

VARNVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday October 17, 2023, 7:00pm

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Nathaniel “Nat’ A. Shaffer officials present Mayor Pro-Temp Henry Campbell, Councilman Nick Ginn, Councilman Joseph Williams, Councilman Ronald Williams, Councilwoman Linda Cooler, and Councilwoman Faye Gooding.

Administration / Staff; Tyrone Smith, Clerk Seneinka Jones, Clerk Shannon Shaffer and Fire Department – Wade Hadwin & Bryan Adams

Visitor(s) – Doris Sheffield and Representative William ‘Bill’ Hagar.

1.1 Invocation - Mayor Nathaniel A. Shaffer

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Nathaniel A, Shaffer

1.2 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) – Seneinka Jones- Clerk

2. Consent Agenda Items

2.2 Approval of Agenda – No Objections

2.2. Approval of Minutes (9/12/2023) – No Objections / Approved

3. Reports of Departments Heads, Committees, and guest on the agenda

3.1 Administration, Police, Fire, LRWS Commissioner

(Announcement that do not require council action will be made here, discussion is limited)

Fire Department – Wade Hadwin mentioned the Fire Department’s Christmas Dinner will be Held on December 12, 2023... RSVP (guest included) by November 28, 2023.

Chief Tyrone Smith reported that some of the equipment has been delivered... the equipment Was shipped directly to Motorola.

Chief Smith stated the Varnville Police Department has lost an officer (Bailey) to Colleton County. Chief also mentioned Officer Bobby Anderson retiring as of October 30, 2023.

Mayor Shaffer reported that the LRWS passed the Operating Budget last meeting for \$3,780,029.88. LRWS did operate in a deficit of \$165,464.74 last year. In the budget, expect a slight increase in water and sewage rates.

Mayor Shaffer also reported to the council the LRWS long-term Capital Improvement Plan and the RIASCIIP Funding. (Water looping project)

3.2 Representative William “Bill’ Hager

Representative Hager gave a summary report on the most recent legislative activity at the State House level.

4. Public Hearing:

4.1 None

5. Old Business

5.1 None

6. New Business

6.1 Consideration of appointment to the Planning Commission.

Motion was made by Pro- Temp Henry Campbell and Seconded by Councilwoman Faye Gooding to appoint Keith Hiers as part of the Planning Commission. Mr. Hiers is the Chief Biologist at Web wildlife and along with his wife owns several commercial properties in Varnville.

6.2 Ordinance #2023-05 Setting the filing period for the November 2023 Municipal election (ACTION)

Motion was made by Councilman Josph Williams and Seconded by Mayor Pro-Temp Campbell to approve Ordinance #2023-05 Setting the filing period for the November 2023 Municipal election. All in favor.

6.3 Consideration of amending regular council meeting date.

Motion made by Mayor Nathaniel Shaffer and Seconded by Councilman Nick Ginn to act on the amendment to hold council meetings on the second Tuesday of the month starting in 2024. All in favor.

6.4 Red Ribbon Week Proclamation

Motion made by Councilmen Nick Ginn and Seconded by Councilwoman Linda Cooler to proclaim the week of October 22-28, 2023, Red Ribbon Week. All in favor.

6.5 Breast Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation

Motion was made by Pro- Temp Henry Campbell and Seconded by Councilman Joseph Williams to proclaim the month of October '2023 the Month of Breast Cancer Awareness. All in favor.

6.6 Halloween Trick or Treat dates

The Town Merchants of Varnville will have Trunk or Treat on October 27, 2023, in front of the Town Hall.... The council approved Trick or Treating observance on Halloween Day October 31, 2023, from 6-8pm.

7. Executive session

7.1 Section 30-4-70 (a) (1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, Demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body Or the appointment of a person to a public body in the General Services and Administration Departments.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Temp Campbell and seconded by Councilwoman Faye Gooding to Enter Executive Session. All in favor.

8. The council will act on Executive Session matters if required or warranted (ACTION)

No action was required. Mayor Shaffer gave an update on personnel matters; Reported Shannon Shaffer had been hired as a part time Administrative Assistant / Clerk, with his and Councilman Nick Ginn's recusal and abstention. Johnny Mims is no longer employed with General Services and Micheal Willie Williams has been hired to replace Johnny Mimms. Taylor Hatch has been hired part time in the General Services department.

9. Adjournment – Without any objections; Mayor Shaffer adjourned the council meeting at 8.55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Shaffer

Administrative Asst / Clerk