

**City of Varnell  
Council Meeting Minutes  
April 18, 2017**

**Members Present:**

**Council Members:** Mayor Pro Tem –David Owens, Ashlee Godfrey, Jan Pourquoi,  
& Sheldon Fowler

**City Manager: Mike Brown  
Jamie Nance**

**Absent: Mayor Anthony Hulsey and Andrea Gordy**

The City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm and a quorum was confirmed by Mayor Pro Tem, David Owens.

Invocation and Pledge to the Flag was given by Bill Caylor.

**Reports from City Manager**

Mr. Mike Brown, City Manager, reported that the Sanitation truck has been back in the shop once again. The City of Dalton has been our back-up support on allowing us to have use of one of their trucks and a driver. It has now been brought to the attention of the City Manager there will be a \$400.00 charge per use of Dalton's Garbage truck. There has also been \$10,000.00 down on a new Garbage truck which should be completed by June 2017. Flash Graphics are still working on design for the truck.

The new trash carts have arrived that were approved in March 2017 by council for purchase.

The 2016 Audit has begun. The Community Center recreational room has been painted. The basketball courts that were also approved by the council have been completed and are now open for use. The farmers market will reconvene in June.

The City Manager Mike Brown gave all the present council a list of all the expenses incurred by the State Certification. Also a list for all the different bank interest rates were given for the new garbage truck financing. A copy of the new completed logo was also given to the present council members.

There will be an increase on lost money for the city at .053%. The City Manager has also been working with the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission on a comprehensive plan and a Park grant. If the city is awarded the grant we will have to match it \$25,000 in 2018.

Boys & Girls club will resume in June 2017. The City Manager was asked by the council to insure that the children of Varnell City are not being charged a registration fee for joining the summer program.

**AGENDA, MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORT**

A motion was made by Sheldon Fowler to approve the Agenda, Minutes and Financial reports for the March 2017 meeting. Jan Pourquoi seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Sheldon Fowler to modify the agenda to include Terry Miller discussing address issue with council member. Ashley Godfrey seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously. Mr. Miller stated that it is important for the City to be filled in on the Residence changes of Council Members. It was also stated that is more of a political issue and it is also not appropriate for another council member to request residency requirement. There is a residency requirement when elected and remaining on the council. Mr. Miller also stated there are three ways to request residence:

1. An informal manner would be for the City Manager supported by the mayor can request proof of residency.
2. Under the Council Charter, the Council is able to have a formal inquiry to give a written notice of verification.
3. Any citizen of Varnell City can file a legal action with Whitfield County Superior Court to have it heard.

Temporarily moving you are not disqualified from the City Council if for justifiable reasons there was no intent in moving outside of the City. Mr. Fowler asked the question of whether all of the judgements that had been made by a council member in this situation would be jeopardized. Mr. Miller stated that they would first have to prove said council member was no longer a resident. Jan Pourquoi made the suggestion to go ahead and ask the fellow council member to lay matter to rest and present proof of residence. David Owens decided to table the matter until the Mayor can be informed of the situation, all other members agreed.

The financing sanitation truck was discussed that Cohutta Banking Company would be the best choice for financing. The financing rate was at 4.36% at 3 years. Sheldon Fowler made the motion to accept, Jan Pourquoi seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

The Chief addressed the State Certification Progress and stated that infrastructure is about completed. He also stated that he is need of a storage building for large evidence items.

The City Manager addressed the GIRMA policy for the City of Varnell has went up to \$56,000 a year due to the two accidents on the insurance policy. The first payment will be due in May of \$14,000 which is 25% down and the City is to pay \$8,000 a month for the following 5 months. It was instructed by the Council for City Manager Mike Brown to receive 2 to 3 quotes from other insurance agencies and present in next meeting. A motion was made to wait until the May council meeting to decide what account to make the \$14,000 payment out of, motion made by Ashlee Godfrey, seconded by Jan Pourquoi and the motion was carried unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lynn Huett from TREK Foster Care addressed the council of the issues they are having to be able to find foster parents. She also stated that she would just like to be informed of any upcoming events in the City.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Jan Pourquoi to adjourn the meeting, with Sheldon Fowler seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Jamie Nance