

# VARNVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

July 9, 2012 @ 7:00 PM

(I)

## **Call to Order**

Officials present were Mayor Nathaniel “Nat” A. Shaffer, Councilmen Ralph Smith, Henry Tuten, H. Alexander Campbell, and Adam Major, Police Chief Tyrone Smith, Public Works Director, Robert “Bobby” Edwards, Clerk of Court, Renéé Bennett. Absent were Mayor Pro-Tem, Lloyd “Tootie” H. Griffith, Jr., Councilman Ronald Williams and Fire Chief Dobie Hiers.

Among the general population in attendance were Wade Hampton High School vice Principal Craig James, Officer Stacy Loadholt, Brenda Willis, Wali and Shaddie Shabazz and Alzena Rollins.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Shaffer. The invocation was given by Councilman Tuten and the Pledge of Allegiance followed. Renéé Bennett gave the FOIA Compliance Report stating that the meeting agenda was faxed to all media outlets and posted outside the town hall on July 5, 2012.

Mayor Shaffer presented the minutes for approval from the council meetings held on June 11, 2012. Councilman Tuten made a motion that the minutes be accepted for approval and Councilman Campbell seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

(II)

## **Introduction and/or requests of visitors**

Mayor Shaffer acknowledged the general public in attendance.

(III)

## **Financial report**

The General Fund had \$302,578.00 credits and \$90,188.00 in expenditures with a net increase of \$212,389.00. This included \$131,036.00 SCE&G Franchise Fee, \$19,386.00 MASC Tax Collections, and \$10,534.13 SRO Reimbursements, \$10,841.00 Local Option and a \$50,000.00 Transfer from the Waterworks Fund to the General Fund. The Waterworks Fund had \$81,852.00 credits and \$90,663.00 in expenditures with a net loss of \$8,837.00. This included the \$50,000.00 transfer to the General Fund.

(IV)

## **Unfinished Business**

None

(V)

### **Reports of Department Heads and Committees**

**Police Department:** Police Chief Tyrone Smith informed the council that there have been two (2) arrests and 5 cases solved from the recent burglaries in town. He asked the Mayor and Council if Reneé Bennett, Clerk of Court could attend the Municipal Court Administration Association Annual Meeting in Hilton Head, S.C. August 22 – 24<sup>th</sup> 2012. Motion made by Councilman Campbell and seconded by Councilman Smith to allow Reneé Bennett to attend the Annual Meeting in Hilton Head. All in favor. Chief Smith also asked if the town would consider purchasing extra saws and cones to help in storm clean up.

**Fire Department:** No report in the absence of Fire Chief Dobie Hiers

**Department of Public Works:** Director of Public Works, Bobby Edwards, reported that due to the recent storm there were a lot of limbs to clean up, too many to chip so they are going to just load them up and haul away. Bobby also made a request to have a ball field policy drawn up for usage of our town ball fields. The Mayor asked Councilmen Campbell and Smith who are on the Parks & Recreation Committee to look into this and draw up a policy to bring back before the council for approval. Councilman Tuten stated that the Town looked good for the Watermelon Festival and also the clean-up that was made after the recent storm. Councilman Major requested not to work the guys outside too hard in this heat, give them plenty of water, ice and breaks.

**Clerk Treasurer's Office:** Nothing to report

**Mayor's Office:** Mayor Shaffer reminded the council of the Hampton County Chamber of Commerce Meeting at Lake Warren tomorrow, July 10, 2012. Palmetto Electric will be hosting this meeting. August 30, 2012 is the Regional Advocacy Meeting from 11:00am – 1:00pm in Walterboro. The Municipal Association of S.C. will be sponsoring this meeting. July 10, 2012 is also the Grand Re-Opening of the Technical College of the Low Country at 11:30am. Mayor Shaffer informed the Council that Comcast has requested to renew the Franchise Agreement with the town. He has left a message with Comcast for a call back to discuss this and citizen complaints. Mayor Shaffer read a letter of thanks from Former Mayor Don C. DeLoach and his wife Grace thanking the town for thoughts and prayers with the loss of his daughter. Mr. Alton Searson, Yemassee Councilman also sent a letter of appreciation for hospitality and a job well done for the Dignitaries Luncheon.

(VI)

### **New Business**

Mayor Shaffer presented the council with a Resolution for Gifford to join the Low Country Regional Water System. Mayor Shaffer read the Resolution and Councilman Major made a

motion and was seconded by Councilman Campbell to accept the Resolution and grant The Town of Gifford to join the Low Country Regional Water System. All in favor. Mayor Shaffer had a brief discussion on garbage, refuse and solid waste fees, stating that the town had not gone up on rates for these items in years. The proposed increase would bring in an extra \$29,000.00 to help with expenses once our water system has been turned over to the Water Authority.

(VII)

**Old Business**

None

(VIII)

**Council members' concerns/comments**

Councilman Major had no comments.

Councilman Campbell had no comments.

Councilman Tuten had no comments.

Councilman Smith had no comments.

Mayor Shaffer asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for a personnel matter and a contractual matter involving CDBG loan. Motion was made by Councilman Tuten and seconded by Councilman Smith to go into executive session at 7:31pm. All in favor.

Motion was made by Councilman Major and seconded by Councilman Smith to exit Executive Session. All in favor. Council instructed Mayor Shaffer to pursue the right course of action for these matters.

(IX)

**Adjournment**

Mayor Shaffer called for a motion to adjourn at 9:24 PM. Councilman Major made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Reneé Bennett  
Clerk of Court