



**City of Varnell
Council Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023**

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

Absent Members:

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 Reverend Chris Branscomb of Varnell United Methodist Church. Councilman Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Councilman Roche made the motion to amend the presented agenda to add two items, Intergovernmental Agreement with Whitfield County School System and Tax rates of Whitfield County, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Caylor and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote. The motion also carried for approval of the amended agenda, financial reports for December 2022, and minutes for the December 20, 2022, regular meeting, and executive session.

New Business

Councilman Williams presented the Public Safety Committee key points.

Councilman Williams made the motion to appoint Jada Loftin as the Court Solicitor for the remaining term of 2023, seconded by Councilman Roche and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Collin Bennett with the Hopewell Manor Subdivision development requested the Mayor and Council for a support letter requesting setback variances. Jacob Bearden with Whitfield County Zoning also explained what the variances would intel. After discussion Councilman Roche made the motion to approve the support letter, seconded by Councilman Williams, motion failed with a vote of 2 Yas to 3 Nays.

Mike Crawford with Falcon Design & Consultants made a presentation on options for renovations for the Varnell Recreation area. After discussion the Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Crawford for his presentation and decided that they would like to receive some ideas for the Varnell School and Varnell United Methodist children to see what they may enjoy in the area.

El Sueno, Harry's #5 and Varnell Store were approved for alcohol license for 2023. Motion for approval was made by Councilman Williams, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Caylor, and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Councilman Williams made the motion to set the City of Varnell's qualifying fee at \$35.00 per candidate for the 2023 qualifying period. Motion was seconded by Councilman Roche and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote. The qualifying dates will be August 21-23, 2023.

The motion of approval for annexation parcel number 11-155-01-037, 320 Marla Drive was made by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Roche and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

The motion of approval for annexation parcel number 11-264-08-002, 3400 Discovery Lane was made by Councilman Roche, seconded by Councilman Williams, and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

The Mayor and Council decided to hire the Lock Guys to perform all the security upgrades and installations on the city facilities. Motion was made by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Roche and voted unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Caylor made the motion to approve acceptance in accordance with Whitfield County's legislative act to set local tax rates the ability to raise rate 4 to 6%. The motion was seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

The Mayor and Council had no objections to entering into an Intergovernmental agreement with Whitfield County School System.

Public Comment

City Resident Paul Lafortune showed his appreciation to the Mayor and Council for denying the variances in the Hopewell Manor Subdivision.

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion for adjournment was made by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Roche, and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Jamie Nance
City Clerk