**Varnville Town Council Meeting**

**Tuesday March 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 Nathaniel Shaffer, Mayor Pro-Tem, Councilwoman Faye Gooding, Councilman Joseph Williams, Councilman Nick Ginn, Councilwoman Linda Cooler

***Others present****:* Chief Tyrone Smith, Fire Chief Bryan Adams, Wade Hadwin, James Jackson, Willie Hanyes

1.**1Invocation-** Mayor Nathaniel Shaffer

**1.2 Pledge of Allegiance-** Mayor Nathaniel Shaffer

**1.3 FOIA Compliance-** Shannon Shaffer

**2. Consent Agenda Items-**

2.1 Approval of agenda -All were in favor.

2.2 Approval of minutes – Motioned by Councilman Nick Ginn, seconded by Councilwoman Linda Cooler- 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 report of the latest tickets/fines issued by the Polce Department.

3.2 Fire Chief Adams reported that for the month of February, the fire department responded to 22 town calls and 47 county calls. Chief Adams also reported the department currently has 4 active grants that cover needs at 100%.

**4. Old Business**

4.1 American Legion Auxiliary Post 108- Palmetto Girls State –

4.2 American Legion Auxiliary Post 108 – 2025 Boy Sate Sponsorship – Motion was made by Councilman Jospeh Willaims and Seconded by Councilman Ronald Williams to sponsor one girl and one boy chosen to attend Boys State & Girls State 2025- All were in favor.

4.3 Animal Control Ordinance – template for ordinance was reviewed, however the council is not ready to act at this time. Due to being in contract with Hampton County, the town currently pays the county $5000 annually for housing and services. The existing ordinance does not allow the town to charge a fine/fee for noncompliance. The new animal control officer reports to the Sheriffs Office. The council will visit this line item at next meeting.

4.4 Update on Dr. H.J. Brooks Park Grant – reviewed the correspondence and target plan. Councilman Ronald Williams would like to revisit this line item and hold another public hearing to get the communities input on incorporating a basketball court. Mayor Shaffer stated that the current neighbors should have input in the decision of what the park will consist of. Councilman Nick Ginn motioned to revisit this item at next meeting. Faye Gooding seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**5. New Business**

 5.1 Condemnation and demolition process of 964 Carolina Ave. – Motion was made by Councilman Alexaner Campbell to begin the abatement process for this property. Seconded by Councilwoman Faye Gooding. All were in favor.

5.2 Disposal of Surplus Real Property – Executive session matter

5.3Ordinance – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF VARNVILLE, SOUTH CAROINA AS IT RELATES TO THE PROVISIONS OF WATER AND SEWER SERVICES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.- Uniform with LRWS.

Motion was made by Mayor Shaffer and seconded by Councilwoman Faye Gooding to adopt this ordinance.

Mayor Shaffer made motion to enter Executive Session. Seconded by Alexander Campbell. All were in favor.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Shannon Shaffer

Administrative Assistant/ Clerk