

**City of Varnell
Council Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2018**

Members Present: Mayor – Tom Dickson
Council Members: Mayor Pro Tem – Ashlee Godfrey, Bill Caylor,
Bob Roche, Clyde Williams & David Owens

City Manager: Mike Brown
City Clerk: Pam Garrison

The City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm and a quorum was confirmed by Mayor, Tom Dickson.

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

Reports from City Manager

Mike Brown reported that the city website along with the council email addresses are all operational now.

Mike Brown attended a joint meeting with Whitfield County regarding the July 2019 SPLOST. Discussion was held on opportunities that could possibly be a joint project with Whitfield County as well as the City's own projects. If the SPLOST is passed in 2019, the City of Varnell could possibly receive funds if Approved by voters in March 2019. A list will be approved by the Council for possible projects that would Benefit the city by the proposed SPLOST fund.

Jean Garland with Whitfield County will be at the March meeting to discuss the rules and regulations of the Special Use Permit for the proposed Cricket field, which was heard by the previous Council.

AGENDA, MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was made by Bill Caylor to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Clyde Williams, and the motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ashlee Godfrey to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Caylor and the motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ashlee Godfrey to approve the financial report for January,23, 2018. The motion seconded by Bob Roche and the motion was carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Reports

- **Finance & Budget** – Chairman Ashlee Godfrey stated the city closed well within budget for the Year end 2017. With appreciation of thanks being offered, full time employees will be given a Onetime bonus of \$1,000.00 and part time employees will be given \$500.00 apart from one part time officer who is on a 90-day probation period. If at the end of 90 days he has met the job

requirements, he will at that time be given a \$250.00 onetime bonus. The motion was made by Ashlee Godfrey and carried unanimously.

Charter & Long-Range Planning – Ashlee Godfrey, Chairman had no report for February. David Owens requested permission to present the 2020 vision that he and former mayor put together in 2010. Mayor Dickson requested to see the presentation prior to the next council meeting.

Annexation – Bob Roche, Chairman presented a map which visualizes where property is located that is not annexed into the city but could possibly be eligible if the home owner agrees to it. A list of current roads in the city as well as prospective home owner names will be compiled for this project. Bob would also like to reach out to the local businesses who are within the city boundaries but not annexed into the city. It was suggested that we might possibly use the tool of property tax exemption for those 65 years or older.

Recreation & Community Outreach – Bob Roche, Chairman has a meeting scheduled with Brian Chastain, director of Whitfield County Recreation Department to see what the prospective county schedule will be for the use of the Varnell ball fields for practice. The City of Varnell is still receiving \$600.00 per month to apply towards the power bill for the use of the lights at the Varnell facilities.

Hiring of a director full time to facilitate the Community Center was brought up for discussion.

Public Safety – Clyde Williams, Chairman had no report for February.

A resolution was presented for Recertification as a Certified City of Ethics. A motion was made by Ashlee Godfrey to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by David Owens and was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ashlee Godfrey to change the wording on the Soil Erosion Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Bill Caylor and was carried unanimously.

Mike Brown presented two bids for microphones /speakers to be used in the council chambers/court room. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Bill Caylor and seconded by Ashlee Godfrey to accept bid from Loud Media Group to purchase 6 microphones and 2 speakers at a cost of \$1,415.65. The motion was carried unanimously.

Ashlee Godfrey made a motion to establish committees of the Mayor and Council for purposes of advice and information critical to areas of governance. The motion was seconded by Bill Caylor and was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bob Roche for approval of annexation for Parcel #11-263-01-170, Brenda Bryant Johnson. The motion was seconded by Bill Caylor and the motion was carried unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Clyde Williams to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Caylor and was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by
Pam Garrison, City Clerk