

VARNVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

December 20, 2012 @ 7:00 PM

(I)

Call to Order

Officials present were Mayor Nathaniel “Nat” A. Shaffer, Mayor Pro-Tem Lloyd “Tootie” Griffith, Jr., Councilmen Ralph Smith, Henry Tuten, H. Alexander Campbell, and Adam Major, Police Chief Tyrone Smith, and Secretary to the Mayor and Council, Amy Roberts.

Absent were Councilman Ronald Williams, Public Works Director, Robert “Bobby” Edwards, Fire Chief Dobie Hiers, and Town Attorney, Kevin Brown.

Among the general population in attendance were Becky Shaffer, Parker Shaffer, Banks Shaffer, NelliBeth Shaffer, and Bill Hancock.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Shaffer. The invocation was given by Councilman Campbell and the Pledge of Allegiance followed. Amy Roberts gave the FOIA Compliance Report stating that the meeting agenda was faxed to all media outlets and posted outside the town hall on December 19, 2012.

Mayor Shaffer presented the minutes from the council meeting held on November 13, 2012 and Mayor Pro-Tem Griffith made a motion that the minutes be accepted for approval. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

(II)

Introduction and/or requests of visitors

Mayor Shaffer acknowledged Bill Hancock, CPA with Brittingham, Brown, Prince & Hancock, LLC. Mr. Hancock presented the council with an official auditor’s report from the 2011-2012 fiscal year. The town ended the fiscal year with an increase of \$188,387. Mr. Hancock stated that the Town of Varnville had no instances of non-compliance and no red flags and that proper planning and discipline will make the town prosper in years to come. He also noted that every year since his firm has been performing the Town of Varnville’s audit, the town has steadily improved.

(III)

Financial report

None

(IV)

Unfinished Business

Mayor Shaffer called for a motion to table the first reading of Ordinance No. 2012-04 to raise rates for garbage, refuge, and solid waste. Mayor Pro-Tem Griffith made a motion to table the

first reading and Councilman Major seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Mayor Shaffer called for a motion to table the first reading of Ordinance 2012-07 regarding a local bidder preference. Mayor Pro-Tem Griffith made a motion and Councilman Campbell seconded. All members were in favor. Mayor Shaffer gave the second reading of Ordinance No. 2012-08 to amend the town code order of proceedings to include approval of agenda at all town council meetings. Mayor Pro-Tem Griffith made a motion to adopt the ordinance and Councilman Campbell seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

(V)

Reports of Department Heads and Committees

Police Department: Nothing to report

Fire Department: Nothing to report

Department of Public Works: Nothing to report

Clerk Treasurer's Office: Nothing to report

Mayor's Office: Nothing to report

(VI)

New Business

Mayor Shaffer presented the council with a business license request from Deborah M. Jones d/b/a Jones Tax Service. Councilman Tuten made a motion to approve the business license and Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Mayor Shaffer gave the first reading of Ordinance No. 2012-09 imposing a town curfew for minors. Mayor Pro-Tem Griffith made a motion to adopt the ordinance and Councilman Campbell seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

(VII)

Old Business

None

(VIII)

Council members' concerns/comments

Councilman Major said that he is glad the town is closing out 2012 in the plus and he hopes 2013 is a fruitful year. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilman Campbell said, "Seasons greetings. May God bless you."

Councilman Smith stated that the Town of Varnville accomplished a lot in 2012 and he hopes next year will be even better. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilman Tuten said that he attended the Lowcountry Regional Water System meeting December 19, 2012 and Caskell Hudson had been hired as the assistant to the director. Councilman Tuten wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He said he hopes to see more town beautification in 2013.

Mayor Pro-Tem Griffith said that he would like to see the town apply for a historical grant to restore the old gin building. He stated that he hoped to see Lieutenant Smith enforcing more town codes in 2013 as there is a dilapidated house by Walsh Supply that needs to be torn down. Mayor Pro-Tem Griffith also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Shaffer informed the council that they could expect a busy council meeting on January 14, 2013. He told everyone on the council that he was thankful each of them had Christ in their lives and it is a pleasure working with them.

(X)

Adjournment

Mayor Shaffer called for a motion to adjourn at 7:31 PM. Mayor Pro-Tem Griffith made a motion and Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Roberts
Secretary to Mayor and Council