THE OLANTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, October 8, 2026, 6:30 P.M.
Town of Olanta Community Center
215 Main St, Olanta, SC 29114

PRESENT:
Michael W. Welch, Mayor
Josh Jones
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 Jones gave the invocation. Mayor Welch led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA–THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026, TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the agenda as presented for October 8, 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 October 8, 2026, meeting was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA–THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the agenda as presented for September 3, 2026, regular town council meeting. Council Member Floyd made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The agenda for the September 3, 2026, meeting was approved unanimously.

Special Recognition
Yard of the month: 210 Woods Dr. Sammy Floyd

Old Business

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

Mayor Welch informed the council The project was reported nearly complete. A pre-final inspection was scheduled for October 21, 2026, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Town Hall, with the engineering firm and plumbing contractor expected. Residents' concerns, including driveway restoration, were to be collected for a punch list. The goal was to close out the project before year-end. Project limits were described along Carmen Shortcut, near the new fire department, Kelly Crossroads, and back toward town.

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

Mayor Welch informed council Hampton Street and water tank: Water-line replacement was underway, changing existing 6-inch ACP pipe to 8-inch PVC. Breaks during construction were reported due in part to undocumented lines. Preparation for sandblasting and repainting the Avondale water tank was underway; a plain white finish like the Highway 341 tank was discussed.

C. **SRF GRANT 2110006-06 – PARK AVE**

Mayor Welch informed council that A preliminary engineering report had been submitted for a proposed extension from the Starburst area along Park Avenue to Highway 378. Design was reported substantially complete, with project commencement anticipated.

D. **RIA VIABILITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM MEETING ON AUGUST 25,2026**

Mayor Welch informed council that The planned presentation was postponed until November because the presenting group could not meet the October deadline. Council and attendees were encouraged to attend the forthcoming discussion about long-term water-system sustainability.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **HARRIET ROSE- PEE DEE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

A planned presentation by Harriet Rose of a coalition against domestic violence did not take place because the presenter was absent. Staff was asked to explore rescheduling for November.

B. **ORDINANCE 20261008-02 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

Mayor Welch read Ordinance 2026-10-08-02: Council heard a reading of an ordinance implementing South Carolina Act 213 of 2026 (H. 3556) and returning municipal general elections to November of odd-numbered years, beginning November 2, 2027. The ordinance was described as voiding the prior ordinance attempting to move elections to even-numbered years. The proposal retained at-large elections, nonpartisan plurality voting, four-year staggered terms, and a $50 candidate filing fee; it specified an August 1–15 filing period, election notices, and commencement of terms. Municipal early voting was described as occurring at the Florence County voter registration and elections facility rather than Town Hall. A motion and second were requested, and a vote in favor was called. The discussion indicated an additional reading/special meeting would be needed before October 16. Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the resolution as read. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Floyd seconded the motion. The resolution was approved unanimously.

C. **FLOOD ORDINANCE**

Mayor Welch read the resolution Council considered an amendment to Chapter 7, Flood Damage Prevention, to align the Town ordinance and incorporated flood-hazard maps with FEMA and Florence County requirements. The corrected Exhibit A, Section 7-7, referenced the March 25, 2025 flood insurance study/maps in place of December 16, 2014 maps in an earlier version. The ordinance included severability, repeal of conflicting provisions, and effectiveness upon adoption. Two readings were noted as required. A motion to accept the ordinance as read and a vote in favor were called; verify the mover, seconder, reading number, and outcome. Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the resolution as read. Council Member Floyd made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The resolution was approved unanimously.

D. **FINANCIAL REPORT** – ATTACHED

E. **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL**

1. **Water & Sewer** – The ongoing Hampton Street replacement was causing periodic breaks because older service lines were not fully documented. One former pool supply line was struck and repaired/capped. Pressure fluctuations were attributed to the water tank being offline for work, with the Highway 341 tank helping maintain service. No separate sewer issues were reported.
2. **Grants and Economic Development** – The Town was not awarded the Duke Main Street Revitalization Grant. The Town was awarded 20 dogwood trees through a tree grant. Leann was asked to coordinate with Pete on collection of the trees in Florence. Planting near the Park Road park property line was proposed
3. **Public Safety** – NONE.

4. **Events Report**
   A. Gator Festival – The Gator Festival was announced for October 29–31, 2026. Friday activities were discussed as ending around 10:00 p.m. and Saturday around 8:00 p.m. A haunted-house attraction was reported relocated closer to the festival area. A community trash pickup was scheduled for October 24, 2026, with notice planned in October utility bills. Leann was asked to contact Michelle Bailey regarding trash bags and other cleanup materials.

   B. Main Street: Thursday Night Live 2026 Events – Thursday Night Live would kick off the festival, followed by Friday and Saturday entertainment; band names require verification against the event program

PUBLIC COMMENT

A resident raised concerns regarding reconnection of water service after payment of an outstanding balance. Discussion referenced a $75 reconnection fee and a $500 meter-tampering penalty, along with smart-meter readings indicating use after shutoff. The resident disputed having turned the service on. The presiding official discussed restoring service after payment of the reconnection fee and billing the penalty at $200 per month.

ADJOURN

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