



**City of Varnell
Council Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2024**

Members Present: Mayor Tom Dickson, Bill Caylor Mayor Pro Tem,
Howard Kash, Bob Roche, Sandy Pangle, Sarah Harrison
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. Matt Laskey, and the pledge was led by Chief Moreno.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made for the approval of the agenda, the minutes from the June 18, 2024, meeting, and the financial reports for June 2024. The motion was made by Councilman Pangle, seconded by Councilman Caylor, and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

New Business

Councilman Pangle presented the Public Safety updates for the month of June 2024.

Nicole Turner reviewed the 2024 Varnell Days Festival. She mentioned the difficulties with power, heat, and other unforeseen issues, and the success of the food tents and petting zoo. The festival came under budget at \$5,600.00. The Festival Committee members have chosen June 14, 2025, as the tentative date for next year.

Councilman Kash raised a concern regarding limitations on fireworks in consideration of those with auditory sensitivities. Mayor Dickson advised that any changes would have to be included with the city's current noise ordinance, but city attorney Terry Miller would need to investigate whether there are options available that could go beyond the State's current restrictions.

Planning Director Ethan Calhoun spoke concerning the United Zoning Ordinance and current building height restrictions. The limit is currently 35 feet for residential, and 140 for commercial buildings. Mr. Calhoun will be putting together some suggestions for height restrictions that might be more suitable for the Varnell area.

An ordinance was proposed to allow temporary residence in an RV or travel trailer during home construction or renovation. The property owners would have to apply for a permit and inspection through Whitfield County, with compliance being enforced by the Varnell Police Department. City attorney Miller will be drafting the ordinance to present at next month's meeting.

The Council reviewed the 2023 Financial Audit report and was proud to have received a positive audit.

Councilman Pangle provided an update on the Clyde Williams Pavilion, stating that the bid packages will be ready for pickup on Friday. The Council is hoping to award the contract for construction during the August meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilwoman Harrison made a motion for adjournment that was seconded by Councilman Caylor; the motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Kai Clayton
City Clerk