



City of Varnell Council Meeting Minutes January 21, 2025

Members Present: Mayor Tom Dickson, Bill Caylor Mayor Pro Tem,
Howard Kash, Bob Roche, Sarah Harrison
Absent: Sandy Pangle
City Administrator: Mike Brown
City Clerk: Kai Clayton

Executive Duties

The Mayor and Council meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm and a quorum was confirmed by Mayor Dickson. The invocation was given by Rev. Michael Gazaway, and the pledge was led by Mayor Dickson.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made for the approval of the agenda, the minutes from the December 17, 2024, meeting, and the financial reports for December 2024. The motion was made by Councilman Caylor, seconded by Councilwoman Harrison, and carried unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

New Business

Councilman Roche presented the Public Safety updates for the month of December 2024. The council discussed a possible reward for information regarding the unsolved hit-and-run on Cohutta-Varnell Road; Chief Moreno will reach out to Cohutta P.D. to see if they will match an amount of \$500.00.

Chief Moreno, Assistant Chief Swilley, and Lieutenant Small presented Officer Ellis with a Plaque and Certificate of Distinguished Service for going above and beyond the call of duty when responding to a deadly structure fire on 1/8/2025. Sheriff Pierce also presented Officer Ellis with a Letter of Commendation.

Councilman Caylor made a motion to set elections qualifying fees at \$35.00. Qualifying for Seat 1, Seat 2, and Mayor will be from 8/18/25 through 8/20/25; the Election will be held 11/4/2025. Councilman Roche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by 4-0.

Councilwoman Harrison made a motion to approve coverage for First Responders under the GIRMA PTSD Program. Councilman Caylor seconded; the motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

The Police Department requested approval for the purchase of a new SUV from the 2024 SPLOST. Councilman Caylor made a motion to approve; Councilman Kash seconded. The motion passed unanimously by 4-0.

Councilman Kash made a motion to approve the Zoning Ordinance for a maximum height of 50 feet for buildings within the city limits. Councilman Caylor seconded the motion, which passed with a 4-0 vote.

Applications have been processed for Alcohol Licenses for Varnell Wine & Spirits, Harry's, Peach Stop, Food Lion, the Smoke Shop, and Korner Market. Councilman Caylor made a motion to approve the applications, with Councilman Kash seconding; the motion passed unanimously by a vote of 4-0.

Councilwoman Harrison made a motion to approve the Resolution and update on TAD for the Patterson Farm development. Councilman Caylor seconded the motion, which then passed with a 4-0 vote.

The Council was provided with an update on the progress of compiling all ordinances with Municode.

Councilman Roche made a motion to amend the budget for SPLOST account \$5,558.60 for the upgrade to the sound system, the Cemetery account \$325.00 for mowing, and the Sewage account for \$7,526.25 for maintenance and repair. Councilman Caylor seconded; the motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

The Council provided an update on the construction of the Clyde Williams Pavilion. Concrete for the stage area has been poured. The next step will be installation of the roof trusses, decking, and metal roofing, followed by pouring the concrete floor. City Manager Brown will begin gathering rental pricing information from comparable venues in the local area.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilman Caylor motioned for adjournment that was seconded by Councilman Roche; the motion carried with a 4-0 vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Kai Clayton
City Clerk