VARNVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 8th , 2024

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Pro-Tem Alexander Campbell.

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

**Others-** Police Chief Smith, Kelly Brown, Dorris Sheffield

1.1 Invocation – Councilman Jospeh Williams

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance – Pro-Tem Alexander Campbell.

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

1. **Consent Agenda Items –**

2.1 Approval of Agenda – Approved with no objections

2.2 Approval of Minutes –9/10/2024 Approved. All were in favor.

1. **Reports of Department Heads**

3.1 Chief Smith reported that there is currently one Varnville Police Officer currently at the Police Academy and one officer doing blocks to get into the academy.

There are three certified full-time officers working for the town. Those officers are himself, working day shift and Assistant Chief Michael Smith, who covers night shift with Officer Draper.

3.2 Mayor Shaffer presented a report from LCWS to review the profit and loss portion in reference to garbage fees since the town contracted with S&S.

Mayor Shaffer also reported that the Skylft forklift/lull/basket was purchased for the general service department at a lesser fee than originally asked for with a 6-month equipment warranty.

In reference to Hurricane Helene, the town had some damage to property during the storm. The Town’s insurance will not cover any damage caused by town owned buildings during the storm because it is considered an act of nature.

***Some open projects that are ongoing;***

**SEID** – Varnville Gin Feasibility Study with a total cost of $117,000. The town was awarded $93,600 with the town matching around $23,400.

**CBDG Funding Proposal** - HJ Brooks Park Improvements. This project is estimated by LCOG to cost around $234,000. This project is in preliminary stages. No award has been given.

* 1. Kelly Brown presented the council with information about the non-profit fund she created, Animal Care Fund of Hampton County, through Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. She asked the Mayor and Council to take notice of the signage and traps she has placed in the Town of Varnville. She stated that when she captures and takes cats to be spayed and neutered the left ear is “tipped” to follow the TNR Program. This is a Universal sign that a feral cat has been spayed or neutered (desexed), vaccinated and then returned to its colony.

Mrs. Brown stated that her newest project areas for TNR are in The Pines and Near the Varnville Fire Department.

Mrs. Brown asked for clarification about the $1500.00 allotment to Hampton Animal Hospital for spaying and neutering cats. It was explained by the Council that the funds were not for a specific person to use for spaying and neuter cats, but it is only specific to a provider. Mrs. Brown vowed to continue with her project in Varnville regardless of where the funding came from.

1. **Old Business-**

None

**5. New Business**

5.1 Red Ribbon Week Proclamation - A Proclamation to recognize October 23rd -31st as Red Ribbon Week in the Town of Varnville and to promote drug awareness and prevention. Motion made by Councilman Nick Ginn and Seconded by Councilwoman Linda Cooler. All were in favor.

5.2 Breast Cancer Awareness Proclamation- A proclamation recognizing the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness and to promote early detection for breast cancer. Motion made by Pro-Tem Henry A. Campbell a seconded by Councilman Nick Ginn. All were in favor.

5.3 A 2024-2025 Operating Budget workshop will need to be scheduled for the Council to attend.

5.4 Resolution 2024-05: A resolution endorsing the Dr. H.J. Brooks Park Improvement Project. Motion made my Councilwoman Faye Gooding and seconded by Councilman Ronald Williams. All were in favor.

**6. Executive Session**

No executive session at this meeting.

Metting was adjourned at 8:14pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Shannon Shaffer

Admin. Assistant/ Clerk