

THE OLANTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, May 14, 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
Jason Floyd

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. Mr. Josh Jordan gave the invocation. Mayor Welch led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA–THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026, TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the agenda as presented for May 14, 2026, regular town council meeting. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Floyd seconded the motion. The agenda for the May 14, 2026, meeting was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 2, 2026, REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the minutes of April 2, 2026, regular meeting of the Olanta Town Council. Council Member Jones made a motion for Council to approve the minutes of April 2, 2026, regular meeting of Council. Council Member Floyd seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Special Recognition

Yard of the month: Steven Blankenship – 310 Magnolia

Old Business

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

Mayor Welch informed the council it is getting close to completing additive 4. Additive 4 will be completed by the June 30th deadline. 100 taps, 2 fire hydrants and about a 1,000 ft of pipe left to do.

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

Mayor Welch informed council that the project is put off due to the main line 5,600 ft of asbestos line needing to be an 8in line not a 6in line. Plans had to be redrawn to show the 8in line. Which cause the cost to change but not enough to make the SRF not to want to do the project.

NEW BUSINESS

A. WASTE MANAGEMENT RATE INCREASE DISCUSSION

Mayor Welch informed council that the 2027 rates go into effect in July. Was almost a 2 dollar increase on residential carts. Mayor Welch read the rates to the council. Mayor Welch then opened it up for discussion. Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the 2027 rates. Council Member Jones made a motion for Council to approve the rates. Council Member Beard seconded the motion, and the 2027 rates were approved unanimously.

B. WATER AND WASTEWATER RATE INCREASE DISCUSSION

Mayor Welch informed council that Eastern Engineer do a rate study for the town. Eastern Engineer gave 3 different scenarios. Mayor Welch read the studies. Mayor Welch then opened it up for discussion. Rate increase study number 2 was chosen unanimously. Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the rate study increase. Council Member Beard made a motion for Council to approve the rates. Council Member Jones seconded the motion, and the water/sewer rates were approved unanimously.

C. FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mayor Welch informed council that the 2027 budget increased about 38,000 due to a few things increasing.

D. FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET ORDINANCE (FIRST READING)

Mayor Welch read the ordinance for first time. Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the budget ordinance. Council Member Jones made a motion for Council to approve the ordinance. Council Member Beard seconded the motion, and the ordinance were approved unanimously

**E. ORDINANCE TO CHANGE ELECTION YEARS TO EVEN NUMBER YEARS
(SECOND READING)**

Mayor Welch read the ordinance for second time. Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the ordinance. Council Member Beard made a motion for Council to approve the ordinance. Council Member Jones seconded the motion, and the ordinance were approved unanimously

F. MAYOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Attached.

G. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

1. Water & Sewer – Not Available
2. Grants and Economic Development – Michelle Bailey – community clean up days – week before gator festival (oct 24th) and the week before easter (March 20th)
3. Public Safety –Not Available.
4. Events Report
 - a. Next Gator Festival – everything is running smoothly
 - b. Main Street: Thursday Night Live 2026 Events – Next event May 28, 2026- Rivermist

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.