council that he has all the information to complete the budget and should have that completed soon just waiting on Eastern Engineer for a rate study before proceeding.

**B. ORDINANCE TO CHANGE ELECTION YEARS TO EVEN NUMBERED YEARS (FIRST READING)**

Mayor Welch informed council that he would like to move the election years to even. Each election is running around 9,000 each. 2 council members will get elected in 2026 and 2 council and mayor elected in 2028. Mayor welch read the ordinance for first time. Council Member Jones made a motion for Council to approve the ordinance. Council Member Beard seconded the motion, and the ordinance were approved unanimously.

**C. MAYOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT**

Attached.

**D. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL**

1. Water & Sewer – mayor read letter to go out to all customers.
2. Grants and Economic Development – Michelle Bailey – nothing new
3. Public Safety –Not Available.
4. Events Report
  - a. Next Gator Festival – everything is running smoothly

- b. Main Street: Thursday Night Live 2026 Events – looking for sponsors – first one is April 30th

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Welch asked for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Beard made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Jones seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the vote, and the meeting was adjourned.