Varnville Town Council Minutes

April 8th , 2025, 7:00pm

Town Hall- 95 East Palmetto Ave.

**1.Call to Order-**Mayor Shaffer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**Officials present**: Mayor Nathaniel Shaffer, Councilman Ronald Williams, Councilman Nick Ginn, Mayor Pro- Tem Henry A. Campbell, Councilwoman Faye H. Gooding, Councilwoman Linda Cooler, Councilman Jospeh Williams

*Others present:* Chief Tyrone Smith, Chief Bryan Adams Carolyn Wesley, Tammera Mixson-Suggs, Brenda Grant, Martha Garvin, Charlie Williams, Lance Craven, , Joyce Dunbar,

* 1. Invocation- Mayor Nathaniel Shaffer
  2. Pledge of Allegiance- Mayor Nathaniel Shaffer
  3. FOIA Compliance – Shannon Shaffer

2. Consent of Agenda items-

2.1 Approval of Agenda- All were in favor

2.2 Approval of Minutes- All were in favor

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

**3.1** Mayor Shaffer presented a report on the current looping project by LRWS, which aims to upgrade systems. This project is intended to integrate the town of Brunson with Hampton, including the new high school. It was also reported that the groundbreaking ceremony for the elevated tank, which will be constructed in Early Branch at the industrial park, was postponed due to heavy rain and thunderstorms.

Chief Smith reported that preparations for the watermelon festival celebrations are underway.

Chief Bryan Adams reported that the fire department responded to 33 county calls and 29 town calls during May.

**3.2** Miss Varnville 2025 - Miss Elizabeth Nell Shaffer was voted to represent the Town of Varnville this year. She missed the council meeting due to a bout of influenza.

**3.3** Tamara Mixson-Suggs raised concerns about unresolved issues from her previous complaints. The council confirmed that these matters are being addressed appropriately. She stated that this would be her final complaint and emphasized that if any property on her lot is damaged by trees she believes are the town's responsibility, she would seek legal action for compensation. Her previous complaints were as follows:

* Dogs barking throughout the night on town property.
* Inconsistent garbage pickup and failure to properly dispose of all trash.
* Neglected trees on her property line, which she asserts belong to the town.

**4. Old Business**

4.1 Project Amendment of Dr. H.J. Brooks Park Grant and other matters-

Mayor Shaffer summarized the proposed amendments, including a larger pavilion, refurbished basketball court, and affordable ADA playground equipment. The amendments were approved. He noted that if costs rise, matching funds will also increase. Councilman Williams inquired whether the Town could verify if Dominion Energy's removal of the light pole qualifies as an in-kind match.

**6. New Business**

Mayor Shaffer announced that Varnville will discontinue picking up roadside construction debris and large appliances such as stoves, washing machines, and refrigerators. Etc. to reduce costs and equipment damage. He explained this decision with examples such as property owners, who rent for profit, depending on the town to clean up large amounts of household property, clothes etc. of former tenants' (at no additional fee) needed. Councilman Joseph Williams suggested that many companies provide a service to remove old appliances from your property when you purchase new ones. He also mentioned other alternatives, such as using local recycling centers, thrift stores, churches, or disposal services, instead of dumping these items by the roadside. The town will make announcements regarding this later.

**6.2** First Reading of Ordinance for the Sale of Real Property at TM#136-01-08-008, located on Live Oak Street, to Hampton.

**6.3** Acceptance of Audit Contract for 2024-2025 Fiscal Year- All were in favor

**6.4** Update and discussion on purchasing policy and procedures-

**7. Executive Session**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:23 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Shannon Shaffer

Administrative Assistant/ Clerk