

VARNVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 9, 2012 @ 7:00 pm

(I)

Officials Present were: Mayor Nathaniel "Nat" Shaffer, Council Members: Ralph Smith, Henry Tuten, Lloyd "Tootie" Griffin Alexander Campbell, Adam Major, Ronald Williams, Public Works Director, Robert "Bobby" Edwards, Chief Tyrone Smith and Clerk Treasurer, Christine Parker.

Among the general population in attendance included: Brenda Willis, Jay Collars, Ken Long, Marvin Ginn Camille Welch and Belton Zeigler Esquire, Pope & Zeigler.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Shaffer.

The invocation was given by Councilman Williams and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Mayor Shaffer presented the minutes of the December meeting for approval. A motion was made by Councilman Griffith and Councilman Smith seconded the approval of the minutes. All members were in favor.

Mayor Shaffer had a correction to make on the previous agenda. He stated we went into executive session to discuss a personnel matter not a personal matter.

(II)

Mayor Shaffer recognized the following visitor(s) who had signed up to address the council: Jay Collars and Ken Long of the American Legion 108 on behalf of the Palmetto Boys State Program. They were present to ask for a donation of \$300.00 to send one boy to the program. A motion was made by Councilman Tuten and was seconded by Councilman Major. All members were in favor.

Mr. Belton Zeigler of Pope Zeigler of Columbia was present to discuss the formation of the Low Country Water/ Sewer Authority. He said he has been working for some time on this and putting all the paper work together. He explained the steps. (1) Adopt a resolution (2) Appoint someone to represent the Town of Varnville and (3) Lawyer's application is sent to the Secretary of State. Then it is created and it will become its own entity. Once it is organized, by laws are important. He explained to the Mayor and Council the voting method. There would be 110 votes total. The voting will be broken down as follows: Brunson 7 %, Hampton 38%, Varnville 25%, Yemassee 21%, and Hampton County 9%. No one entity dominates. Also, every three years the voting could change due to the population of the town. At this point all entities have adopted the resolution. Hampton County will adopt it at their next meeting. Then we will file the paper work. The next step will be negotiating with the individual towns about donating their systems. Mr. Zeigler asked at this point if there were any questions. Councilman Tuten asked about the time table. Mr. Zeigler responded by saying it depends on how long some of the negotiations take. Councilman Tuten mentioned Hampton County should have the smallest vote. Councilman Tuten really wanted to know if it was certain no one entity could control. Councilman Griffith wanted to know at a later date, could Furman and Estill still join the entity? Mr. Zeigler said they could, the possibility is there, but they would have to be voted in. Would have to go back to each Council and they have to

agree. A number of towns have problems from DHEC. This will put the pressure on them. Mayor Shaffer thanked Mr. Zeigler and also thanked him for helping us previously with our bonding issues.

(III)

Financial Report: Clerk Treasurer, Christine Parker informed the Mayor and Council the expenses exceeded the income for the month of January 2012. A motion was made by Councilman Griffith to accept this report as information and was seconded by Councilman Campbell. All were in favor.

(IV)

Unfinished Business: Mayor Shaffer had the second reading of the FEMA Flood plan. A motion was made by Councilman Griffith and seconded by Councilman Campbell. All members were in favor.

(V)

Report of Departments Heads and Committees

Police Department: Chief Tyrone Smith prepared a folder for the Mayor and Council on where he stood with his budget since this is half of the budget year. He reported his department has written 591 tickets, 121 criminal. We made 41 arrests. Our overtime is on track. Councilman Tuten commended Chief Smith on a job well done.

Fire Department: Chief Dobie Hiers reported 21 calls November 2011 and 31 calls December 2011. General discussion about false alarms calls and if a charge should be given during these calls. Councilman Major wanted to know if we could pin point where the calls are coming from. Chief Hiers stated it usually isn't the same people.

Public Works: Director of Public Works, Bobby Edwards reported the Christmas decorations have been taken down. He ordered parts for the garbage truck from overseas. Mayor Shaffer commended on the fact we were operating with one truck and the oldest one. Councilman Tuten asked if this was costing the town over time. He also said we have a real good team. Councilman Griffith told Bobby, him and his staff did a fabulous job with the Christmas decorations. Councilman Campbell inquired if we plan to keep an additional man on the garbage truck. This is a concern of mine. Mayor Shaffer stated this is duly noted and we will discuss.

Clerk Treasurer: Nothing at this time.

Mayor: Mayor Shaffer reminded Council of the Town of Varnville election on April 3rd, 2012. We have three Council seats to fill as well as mine as Mayor. The closing date is February 3rd, 2012 at noon. Please see Clerk for the form to fill out. Mayor Shaffer spoke of the Hometown meeting February 15th, 2012. Anyone attending must sign up by the 13th and please give your forms to Renee. Mayor discussed the Statement of Economic interest forms. They are due by April 15th. We must do these forms online. They will no longer accept paper. will help anyone with this, just come to my office. Councilman Tuten questioned if he meant at his office or at his house. Mayor Shaffer promised to remind all members and not let them forget.

(VI)

New Business:

Mayor Shaffer discussed riding in the Martin Luther King parade. This will be Sunday, January 15th, 2012. General discussion and it was decided they would ride in the police cars. Mayor Shaffer recommended paying the annual \$100.00 fee to be a member of the Hampton County Chamber of Commerce. The Mayor also requested it would be nice if at least one member of Council attended these meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Williams and seconded by Councilman Griffith. All members were in favor. Councilman Tuten said, maybe, we should ask for volunteers to attend the meeting.

Mayor Shaffer asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel and contractual matter. A motion was made by Councilman Griffith and seconded by Councilman Smith. All members were in favor.

Regular session: A motion was made by Councilman Griffith and seconded by Councilman Campbell to come back into regular session. All members were in favor. The Council turned the personnel matter over to Mayor Shaffer to take action if need be. No action was taken on the contractual manner.

Mayor Shaffer informed the Council, the Planning Commission would meet at the Varnville Town Hall January 21st, 2012 from 10:00 until 12:00 to discuss the comprehensive plan and would like to have the council members in attendance.

(VII)

Old Business:

(VIII)

Council Members Concerns/Reports:

Councilman Griffith: I enjoyed the meal at the Fire Department and I believe it was the best I ever had. I'm proud of everyone who attended. Chief Hiers invited Mayor and Council members to all meals they have which are the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM. Councilman Griffith also mentioned the Christmas decorations again and stated Varnville looked better than Hampton this year.

Councilman Smith: Nothing at this time.

Councilman Tuten: Nothing at this time.

Councilman Major: Nothing at this time.

Councilman Williams: Glad to see the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilman Campbell: Happy New Year, prosperous and hope the Council continues working well together.

Mayor Shaffer said he would like the Councilmen who seats are up in April to apply and run again. This Council has a good working relationship.

(IX)

A motion was made by Councilman Griffith and seconded by Councilman Campbell to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor. Meeting adjourned.