

# VIRTUAL MEETING

## VARNVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, August 10, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

### **1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Nathaniel "Nat" A. Shaffer, other officials present Mayor Pro-Temp Alexander Campbell, Councilman Ronald Williams, Councilwoman Linda Cooler, Councilwoman Fay Gooding and Councilman Joseph Williams, others – Fire Chief Allen Dean, Chief Tyrone Smith and Clerk Seneinka Jones.

- 1.1** Invocation – Pro-Temp Alexander Campbell
- 1.2** Pledge of Allegiance – All in attendance
- 1.3** Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Compliance – Mayor Nathaniel Shaffer / Clerk-Seneinka Jones
- 1.4** Oath of office: Newly elected mayor and council members  
Clerk-Seneinka Jones sworn in Mayor Shaffer... after Mayor Shaffer sworn in Councilman R. Williams, Councilman J. Williams and Councilwoman Faye Gooding.

### **2. Consent Agenda Items**

**2.1 Approval of Agenda**-Councilman R. Williams wanted to discuss the council seat vacated by Kevin Brown. J. Williams made a motion to amend the agenda and Mayor Shaffer second it. All were in favor and the item was added to unfinished business

#### **2.2. Approval of Minutes**

### **3. Unfinished Business**

- 3.1. Second Reading: Ordinance #2020-02; an ordinance allowing a referendum on the Question of decreasing the number of town council members**
- 3.2. Discussion on Vacant Council Seat (Amended Agenda)**

Mayor Shaffer informed the body that the council has no authority in setting election dates, they are set by state statute and administered jointly by the town and county election commission. He suspects they will have to meet the challenges of COVID -19, which will delay the whole process.

After discussion, Motion was made by Councilman J. Williams to have second reading of Ordinance #2020-02 on the question to decrease the number of town council members to go to the voter's for final decision. The motion passed with J. Williams, F. Gooding, H. Campbell and N. Shaffer in Favor. The No's were Councilman R. Williams and Councilwoman Linda Cooler.

### **4. Reports of Department Heads and Committees**

**4.1 Administration, Police, Fire, LRWS Commissioner  
(Announcements that do not require council action will be made here, discussion is Limited)**

Mayor Shaffer gave an update on the Intersection Improvement Project and stated CSX is Now on board. Mayor also stated that there was an outbreak of Covid-19 in Town Hall. All Policy and procedures were followed, and the Town Hall was professionally cleaned by An Outside Source.

Chief Smith gave an update on previous shooting incidents on Hampton Road and Hickory Hill Road. All suspects have now been arrested and detained. Chief also gave an update on Accident fatality on SC-278 within municipality.

**5. New Business**

**5.1 Ordinance #2020-E3; Emergency Face Mask Ordinance; an ordinance requiring individuals To wear face coverings in retail and food service establishments, and matters related Thereto**

Motion was made by Councilman Campbell and Seconded by Councilwoman Cooler to Approve face covering in retail and food service establishments, and matters related Thereto... effectively August 17, 2020. Motion Passed with F. Gooding voting No.

**5.2. Resolution #2020-02; A plea to the South Carolina Congressional Delegation for Additional measure that includes direct and flexible fiscal assistance to local governments**

Motion was made by the Mayor Shaffer and Seconded by Councilwoman Gooding to adopt Resolution #2020-02; All in favor.

**5.3. Election of Mayor Pro-Temp; Varnville Town Code; Article 1 Sec. 2-4, (A) Immediately after Any general election of the council, the council shall elect from its membership a mayor Pro tempore for a term of not more than town years**

Motion was made by Councilman R. Williams and Seconded by Councilwoman Linda Cooler To nominate Councilman Campbell as Mayor Pro-Temp for the Town of Varnville. All in Favor.

**6. Adjournment: With no objections, Mayor Shaffer adjourned the council meeting at 8:28 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Seneinka Jones**

**Town Clerk**