



City of Varnell Council Meeting Minutes December 16, 2025

Members Present:

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

Executive Duties

The Mayor and Council meeting was called to order at 5:56 p.m. and a quorum was confirmed by Mayor Dickson. The invocation was given Pastor Clinton Duke, and the pledge was led by Mayor Dickson.

Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Harrison made a motion to approve the agenda, the minutes from November 18, 2025, and the financial reports for November 2025, with Councilman Caylor seconding. Councilman Roche shared a personal statement regarding the procedure for setting the agenda. The motion to approve then carried by a vote of 4-1, with Councilman Roche opposed.

New Business

There was a discussion regarding the request by JAD Development to rezone parcel # 11-245-01-006 Percheron Drive NW from R-2 to R-5. The Council allowed comment from members of the Mountain Oaks community, No Varnell residents commented. Jeremy Reed spoke on behalf of the Developer. Councilwoman Harrison made a motion to deny the rezoning request, with Councilman Pangle seconding. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Varnell Police Chief Moreno presented the Public Safety updates for November 2025.

Council members discussed the bids for the planned Ball Courts. No bid was awarded at this time. The Council will pursue other quotes more consistent with the work done at other parks in and around Whitfield County.

Councilman Caylor made a motion to approve 2026 Alcohol Licenses for: Varnell Market, Circle K, Korner Market, Nob North Golf Course, the Butcher's Market, and Smoke Shop & Beverage. Councilman Kash seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 5-0.

Councilman Caylor made a motion for the following budget amendments from SPLOST 24 – \$8,469.40 (Axon- Tasers); \$1,667.10 (Motorola – Taser supplies); \$13,500.00 (Carlson & Carlson – Architect); and \$8,685.00 (Denson Civic Engineering), and budget amendments for Staff premium pay \$12,600.00 (Admin); \$8,400.00 (Maintenance); \$35,950.00 (VPD). The motion was seconded by Councilman Caylor, which then passed with a unanimous 5-0 vote.

Mayor Dickson presented Councilman Caylor with a plaque in appreciation for his years of service on the Varnell City Council. Councilman Roche had exited the meeting following the final vote and was therefore unavailable to receive his plaque.

Public Comment

Marvin Gregory addressed the Council with questions about the proposed roundabout. The mayor advised that it is still in the planning stages, with Councilman Caylor stating that it is projected to begin construction in 2027.

Tony Smith requested the Police Department pay close attention to drivers coming South on Cleveland Highway. He also gave appreciation to the Council hearing the concerns expressed by the Mountain Oaks community.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilman Caylor made a motion for adjournment that was seconded by Councilwoman Harrison; the motion carried with a 4-0 vote and the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Kai Clayton,
City Clerk