**Varnville Town Council Meeting**

**Tuesday February 11th, 2024, 7:00 PM**

**Town Hall - 95 East Palmetto Avenue**

**1.Call to Order-** Meeting was Called to Order at 7:00pm

***Officials present***: Mayor Pro-Tem, Councilwoman Faye Gooding, Councilman Joseph Williams, Councilman Nick Ginn, Councilwoman Linda Cooler

(Mayor Shaffer was not present due to feeling unwell after a procedure) Mayor Pro- Tem Henry Alexander Campbell preceded at this meeting.

***Others present****:* Chief Tyrone Smith, Fire Chief Bryan Adams Officer Keith Van Allen, Officer. Adrian Draper, Dorris Sheffield, Wade Hadwin, Joshua Thompson, Tiffany Dantzler

1.**1Invocation-** Councilman Joseph Williams

**1.2 Pledge of Allegiance-** Pro-Tem Henry A. Campbell

**1.3 FOIA Compliance-** Shannon Shaffer

**2. Consent Agenda Items-**

2.1 Approval of agenda -All were in favor.

2.2 Approval of minutes – 01-07-2025 & 01-27-2025. All were in favor.

**3. Reports of Department Heads, Committees, and guests on the agenda**

3.1 Chief Tyrone Smith presented the council members with a letter concerning/requesting pay raise information for Police Department. Officer Van Allen reported that he was offered a job making $10k more a year and he turned it down because he is loyal to Chief Smith. Officer Draper said that the need for another officer in the Police Department is there most importantly due to the load it puts on others when one officer is sick or needs to off. Councilmember Faye Gooding, Mayor Pro-Tem Alexander Campbell, and Councilman Nick Ginn all asked Chief Smith and Officers to be patient and that the council is working toward giving pay raises to the Polce Department.

3.2 Fire Chief Adams reported that for the month of January the Town responded to 31 town calls and 19 county calls. Wade Hadwin informed the council that Fire Engine 61 is not running properly and needs to have some mechanical work done.

3.3 Joshua Thomas, Code Enforcement, gave a report on the current code complaint/violation – 11 Properties Condemned and 3 Demolitions at the expense of the owner.

Demolished Properties -541 Dennis, 55 Lingard St., 66 Connelly St.

42 Bennet St. - Mr. Crosson is slowly dismantling the shop.

507 Germain St.- property secure- plans to renovate

129 Hampton St.- building secure- plans to renovate

70 Ginn St.- no success with contact- Abatement – clear danger to others. Mr. Thomas stated he found a stolen wallet found on his last visit to this property.

78 Spruce St. - no success with contact- Abatement ? Secluded non resecure

964 Carolina Ave. – Property Owner had 60 days to comply and failed to do so. Mr. Thomas has written tickets to property owner bringing him to court- Municipal judge gave the property owner continuance. Mr. Thomas spoke to another Municipal Judge, and he said it was civil matter and did not believe he had the right to rule on the case.60 days to comply. Magistrate Judge will not hear about the case and said if it is not a municipal matter then it needs to go before the Court of Common Pleas. The property owner has had 2 years to come into compliance. Mr. Thomas suggested contacting the town attorney to check on what abatement process to pursue having the property demoed.

A fence on Palmetto Ave/ Academy has been “chain sawed” to abide with site lines code.

Councilman Ronald Williams asked if 65 Main Street is up to code compliance or if it had been inspected. He stated that the building in reference did not cause any damage to the neighboring buildings due to structural integrity but rather an act of nature due to Hurricane Helene. The building is not in compliance because it has no roof, but it is secure.

Councilwoman Faye Gooding requested a list of information from Mr. Thomas.

4.Public Hearing-

4.1. CDBG Public Hearing Concerning Needs Assessment - Motion made by Councilman Nick Ginn and seconded by Councilman Ronald Williams to enter public hearing. Tiffany Dantzler from LCOG presented the council with a power point about upcoming grants/awards. Councilman Nick Ginn asked if there were any available grants that would cover demolitions. Ms. Dantzler said she would check.

Motion made by Councilman Joseph Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Linda Cooler to close Public Hearing.

No action taken at this meeting.

5. Animal Ordinance- Information only.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Shannon Shaffer

Administrative Assistant/ Clerk