



**City of Varnell
Council Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2020**

Members Present: Mayor, Tom Dickson
Council Members: Bill Caylor, Mayor Pro Tem
Richard Lowe, Clyde Williams,
Sandy Pangle

City Administrator: Mike Brown
City Clerk: Pam Garrison

EXECUTIVE DUTIES

The City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm and a quorum was confirmed by Mayor Tom Dickson. The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Bill Caylor. Mayor Dickson led the pledge of allegiance.

CONSENT

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bill Caylor to approve the financials for May 2020 and June 2020. Also approved were the minutes for May 19, 2020 and June 4, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Clyde Williams and carried unanimously.

Mayor Dickson advised the council that Georgia Municipal Association has set the guidelines for the GA Cares Act funding for the state of Georgia. There are 31 areas in the state that are classified as the red zone, which Varnell is part of that red zone. The initial GA Care funding is based on population within each entity. The City of Varnell has estimated population of 2,139 and Whitfield County population estimated at 111,972. It is necessary to set up a portal through the state to receive funding which is broken down into three rounds. Round one is to begin around the first of August.

NEW BUSINESS

- Finance and Budget report from Mayor Pro Tem Bill Caylor – Finances remain good and remains on budget even with the slowdown with Municipal Court.
- Public Safety Committee report was presented by Councilman Clyde Williams.

Chief Kyle Moreno gave an update on the progress being made as he takes over the Chief position. (See attached updates) Chief Moreno has several projects and grants he is checking into and will update at the next meeting

- Recreation and Outreach Committee – Due to Covid-19, the Recreation Department remains closed until further notice. The Farmer’s Market is in full swing and local farmers are keeping the residents of Varnell supplied with fresh produce.
- Highland Forrest Homeowner’s Association sent a letter of thanks for help as co-sponsors with the fireworks for the 4th of July festivities at a shared cost of \$2,500.00.
- The Community Center has opened back up for activities and rentals. Chief Moreno is checking to see what state regulations are set up and what they have set a limited capacity for at any given time due to social distancing. The use of the building will be limited to one event every other day in between rentals to sanitize the building. After consideration, it was decided by Mayor Tom Dickson and Council that the Recreation Department will remain closed at this time which will include the gym and all city owned playgrounds as well as the outdoor basketball courts. Councilman Clyde Williams made a motion to set these guidelines in place until further notice. Mayor Pro Tem Bill Caylor seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding contracting with a cleaning company who specializes in coming into our buildings to do a deep cleaning and to sterilize/sanitize all surfaces. Once the facilities and equipment have been sanitized, the remaining activities whether indoor or outdoor will be able to resume occupancy in all city owned facilities. Councilman Clyde Williams made a motion to contact a company and get this started soon. Councilman Sandy Pangle seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Bill Caylor made a motion to continue the hazard pay thru the end of December. Motion was seconded by Sandy Pangle and carried unanimously.

Mayor Dickson stated that according to the population, round one should generate 30% of the GA Care Money to be around \$33,592.00 This should be deposited into city bank accounts in 3 rounds with round one starting within a few weeks. City of Varnell will have until 9/1/20 to spend allocated funds. Mayor Dickson suggested starting a project list for the remaining 70% of the funds.

There being no further comments, Councilman Clyde Williams made a motion to adjourn with a second from Councilman Bill Caylor. Motion carried unanimously at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Pam Garrison
City Clerk