

Varnamtown Wants Volunteers To Help Put Up Street Signs

BY DORI COSGROVE GURGANUS

Varnamtown aldermen will be asking fellow town residents to help put together and erect town street signs next month, in preparation for the countywide 911 system due to go into operation sometime in 1992.

Those preparations were one of the few items of businesses taken up by aldermen Monday night, in addition to welcoming two new members to their board.

Newly-elected Aldermen Faye Galloway and Tonya Robbins took their oaths of office Monday, as did two re-elected officials, Alderman John David Dawson and Mayor Judy Galloway.

Aldermen set Saturday, Jan. 11, as a workday for community members to gather and assemble new street signs. The town has purchased the signs as part of the countywide street-naming plan that will facilitate the county's planned 911 emergency communications system.

Alderman Ada McDonald requested that the board ask as many residents as possible to meet at town hall at 9 a.m. First, the group will attach the signs to their posts, she said. If time allows they will start erecting the signs along town streets, setting the poles in concrete.

Mayor Galloway suggested that

aldermen see that their volunteers "get them up as soon as possible," preferably before the next town meeting on Jan. 20.

Alderman Ennis Swain reported that he had put the street addresses and grid lines on the town map and that a copy had been sent to the county planning board. A copy of the town's address-grid map hangs on the wall of the meeting room in town hall.

Swain recognized the work of Mayor Galloway and Mrs. McDonald in assigning addresses to residences in the town limits.

Mortgage Paid
Town Clerk Paul Vealey reported that the final check had been written and delivered to United Carolina Bank to pay off the mortgage on the town hall building.

The last payment was for \$10,986.84, and included \$66 in interest.

Vealey said that by paying off the loan a year early, they saved paying about \$600 in interest on the loan.

Other Business
In other business, aldermen: Assigned Swain to research the need to contract with a certified fire inspector. New state laws mandate the inspection of all businesses for fire safety.

■Heard from Dawson that he has had no success in finding a suitable security system for the town hall, but that he had purchased the building address numbers (100), which would soon be attached to the front of town hall.

■Tabled consideration until a later meeting of a request from Jerry Walters, director, to join the Cape Fear Council of Governments, since the \$600 annual membership fee would need to be budgeted.

■Heard from Vealey that the town has \$35,000.30 in its bank account.

■Heard from exiting Alderman Roger Robinson, who apologized for the high number of meetings he had missed recently and gave his reasons for not running for another term as alderman.

Robinson said that in order to serve a town, one should be able to devote plenty of time to the job, and regretted that he had not been able to since opening a restaurant.

■Received thanks from Alderman Luellen Norris, who also did not seek re-election, for the enjoyable time she spent serving Varnamtown. She remains a member of the budget committee, and said that the group would still be hearing from her.

■Set the next town meeting for 7:30 p.m. Jan. 20 at the town hall.



DIANA MORGAN, Brunswick County Clerk of Superior Court (far left), administers the oath of office to (from left) re-elected Varnamtown Alderman John David Dawson, and new Aldermen Tonya Robbins and Faye Galloway as Alderman Ennis Swain (background) looks on. Judy Galloway was sworn in moments earlier to a second term as mayor.

Yaupon Election Date Set For Feb. 18

The Brunswick County Board of Elections has tentatively set Feb. 18 as the date for a special election at Yaupon Beach.

The board met Monday to discuss that issue and several others.

The municipal election in November was flawed because it asked voters to select two candidates for the town board when they could actually vote for three.

Lynda Britt, county elections supervisor, said Tuesday that the scheduled date must now go to the state board of elections for approval. It was the state board that originally gave permission for a new election date to be set by the county board.

"We knew there was a problem right after that election," Ms. Britt said, "and we wanted to correct it as

soon as possible." A dispute involving elections for the Doshier Hospital Board was also discussed at Monday's meeting, but no decisions were made in that case.

A meeting of county board members was scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 23, in an effort to resolve the dispute, Ms. Britt said.

One of the hospital board candidates, Evelyn "Teal" Butler, had filed a complaint contending that the ballot gave unfair advantage to one candidate, Eugene B. Tomlinson Jr., who was named as an unopposed

candidate on the ballot for a single four-year term. The ballot also listed four additional candidates for two six-year terms. Ms. Butler contends that it was the understanding of trustees that filing was not specific to either the short term or the longer terms, but that the top three vote-getters in the election would win the three vacant seats.

Monday evening's meeting was announced in some places as having been scheduled for Dec. 20, but that was a typographical error, Ms. Britt said.

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