

**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER, 7105 WHITLEY ROAD
MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The meeting convened with the following members present:

Arthur L. Miner
Andrew Neal
Pat Shelbourne
Tom Snyder
Lovie Downey
Juanita King
Mark Taylor
Jan Hill

Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem/Council Member Place 4
Council Member Place 1
Council Member Place 2
Council Member Place 3 (Absent with Notice)
Council Member Place 5
Council Member Place 6
Council Member Place 7

and

Andrea Gardner
Raquel Guajardo
Samantha Ortega
Deby Woodard
Paul Hackleman
Aaron Kaut
Bradley Fraley
George Hyde

City Manager/City Secretary
Deputy City Secretary
Records Clerk
Assistant Director of Finance
Director of Public Works
Public Works Superintendent
Chief Information Officer
City Attorney

INVOCATION

Invited clergy was not in attendance to provide the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Miner led the pledge to the flags.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Taylor announced the Citizens Police Academy will begin August 4th and encouraged those interested in participating to contact Officer Steve Gochal.

Mayor Miner announced the Splash Pad is celebrating Shark Week July 19-23; Waffle House located on Rufe Snow is officially open; and Ms. Gardner, City Manager/City Secretary, submitted her resignation effective September 10, 2021.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of a Proclamation recognizing July as Park and Recreation Month

Mayor Miner presented the proclamation and commended the parks department staff for their work and stated that he received positive feedback regarding the Watauga Splash Pad.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Richelle Askins, 8212 Lauren Way, Watauga, TX, submitted the required form to be recognized to speak during the Public Comment portion of the meeting, however, was not in attendance.

Mayor Miner read the following Public Comment submissions that will be archived with approved minutes:

- Karla Qualls, 7004 Constitution Drive, Watauga, TX
- Mary Stormer, 6545 Old Mill Circle, Watauga, TX
- Brian Jennings, 5940 Highcrest Drive, Watauga, TX

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

Mayor Miner read the following Public Testimony submissions that will be archived with approved minutes:

- Mary Stormer, 6545 Old Mill Circle, Watauga, TX

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Miner read the following consent agenda items:

1. **Consider action on setting a Public Hearing Date for the Crime Control and Prevention District FY2021-2022 Proposed Budget to allow for citizen input at 6:30 p.m. on August 9, 2021 and setting the budget adoption date for August 23, 2021**
2. **Consider action to accept the Watauga Crime Control and Prevention District Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022**
3. **Consideration of an Interlocal Agreement for pavement striping of Patsy Lane, Starnes Road, Indian Springs Road, Watauga Road and Chapman Road between Tarrant County and the City of Watauga**
4. **Consider action to approve the meeting minutes of the June 18, 2021 Bath & Body Works Business Anniversary Event; June 22, 2021 Baja Cantina Business Anniversary Event; June 28, 2021 Council Workshop and June 28, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting.**

Council Member Hill made a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Shelbourne. As there was no discussion, Mayor Miner called for the Council to vote. Motion carried 6-0-0-1.

Ayes: Shelbourne, Snyder, Neal, King, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Downey

ACTION ITEMS

1. Discuss and consider legislative amendments to update and revise Chapter 2 of the City of Watauga Code of Ordinances

Mr. Hyde presented the item to Council detailing amendments. After some discussion, the consensus of Council was to postpone the item to the next meeting to allow additional time to prepare to provide direction of each item.

Council Member Shelbourne made a motion to postpone the item to another date with the intent that council members will come back with their recommendations at that time.

Council Member Shelbourne amended the motion to state the item be moved to the next council meeting. Motion seconded by Council Member King. As there was no further discussion, Mayor Miner called for the Council to vote. Motion carried 6-0-0-1.

Ayes: Shelbourne, Snyder, Neal, King, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Downey

2. Consider action to approve Grounds Maintenance RFP # 21-005 to BrightView Landscape Services

Ms. Woodard presented the item to Council.

Council Member Taylor inquired regarding the agreement cost in comparison to hiring staff to complete the work. Ms. Gardner commented that per Chief Fannan and Mr. Stephens, Parks Superintendent, outsourcing is more cost effective as landscape needs will require (8) staff positions be filled.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to accept the contract as presented. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Neal. As there was no further discussion, Mayor Miner called for the Council to vote. Motion carried 6-0-0-1.

Ayes: Shelbourne, Snyder, Neal, King, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Downey

3. Discuss and consider action to authorize the Finance Department to conduct a request for proposals, or alternative procurement method considered appropriate for legal services

Mayor Miner presented the item to Council.

Council Member Taylor stated the RFP provides an opportunity to check the market from a budget perspective and does not mean a change will be made. He further stated that Mr. Hyde is a well-qualified thorough attorney and believes the RFP will provide the necessary feedback.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to move forward and authorize the mayor to put out the RFP to see what legal services would cost. Motion seconded by Council Member Shelbourne. Mayor Miner called for discussion.

Council Member Snyder stated that he does not recall discussion requesting comparison of legal fees and suggested modifying to compare services to what is currently being provided. He further stated that he is against moving forward with the RFP.

Mayor Miner responded that the request was not specifically made but stemmed from a strategic planning session in which the WEDC contemplated in hiring a separate attorney from the city attorney, which is not uncommon for EDC's in other cities. He further stated that during an executive meeting, Council responded with a resounding "no" regarding an inhouse attorney but was tasked with obtaining lower costs. Council Member Snyder responded that his understanding was that the current city attorney would be asked for reduced pricing.

Mayor Miner added that this is not indicative of any issues with the city attorney's competency and is strictly related to the upcoming budget.

Council Member Hill commented the RFP is for budgeting purposes only and not related to the quality provided by the current city attorney.

As there was no further discussion, Mayor Miner called for the Council to vote. Motion carried 4-2-0-1.

Ayes: Shelbourne, Neal, Taylor, Hill

Nays: Snyder, King

Abstain: None

Absent: Downey

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Council Member Snyder requested an item be placed on the next regular council meeting agenda to cancel the RFP for legal services; approve the legal services budget for fiscal year 2022 as previously presented in executive session; approve an amendment to the city attorney's engagement agreement as previously presented in executive session and authorize the city manager to execute the agreement.

The request by Council Member Snyder did not receive a second therefore will not be placed on a future meeting agenda.

Mayor Miner requested that Code of Ordinances Chapter 2 revisions be brought back to council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Miner recessed the regular meeting for executive session at 8:20 p.m., to discuss the following item:

1. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 and 551.087, the Watauga City Council will meet in Executive Session to seek legal advice and deliberate on economic development negotiations with Smit Shah

RECONVENE

Mayor Miner reconvened the regular meeting at 8:55 p.m.

ITEMS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION DELIBERATION

1. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 and 551.087, the Watauga City Council will meet in Executive Session to seek legal advice and deliberate on economic development negotiations with Smit Shah

No action was taken on this item.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

APPROVED: this 26TH day of July, 2021.

SIGNED: this 27TH day of July, 2021.

APPROVED:

Arthur L. Miner /s/

Arthur L. Miner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Andrea Gardner /s/

Andrea Gardner, TRMC, City Secretary

