

VARNVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday February 13, 2023

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Nathaniel “Nat” Shaffer.

Officials present ; Mayor Pro – Tem Henry A. Campbell, Councilman Ronald Williams, Councilman Nick Ginn, Councilwoman Faye Gooding, Councilwoman Linda Cooler, and Councilman Joseph Williams.

Others – Fire Department - Wade Hadwin, Bryan Adams, Police Department – Chief Tyrone Smith, Dorris Sheffield.

1.1 Invocation – Pro – Tem Henry A. Campbell

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Nathaniel A. Shaffer

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

2. Consent Agenda Items –

2.1 Approval of Agenda – No objections / Approved

2.2 Approval of Minutes – 1/23/24 – No objections / Approved

3. Reports of Department Heads

3.1 Mayor Shaffer received a request from PEARLS, Philanthropic Empowerment Among Rural Lowcountry Sisters, to host a first annual walk in Varnville on Friday, March 8th, 2024, from 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm to promote awareness of International Women’s Day and the PEARLS mission. This will be a short walk & a route is to be determined. This event was approved by the council with no objections.

3.2 Police Department – Reported that the late, former Officer Clayton Johnson’s wife passed away. Asked for condolences for the family.

3.3 Fire Department – No reports currently.

4. **Public Hearing**

Public Hearing for Ordinance #2024 – 02; postponed until March 12th so that the appropriate amount of time has passed since the first reading and so that the parties involved can be contacted to attend public hearing.

5. **Old Business**

5.1 Second Reading of Ordinance #2024-01; Amending the business license ordinance of the Town of Varnville to update the class schedule as required by act 176 of 2020. Councilwoman Faye Gooding motioned for the amending of the ordinance, seconded by Pro- Tem Henry A. Campbell. – All in favor.

5.2 Second Reading of Ordinance #2024-02 : Postponed with no objections.

6. **Executive Session**

Motion to enter executive session made by Councilman Nick Ginn, seconded by Councilwomen Linda Cooler.

7. **New Business**

7.1 Motion was made by Mayor Shaffer and seconded by Councilwoman Faye Gooding to allow Mal's Pals to use the building at 68 Main Street as thrift store rent free for 6 months if they pay utilities. Will reevaluate terms after the 6- month period. All profits go toward Mal's Pals Charity.

7.2 Appointment of Fire Chief: Mayor Shaffer motioned to appoint Brian Adams as Fire Chief. Seconded by Councilwoman Linda Cooler. No objections.

7.3 Planning Commission: Mayor Shaffer motioned to appoint Kevin Graham and Blake Hodge to be on the Planning Commission Board. Motion made by Councilman Nick Ginn and seconded by Councilman Joseph Williams.

7.4 Community Foundation of the Lowcountry is a non-profit organization that assists municipalities with grants and the process thereof. Councilwoman Faye Gooding shared information in how partnering with this foundation would be beneficial for the town. The President/CEO from

Community Foundation of the Lowcountry will come to our next scheduled meeting to discuss further partnership benefits.

7.5 Ordinance #2024 – 04 : AN ORDINANCE TO UPDATE FEE AGREEMENT/

SCHEDULE WITH SAFEbuilt (Building Department Services). First Reading - Motion made by Mayor Shaffer and seconded by Councilman Joseph Williams to adopt this ordinance. – No Objections

7.6 ORDINANCE #2024- 03 : AN ORINANCE TO REGULATE CERTAIN PROHIBITIONS

FOR DOOR TO DOOR SALES (PEDDLERS) – Motion made by Councilman Nick Ginn and seconded by Pro - Tem Henry A. Campbell. – No objections

7.7 Councilwoman Faye Gooding discussed in detail how the branding of the Town of Varnville can positively promote our community and all it has to offer.

Using a brand such as “ Little town with a big heart” would be appropriate because we have many departments, businesses, and centers in which give care to a multitude of people and animals. Additionally, this would reflect that

Varnville is a place that is a town that is caring with a warm atmosphere. Suggestion of polling the citizens on a brand was suggested by Councilman Ronald Williams. This will be discussed further with the Planning Commission before moving forward.

7.8 Pro- Tem Henry A. Campbell suggested that we consider an Ordinance in reference to a fence recently constructed on Academy Street due to its future appearance/attractiveness. May refer this matter to the building and coding department.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Shannon E. Shaffer
Admin. Assistant /
Clerk

