



City of Varnell Council Meeting Minutes April 15, 2025

Members Present:

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

Executive Duties

The Mayor and Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and a quorum was confirmed by Mayor Dickson. The invocation was led by Rev. Steve French and the pledge was led by his son, Steven French.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda, minutes from March 18, 2025, and financial reports for March 2025. The motion was made by Councilwoman Harrison, 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 March 2025.

The council discussed the VPD 2018 Charger's recent mechanical problems. Councilwoman Harrison made a motion to trade in the vehicle and replace it with a new SUV with SPLOST '24 funds. Councilman Kash seconded the motion, which then passed with a unanimous 5-0 vote.

Chris Goulart with Highland Forrest requested a contribution towards their community 2025 Independence Day celebration. Councilman Caylor made a motion to give \$3250.00 towards the purchase of fireworks, with Councilman Pangle seconding. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Councilwoman Harrison made a motion for the following budget amendments:

- A. ARP \$40,901.18 + SPLOST 24 - \$6,279.28 = \$47,180.46 for 5th payment for Pavillion.
- B. SPLOST 20 - \$24,365.61 for VP SUV outfitting.
- C. TAD - \$990.00 for audit

Councilman Roche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by 5-0.

The Council discussed the architect renderings for the proposed Pickleball, Tennis and Basketball courts. A motion was made by Councilman Roche to move forward gathering bids on all 3 designs to better compare costs. Councilman Pangle seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous 5-0 vote.

The Council reviewed the bids that were submitted for the planned Dog Park fencing. Councilman Pangle motioned to accept the bid for \$17,900.00 from North Georgia Fencing, with Councilman Roche seconding; the motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Councilman Pangle gave an update on the construction progress of the Clyde Williams Pavilion. The roof is currently being installed, and currently Momon Construction is estimating completion by the end of April.

The Council discussed improvements needed at Varnell Springs, including work on the bridges, boardwalk, and pathways. Paul Lafortune volunteered to contact Dalton State College to research their archives for information on how to restore the area to its previous condition. All council members expressed support in proceeding forward with the upgrades needed.

Councilwoman Harrison and Councilman Pangle will form a committee to structure reservation fees and guidelines for the Clyde Williams Pavilion to present for consideration at the May council meeting.

Public Comment

City Manager Mike Brown drew attention to the article in the Spring 2025 issue of Dalton Living magazine featuring the construction of the Clyde Williams Pavilion

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilman Caylor made a motion for adjournment that was seconded by Councilman Roche; the motion carried with a 5-0 vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Kai Clayton
City Clerk