

**City of Varnell
Council Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2017**

Members Present:

Council Members: Mayor Pro Tem –David Owens, Jan Pourquoi, Andrea Gordy & Sheldon Fowler

City Manager: Mike Brown

City Clerk: Pam Garrison

Absent: Mayor Anthony Hulsey and Ashlee Godfrey

The City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm and a quorum was confirmed by Mayor Pro Tem, David Owens.

Invocation and Pledge to the Flag was given by Bill Caylor.

Reports from City Manager

Mr. Mike Brown, City Manager, reported that the Sanitation truck has now been customized with restriping and wording on the truck has been completed. We are still experiencing minor mechanical items with the truck but hope to have everything in working order soon.

The State Worker’s Comp Audit for the year was successful and completed.

The 2016 Annual Audit is still in progress.

The farmers market will began in June at the Pavilion and will be held this year on Monday, Wednesday, Friday And Saturdays from 7:00 am thru 1:00 pm.

The Boys and Girls club will resume in June 2017 at the City Gym. The Council has agreed and asked that the program Administrators be made aware that the children of Varnell City residents will have their registration fees waived when enrolling in the summer program. Councilman Jan Pourquoi also made mention that we include Cohutta City residents who may have children that want to be a part of this summer program.

Completion of the re-waxing and refinishing of the floors of the City gym has recently been completed. Due to recent high winds in the area, the netting on the ball fields had to be replaced as winds caused irreparable damages.

The Whitfield County School Nutrition program will began their summer lunch program for area children on June 5, 2017 and will run throughout the summer until July 27, 2017. The Varnell location will be at the pavilion at the 4 way stop.

Mayor Pro Tem David Owens request that Mike Brown, City Manager look into the possibility of obtaining a Preventative maintenance program for the Heating/AC units at the gym as well as other city properties with such equipment. Mr. Brown will look into the situation and report back to Council.

City Manager, Mike Brown is working with Synovus Bank in order to get financing in place once the new Sanitation Truck is ready. There will be a closing on the loan which will include our City Attorney, Terry Miller being present.

City Manager, Mike Brown presented documentation from GIRMA regarding our Liability Insurance and the increased premium amounts. Mr. Brown is awaiting premium quotes from an outside agent other than GIRMA to compare rates. The Council

Made a request that a GIRMA representative attend our next council meeting to discuss different options which could include higher deductibles/lower premiums.

Movie in the park is scheduled for August 12, 2017. More details to follow soon.

There will be a Memorial Day service in the Varnell Cemetery at 11:00 am on May 29th.
Flags will be on display at the City Hall on that day as well.

AGENDA, MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was made by Sheldon Fowler to approve the Agenda, Minutes and Financial reports for the April 2017 meeting. Andrea Gordy seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Jean Garland with Whitfield Planning and Zoning Commission was in attendance to discuss what is required to have a special use permit for the Cricket Field in Varnell. Current property owners of the Cricket Field applied for permit In 2016. The property owner was notified at that time if the property was used for anything other than personal use, It would then become special use property. The property owners were made aware at the Council meeting that they Would be required to obtain a Special Use Permit as the property is currently being used for cricket games & tournaments And more than just family. The property owner stated that they had no intent to ever go commercial with this property and stands firm on his statement that the field is for personal/family use only. They were advised to apply for the permit and it would be presented to the Whitfield County Planning and Zoning Commission at their next meeting which would be June 26, 2017. After that meeting, the Commission would make a recommendation to Varnell City Council and then the City Council would discuss any other regulations regarding the field use from that point.

Several residents from the Mountain Oak Subdivision were in attendance of the Council Meeting to learn information regarding the use of the field as well as voice their opinion regarding concerns about long term usage of the fields, noise Into extended hours of the evening, safety of their homes, sound barriers and sewage retention. The Council will take into consideration their concerns when a special use permit is presented to the council to discuss at a later date.

Jan Pourquoi made a motion that the City Council determine if the property has been used as public use prior to May 16, 2017. Sheldon Fowler seconded the motion. The City Council voted unanimously that it is public use.

Jan Pourquoi stated that no further activities are to be held on the property until Mr. Patel applies for an application with Whitfield County Planning Commission for a "Special Use Permit". Motion was seconded by Andrea Gordy and the council voted in the affirmative unanimously.

The Dalton-Whitfield Chamber of Commerce distributed City/County maps and inquired if the city would be interested In purchasing an ad to be placed on the outer perimeter of the map. Upon discussion, Jan Pourquoi made a motion that the City do not purchase the ad. A majority of citizens now use their phones for directions and not a fold out map. Sheldon Fowler seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

City Manager Mike Brown presented a request for the NW GA Crisis Center asking for a donation to support their Program. Before a decision is made, the Council request that a Representative from the Crisis Center attend the next Council meeting and give details as to what the funding would be applied to, etc.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There being no further business, a motion was made by Sheldon Fowler to adjourn the meeting, with Andrea Gordy seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Pam Garrison
City Clerk