

VARNVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 12, 2026
Town Hall- 95 E Palmetto Ave.

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 Willians, Councilwoman Faye H. Gooding, Councilwoman Linda Cooler, Councilman Nick Ginn, Councilwoman Tammera Mixson- Suggs

Others- Police Chief Tyrone Smith, Fire Chief Bryan Adams, Willie Haynes, Dobie Hiers, Tiffany Dantzler, Brenda Grant, Tashara Morgan

2. Consent Agenda Items

2.1. Agenda Approved- No Objections

2.2 Minutes Approved – No Objections

3. Reports of Department Heads, Committees, and Guest :

3.1 Mayor Shaffer announced that LRWS is hiring four tech positions with competitive pay, benefits, and on-the-job training.

Mayor Shaffer also shared details about the Hampton County Fair, requesting a council member to volunteer for fair committee meetings; Campbell expressed interest, but no other volunteers have come forward yet.

Tiffany Dantzler reported that an additional grant was awarded for the HJ Brooks Park Improvement Project. The in-kind match is complete, and funds will go toward the walking path and other project amendments.

3.2 Fire Chief Bryan Adams reported 23 in-town calls. He also shared information about a CDBG Grant request to purchase a new fire truck. The grant requires a 10% match, and awards range from \$50,000 to \$750,000. A needs assessment will be conducted at the next council meeting. The town currently has two fire trucks: one 1992 and 2004 model year.

3.3 Chief Tyrone Smith noted multiple shootings across the county and urged citizens to report incidents, even anonymously, and stay vigilant. He mentioned that municipal law enforcement agencies are considering new software for shared information access, except for the Sheriff's Department, which independently acquired FLEX MOTOROLA through a grant. Purchasing FLEX MOTOROLA is not feasible for other municipalities.

He also reported that our new officer, Nathan Heape, is preparing to attend the Police Academy in the second week of February.

4. No Public Hearing

5. New Business

5.1 Ordinance #2025-28: An ordinance to implement Hospitality Tax

Further discussion was favored toward the implementation of the tax and a public hearing.

6. New Business

6.1 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget Development Calendar

The council received the development calendar.

6.2 Discussion and Action on Allocation of General Obligation Bond Proceeds—

Mayor Shaffer stated per our most recent bond (2023) issuance we have funds to be allocated towards the maintenance and upgrade of the Town Hall. The council agreed to solicit bids to replace the floor covering, paint and rehab the bathrooms and break center/kitchen. Also replace the steps to the gazebo.

7. Executive Session-

Mayor Shaffer motioned to entering executive session to discuss; Section 30-4-70 (a) (2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.

Section 30-4-70 (a) (1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body in the Police and / or Administration departments

Linda Cooler motion to exit the executive session and Fay Gooding seconded. All favored.

Mayor Shaffer adjourned the meeting at 8:33pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Shannon Shaffer

Admin. Assistant/ Clerk