



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

Members Present: Mayor Tom Dickson (Zoom), Bill Caylor Mayor Pro Tem,  
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 5:59pm and a quorum was confirmed by Mayor Pro Tem Caylor. The invocation was given by Evangelist Brian Fossett and the pledge was led by Mayor Pro Tem Caylor.

**Consent Agenda**

The motion for Approval of the agenda as presented, minutes from the March 20, 2023, meeting and the financial reports for March 2023 was made by Councilman Pangle, seconded by Councilman Roche, and carried unanimously with a 3-0 vote. Councilman Roche requested the staff to look into making corrections of the column headers on the financial sheets presented.

**New Business**

The committee report for Public Safety as of March 2023 was presented by Councilman Roche.

Mayor of Tunnel Hill, Kenny Gowin and City Administrator Blake Griffin discussed the options offered to Tunnel Hill's fulltime employees in lieu of health insurance. Mayor Pro Tem Caylor instructed the Council to table this item to be discussed at a later date.

Discussion was had on setting a spending amount from the ARP funds to devote to the Varnell Recreation Development Project. No final decisions were made.

Councilman Roche made the motion to hire architectural firm Carlson & Carlson for development assistance and plans of the Varnell Recreational Area, seconded by Councilman Pangle and carried unanimously with a 3-0 vote. Councilman Roche instructed City Administrator Brown to have the firm include a cost analysis in the plans.

Mickey Brock requested the Council to consider him using the driveway going to the Gazebo at the Varnell Springs as an entrance for his studio that will be built on the property located behind the springs. The exit will come out onto Nix Road. Councilman Roche wants to wait until something is decided by Georgia DOT considering the roundabout will be coming soon to the same vicinity. Mr. Brock is to work alongside City Administrator Brown to present something in writing to support the plans.

A presentation was presented by Nicole Turner to help with planning a Varnell Fun Day. After much discussion a motion was made by Councilman Pangle to set the date for the upcoming Varnell Fun Day for July 8, 2023, seconded by Councilman Lowe and carried unanimously with a 3-0 vote. A dedicated budget has also been approved in the amount of \$5,000.00, motion for approval was made by Councilman Roche, seconded by Councilman Pangle and carried unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

Councilman Lowe approved the amount of \$3,000.00 to be budgeted from the ARP fund for removal of the tree located by the Varnell City Hall parking lot, seconded by Councilman Roche and carried unanimously by a 3-0 vote.

## **Public Comment**

Paul Lafourte addressed the Council and questioned why the Council is not giving the architect a set amount so they will be able to devise a plan to fit the budget. He stated that he remembered Mr. Brock addressing the Council previously and stating the entrance and exit would be routed through Nix Road, and that spraying around the springs might risk the water supply and possibly create liability for the City. He also suggested to City look into renting a mobile sign to be able to move around locations to inform the Citizens of the upcoming events. Mr. Lafourte ended his conversation with the Council requesting information on the demolition of the house on Main Street, the council responded back and told him it was in the process, and we were awaiting help from Whitfield County Public Works to complete the project.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business a motion for adjournment was made by Councilman Lowe, seconded by Councilman Roche, and carried unanimously with a 3-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Jamie Nance  
City Clerk