

**THE OLANTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday, March 5, 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, MARCH 5, 2026, TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the agenda as presented for March 5, 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 March 5, 2026, meeting was approved unanimously.

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

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

**Special Recognition**

Yard of the month: Woody Floyd – 219 Park Ave.

## Old Business

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

Mayor Welch informed the council as of last Friday they have put 87,434 ft of the 94,913 ft of pipe and 110 of 211 of the taps installed. The pipe should be done by the end of this month. Leaves April – June for permitting and turn on water. That will complete that project and close out that grant.

### B. SRF GRANT 210006-05 LEAD/COPPER/ASBESTOS LINE REPLACEMENT/WATER TANK REHAB

Mayor Welch informed council that the project has not started yet. No bids have been taken for this project. That is about a mile of line to be replaced down Hampton St. The design is still being done by Eastern Engineering.

### C. GROCERY STORE - UPDATE

Mayor Welch informed council that he finally got an estimate on what it would cost for the building on Liberty st and Main st. It would cost 1,917,000 to renovate the building only. Does not include any materials for the inside of the building. Mayor Welch said he does not see that as an option for the town.

### D. WATER AUTHORITY – UPDATE

Mayor Welch informed council that it will be two (2) years before this will start up. Mayor Welch has been collecting the information that is needed to progress this alone. Just waiting on Dusty for more information to send to the water authority.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. FLOOD PREVENTION ORDINANCE (FIRST READING)

Mayor Welch read the first reading of the flood prevention ordinance. Council Member Beard made a motion for Council to approve the ordinance. Council Member Jones seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### B. VACANT COUNCIL SEAT

Mayor Welch informed council that one person has applied for the vacant seat. The election will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

### C. FOLDING MACHINE

Mayor Welch asked council if they were ok with getting a folding machine since the water authority is so far out. Council agreed to getting the folding machine.

**D. FY BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Mayor Welch informed council that he has all the information to complete the budget and should have that completed soon.

- a. IT DISCUSSION – cost around 1,300 a month for VC3, will have to replace some computers that are simply outdated.
- b. ELECTIONS – The election for 2025 costed 8,851.11. Marsha Jordan stepped down and the election for that will be May 5<sup>th</sup>. The cost of that election just to replace her is going to be 8,851.11.
- c. LAWTRACK REPLACEMENT- Lawtrak is going out of business. PoliceLogic was the next cheapest one at \$4,000 a year but we do not have to maintain a computer. All the files are sent to the cloud.
- d. CAR CAMERAS – The police department need to replace both body cameras and car cameras. They would like to get wolfcam for the cars as well as the body cameras. The car cameras are about 8,800.00 without any monthly subscriptions. Checking to see how much a cloud base storage will be for this as well.

**E. 2027 WATER AND SEWER RATE DISCUSSION**

- F. Mayor Welch informed council that an option would be to pass this cost down to the towns members. It would be around \$2.00 extra per connection a month on the water bills. Audits are an other issue. Based on per connections it will add 4.00 outside of town and 5.00 intown which would include the election and audit cost. Gathering more information about this but it is something to think about it. The lightbills to run the sewer pumps will increase around 500.00, this is something that could be considered in the rate increase as well.

**G. 2027 WASTE MANAGEMENT RATE DISCUSSION**

Mayor Welch met with Waste Management and their rates are going up. The increase in what they are charging the town is going from 16.96 to 18.48 for residentials, commercial goes up from 19.05 to 22.00, 4yrd dumpster going from 108.00 to 113.00, 6yrd dumpster going from 170.00 to 179.00, 8yrd dumpster going from 216.00 to 227.00. Which means our rates will go up starting in July. Residential carts will go up to 24.00, commercial carts go from 22.00 to 27.00 4yd dumpster will go from 115.00 to 124.00, 6yrd dumpster will go from 175.00 to 190.00, 8yd dumpster will go from 220.00 to 237.00. that is what will be recommended.

#### **H. MAYOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT**

Attached.

#### **I. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL**

1. Water & Sewer – Not Available
2. Grants and Economic Development – Now Michelle Bailey
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.