Varnville Town Council Minutes Tuesday August 12th , 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 , 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, Dorris Sheffield, Lee Wheatlet, Bill Jackson Elizabeth Brooks

1.1 Invocation- Mayor Nathaniel Shaffer

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance- Mayor Nathaniel Shaffer

1.3 FOIA Compliance – Shannon Shaffer

1. Consent of Agenda items-
   1. Approval of Agenda- All were in favor
   2. Approval of Minutes- All were in favor

# Reports of Department Heads, Committees, and guests on the agenda

**3.1** Mayor Shaffer gave the council an updated profit and loss statement and balance sheet.

Chief Smith presented the Council with a report referring to number of citations written in the Town to date.

Chief Bryan Adams reported that the fire department responded to 3 county calls and 150 town calls during July.

**3.2** Tamara Mixson Suggs presented Chief Tyrone Smith with a token of gratitude for his aid at her home where there was a “vicious dog” in her yard. Chief Smith stated he attempted to contact animal control, but the officer was off duty that day.

**3.3** Bill Jackson gave everyone a copy of the work that has been done so far in reference to the Gin Feasibility Study. He noted that a Public Survey would be available soon to collect data from residents and that he would also be at the 2nd Annual Celebrating Small Town America Event where surveys would also be conducted.

# Old Business

4.1 Although the agenda said first reading, Mayor Shaffer called out the error explaining that this was a second and final reading of an Ordinance to Sale Real Property at TM#136-01-08-008, Live Oak St. to Hampton County. $14,000. Motion made to accept offer by Mayor Pro Tem Alexander Campbell. Seconded by Councilwoman Faye Gooding. All were in favor.

4.2 Garbage Collection and Disposal- The Town Council unanimously agreed to Amend Article III Garbage Refuse Town Code(s) Section 26-50 through 67. The Town will now only pick up yard debris and vegetation. Any household items are the responsibility of the property owner to dispose. See ordinance # 2025-09

# Executive Session

Mayor Shaffer made the motion to enter executive Session. Second, by Mayor Pro Tem Henry A Campbell. All were in favor.

# New Business

6.1 Request to Rezone; The property owner of 188 Palmetto Ave W. – requested the council rezone his property from commercial to flexible residential so he can sell it as a residence.

Mayor Shaffer noted that the building was constructed as an insurance office and operated over 40 years. Rezoning this parcel would reduce commercial footprint and future business opportunities downtown. He stated the buildings style, design and current legal use is its highest and best use. After further discussion the request to rezone it failed due to lack of a motion.

6.2 Resolution #2025-26 Continuing Resolution Authorizing the Operations of Municipal

Government. Motioned by Councilwoman Faye Gooding, seconded by Jospeh Williams all were in favor.

6.3 Ordinance #2025-26 First Reading Fiscal Year 2025-2026: An ordinance to pass the Budget for the Town of Varnville and other matters related thereto. Operating budget of $1,611,787. And a millage rate of 84 mills on the dollar of assessed value of property, and a monthly fire service fee applied to the water/sewer bills of $7.50 per customer. Motion made by Mayor ProTem Henry Campbell and Seconded by Councilman Jospeh Williams. All were in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:37 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Shannon Shaffer

Administrative Assistant/ Clerk