



City of Varnell
Council Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2023

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

City Administrator: Mike Brown
City Clerk: Kai Clayton

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 Rev. Neil Hasty, and the pledge was led by Councilwoman Harrison.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made for the approval of the agenda, of the minutes from the July 18, 2023, meeting, and the financial reports for July 2023. The motion was made by Councilwoman Harrison, seconded by Councilman Caylor, and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

New Business

Councilman Pangle presented Nicole Turner with a gift certificate to Red Wolfe Grill in appreciation for making Varnell Fun Day a success.

Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center submitted a request for financial assistance. Councilwoman Harrison suggested a policy be developed to donate money for non-profit organizations; A motion was made to make a \$1000 donation at this time. The motion was made by Councilwoman Harrison, seconded by Councilman Roche, and unanimously carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Dickson spoke regarding the TAD, which was approved by Whitfield County by a 3-2 vote, and explained who signs the agreement and how the taxes received will go into the TAD account.

Bids were discussed for the renovation, repairs, and improvements at the Community Center. A motion was made to accept the bid from Creative Remodeling and Floods Cleaning Service. A motion was made by Councilwoman Harrison, seconded by Councilman Caylor, and carried by a 4-1 vote. Councilman Roche voted against the motion.

A motion was made to increase the employee meals per diem from \$50 a day to the state policy; the motion was made by Councilman Roche, seconded by Councilman Pangle, and carried unanimously 5-0.

Architect Andy Carson made a presentation on the new park design. He will be updating the design with the council's guidance. Councilman Caylor made a motion to move forward with the park design, and it was seconded by Councilwoman Harrison. A motion was carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

A motion was made by Councilman Caylor to approve the annexation of 322 Charolais Trail and seconded by Councilwoman Harrison. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Public Comment

Paul Lafortune addressed the council concerning the Varnell Spring with cleaning the trail and having a buffer zone for the green space between the spring and the overgrowth.

Joan Runion, and Sandra Robertson addressed the council concerning the upkeep of the cemetery. A motion was made by Councilman Caylor and seconded by Councilman Lowe and the motion was carried with a 5-0 vote to have an engineer come and assess road problems.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made by Councilman Caylor, seconded by Councilman Roche, and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Kai Clayton
City Clerk