

VIRTUAL MEETING

VARNVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 12, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Meeting (WEB LINK & DIAL – IN NUMBER) was called to order by Mayor Nathaniel “Nat” A. Shaffer 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 – Mayor Nathaniel Shaffer
- 1.2 Pledge of allegiance – Mayor Nathaniel Shaffer
- 1.3 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Compliance – Seneinka Jones -Clerk

2. Consent Agenda Items

2.1 Approval of Agenda – No objections

2.2 Approval of Minutes – No objections

3. Reports of Department Heads and Committees

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

Mayor Shaffer stated there were no changes with LRWS. However, LRWS has seen new growth in the Yemassee, SC area. LRWS still has openings for employment. In reference to the Intersection Improvement Project, no changes.... Still on track to be completed by April' 2021.

Chief Tyrone Smith – reported accident on Palmetto Avenue on December 5, 2020... resulting in Fatality. Also, the court administration has suspended court until further notice due to Covid-19.

Fire Chief- Allen Dean reported everything is good.... for the last few trainings, Varnville & Hampton trained together.

4. New Business:

4.1 Extension of Emergency Ordinance #2021 -E1; Extension of Emergency Ordinance pertaining to the COVID-19 outbreak, town operations and procedures.

Motion was made by Councilman Campbell to Extension of Emergency Ordinance #2021-E1; Extension of Emergency Ordinance pertaining to the Covid-19 outbreak, town operations and procedures. Seconded by Councilwoman Cooler. All were in favor.

4.2 Extension of Emergency Ordinance #2021-E2; 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 to extend Emergency Face Mask Ordinance; an ordinance requiring individuals to wear face coverings in retail and food service establishments, and matters related thereto... Seconded by Ronald Williams, all were in favor.

5. Executive Session N/A

6. Regular Session

6.1 Discussion -workshop on General Service Garbage Revenues and Expenses.

The council had a general discussion about the General Services Dept, specifically, Garbage Collection. Mayor Shaffer advised the council that due to COVID 19 and its many restrictions, he and Finance director Kimberly Vinson was not able to complete the study for Revenues and Expenses as thoroughly as they would like to.

Mayor Shaffer stated the last time adjustments were made to garbage collection fees was on January 14, 2003 when we had to raise rates by \$4.65 per month from \$11.50 to \$16.15. Mayor Shaffer stated there has been no residential rate increase in the last 8 years, and no commercial rate increase in the past 10+ years.

Councilman Joseph Williams asked about the garbage pickup in the Brookwood Subdivision. Mayor Shaffer advised that a study is undergoing, and that we wanted to make sure that expanded the service would not cost the existing service.

Councilwoman Gooding asked could we get an outside bid for garbage service. Mayor Shaffer stated, in the past we have received bids from several companies, and it was cheaper to outsource the service however, by way of official public hearings, citizens overwhelmingly stated they wanted the town to continue pickup and were opposed to outsourcing.

Mayor Shaffer stated that if an increase in rate is needed it will more than likely be on commercial collection. Councilman Ronald Williams agreed and stated that during these times we do not want to put any undo pressure on the citizens of Varnville, SC.

Councilman Joseph Williams asked about the new General Service truck, the price and age. He was Advised that the truck has purchased in 2018 and the price was \$180,000.

7.1 Adjournment: With no objections, Mayor Shaffer adjourned the council meeting at 7:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Seneinka Jones

Town Clerk