



**City of Varnell
Council Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2022**

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

City Administrator: Mike Brown
City Clerk: Jamie Nance

Executive Duties

The Mayor and Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm and a quorum was confirmed by Mayor Dickson. The invocation was given by Executive Pastor Brett Bellamy of Varnell Baptist Church. Luke Phillip with the Boy Scouts led the pledge of allegiance.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilman Roche to approve the presented agenda, financial reports for March 2022, and minutes for the March 15, 2022, meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pangle and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

New Business

Councilman Williams presented the Public Safety Committee key points for March 2022.

City Attorney Terry Miller was present to discuss the legalities of continuing to improve the appearance of “downtown Varnell”. Attorney Miller presented the Mayor and Council with outlines of the OCGA codes (40-1-2.1- 40-1-2.7) that will outline the process that will have to be completed to act on property nuisance and abatement orders. Attorney Miller did inform the Mayor and Council that if further action needs to be taken, they will have to consider adopting an ordinance that will pull from the powers of the Charter and State Law to be able to take enforcement actions and file liens on certain property owners.

A motion to adopt the resolution to recertify the City of Varnell as a “City of Ethics” was made by Councilman Williams, Seconded by Councilman Pangle, and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Councilman Lowe made the motion for approval of Co-Sponsoring fireworks with the Highland Forest in the amount of \$2,500.00, seconded by Councilman Roche and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Text amendments for the Unified Zoning Ordinance was approved. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Roche, seconded by Councilman Pangle, and carried unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

Luke Phillip thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to be able to complete his Eagle Scout Project at the Varnell Springs. Scout Phillip was able to rebuild the walking bridge, 3 benches and added 2 new benches to the Springs Area. The Mayor and Council expressed their gratitude for all his hard work and how pleased they all are with the work that has been completed.

Budget amendments were presented by the Mayor to the Council because of the Eagle Scout Project in the amount of \$3,000.00 to the Community Activities line item. The motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$3,000.00 was made by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Roche, and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Annexation of Parcel # 11-263-01-127, 263 Santa Fe Trail, Silvia Loade Ramirez, was approved. The motion was made by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Roche, and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

City Administrator Mike Brown presented the Mayor and Council with 3 bids for paving and repairing the road around the Varnell Cemetery. Poteet Bros. Construction \$33,760.00, AAA-Asphalt & Construction \$36,800.00 and Northwest Georgia Paving \$59,413.00. After much debate the motion was made to table the project to a later date. The motion was made by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Pangle, and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Councilman Roche exited the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Four (4) bids were presented to the Mayor and Council for outdoor exercise equipment to be placed around the walking track at the Varnell Recreation area, Miracle Recreation Equipment \$9,321.74 (installed), Safe Play Solution-Gametime \$15,992.00-Option 1(installed), \$35,500-Option 2 (installed), Outdoor Fitness.com \$12,199.00 (not installed). After further discussion, Mayor Dickson requested Councilman Pangle to get a quote on scaling back to five (5) exercise stations instead of eight (8).

Four (4) bids were presented to the Mayor and Council for additional Playground Equipment at the Varnell Recreation area, Miracle Recreation Equipment \$ 54,174.30- Option 1, \$ 80,928.51- Option 2, Safe Play Solution- Gametime \$ 59, 210.00-Option 1, \$ 51,210.00 Option 2. Councilman Williams made the motion to approve the purchase and installation of Option 2 from Miracle Recreation Equipment in the amount of \$ 80,928.51. Motion was seconded by Councilman Pangle and carried unanimously with a 4-0 vote; the purchase will be made from the SPLOST funds.

Public Comment

Bryan Howard, President of the HOA for Highland Forest apologized to the Mayor and Council for being late to the meeting and wanted to thank them for approval of the Co-Sponsoring of the fireworks.

Kai Clayton urged the Mayor and Council to please take consideration into placing a privacy fence between the Varnell Recreation area and the private resident's property.

Shane Day current candidate for Whitfield County Commissioner of District 3 introduced himself to the Mayor, Council, and the public. He strongly urged everyone in the audience to make sure they voted.

There being no further business a motion for adjournment was made by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Pangle and carried unanimously with a 4-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Jamie Nance
City Clerk