

VARNVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 13, 2024

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Nathaniel “Nat” Shaffer.

Officials present ; Mayor Pro – Tem Henry A. Campbell, Councilman Ronald Williams, Councilman Nick Ginn, Councilman Faye Gooding, Councilman Joseph Williams, Councilwoman Linda Cooler.

Others- Fire Department- Wade Hadwin, Bryan Adams, Police Department- Tyrone Smith, Mayor Patty Williams of Brunson , Scott Weirman, Emmy Rooney, Amy Shaffer, Maggie Knox, Dobie Hiers, Dorris Shieffield

1.1 Invocation – Councilman Joseph Williams

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Nathaniel Shaffer

1.3 Freedom of Information Act (**FOIA**) Compliance – Clerk Shannon Shaffer

2. Consent Agenda Items –

2.1 Approval of Agenda – No objections / Approved

2.2 Approval of Minutes – 2/12/24- No Objections / Approved

3. Reports of Department Heads

3.1 Chief Tyrone Smith provided information only the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the Second Amendment guaranteed rights to carry a firearm in public. He suggested signs be placed in areas such as parks, the gazebo and ball fields notifying the public that no weapons are allowed in those areas. Also asked to keep Councilman Campbell and Lt. Michael Smith in prayer due to the recent death in their family.

- 3.2 Fire Chief Bryan Adams had no reports at this meeting.
- 3.3 Mayor Shaffer reported a current profit & loss statement for departments. Income is functioning at 16% less than expected due to insurance broker tax, utility franchise fees and county real property tax collection which usually are not received until later in the fiscal year. The Business License tax was reported to be functioning sufficiently at 208% above required amount. Expenditures are functioning at 3% under the allocated amount.

4. Public Hearing

- 4.1 No public hearing at the meeting

5. Old Business

5.1 President, COE, Scott Weirman and Vice President of Development and Donor Services, Emmy Rooney from Community Foundation of the Low Country presented the counsel and guest with details of what the foundation provides to municipalities in partnership. Emmy Rooney shared information about non-profit organizations that have been supported by the foundation specifically in areas such as Colleton, Jasper, Hilton Head, Bluffton, and Hampton County. With such a small amount of funds required to partner with the foundation who offer a mass of resources in creating nonprofits for communities in need, such as Varnville, Councilwoman Faye Gooding motioned to approve a partnership with The Foundation Community of the Lowcountry and was seconded by Councilman Nick Ginn. Funds donated to the town in the amount of \$10,226.47 will be placed on deposit with The Community Foundation of the Lowcountry for a broad fund.

5.2 ORDINANCE #2024- 03 : AN ORINANCE TO REGULATE CERTAIN PROHIBITIONS FOR DOOR TO DOOR SALES (PEDDLERS) – SECOND READING. Councilman Joseph Williams motioned to pass Ordinance and seconded by Councilman Ronald Williams. All in favor.

5.3 Ordinance #2024 – 04 : AN ORDINANCE TO UPDATE FEE AGREEMENT/SCHEDULE WITH SAFEbuilt (Building Department Services).

Councilman Henry Campbell motioned to pass Ordinance and seconded by Councilman Nick Ginn. All in favor.

5.4 Ordinance #2024 –02 postponed until the next council meeting on April 9th, 2024. Notices have been mailed to the parties involved.

6. Executive Session

6.1 Motion to enter executive session was made by Councilman Nick Ginn and seconded by Councilwoman Linda Cooler. All in favor.

Councilman Nick Ginn motioned to exit executive session seconded by Councilwoman Linda Cooler. All were in favor.

7. New Business

6.2 Motion was made by Councilman Joseph Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Linda Cooler to allocate funds for the repair and legal counsel in reference to the Freightliner Garbage truck repair services at Savannah Freightliner. All were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Shannon Shaffer
Admin. Assistant/ Clerk