

**MINUTES
WATAUGA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021
7105 WHITLEY ROAD, WATAUGA, TEXAS 76148
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Miner called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Place 1, Arthur L. Miner, President
Place 2, Amirali Fazalbhai (Absent with notice)
Place 3, Jan Hill, Secretary (Absent with notice)
Place 4, Malissa Minucci, Director
Place 5, Mike Alexander, Director
Place 6, Vacant
Place 7, Lissa Sieja, Vice-President

City Staff Present:

Andrea Gardner, Executive Director
Sandra Gibson, Finance Director
Brad Fraley, Chief Information Officer

And:

Andrew Neal, Council Member Place 4
Mark Taylor, Council Member Place 6

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Miner announced the Splash Pad Ribbon Cutting on May 22, 2021, and the City of Watauga Hiring Event at the Hector Garcia Community Center on May 21, 2021.

PRESENTATIONS

- 1. Presentation of a proclamation to Marshalls in recognition of their 20-year milestone anniversary**

Mayor Miner read the proclamation.

Ms. Gardner announced that May 17 is their actual 20-year anniversary. Mayor Miner will visit and present their items of appreciation.

- 2. Presentation of a proclamation to Sally Beauty Supply in recognition of their 20 year milestone anniversary**

Mayor Miner read the proclamation.

Ms. Gardner announced that May 31 is their actual anniversary. Mayor Miner will visit and present their items of appreciation.

Ms. Gardner stated June milestone anniversaries recognitions will take place onsite as was done in the past. Possible quorum notices will be posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meeting Act.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

1. Report on New Business Attraction provided by Retail Coach

Mr. Everitt, Retail Coach's Retail Recruitment Specialist, gave an overview of the report to the board which included the following:

- 2020 was rough but now starting to see movement again and use of the words "post-COVID"
- Ulta postponed but expected to pick back up
- Working to find locations for McAlister's, Blaze Pizza, and Smoothie King
- Drive-throughs are a huge due to COVID. (Chipotle is looking for drive-thru)
- Big part of recruitment is identifying franchises
- National retailers have filed for bankruptcy
- Attending Retail Live in Orlando, FL, Austin, TX and ICSC
- Working with developer on local option election petition

Council agreed to revisit comprehensive plan to remove restriction of no drive-through's in RTMU district. The WEDC June agenda will include item to change prohibiting drive-through's in RTMU district.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Requests for public comment were not received.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

President Miner called for Public Testimony.

Ms. Mary Stormer, 6545 Old Mill Circle, Watauga, Texas, submitted a public testimony regarding the WEDC digital signs. President Miner read the comment into the record (*The record will be filed with approved minutes*)

Mayor Miner explained the digital signs must be tied to WEDC since they paid for the signs.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Discuss and take action to approve an advertising discount for new business attraction and small business.

Ms. Gardner gave a summary of the item to the board.

Director Minucci asked if the media specialist would be handling the project in which Ms. Gardner responded that once trained, the media specialist will facilitate project. Director Minucci also inquired regarding established discounts in which Ms. Gardner addressed.

Director Minucci made a motion to approve the item as presented. Motion seconded

by Vice-President Sieja. President Miner called for discussion and hearing none, called for the Board to vote by a show of right hand. Motion carried 3-0-2.

Ayes: Minucci, Sieja, Alexander

Nays: None

Absent: Fazalbhaj, Hill

2. Presentation and discussion on the Watauga Economic Development Corporation Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Ms. Gibson and Ms. Gardner provided an overview of the 2-year budget for future planning purposes.

Director Minucci inquired regarding the American Rescue Funds in which Ms. Gibson responded that it is not "for sure" until funds are deposited in the bank.

3. Consider action on setting a Public Hearing date to discuss the Watauga Economic Development Corporation Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 during the regular meeting scheduled for June 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Director Minucci made a motion to approve setting the date of July 20, 2021, for the Board to adopt the Watauga Economic Development Corporation Proposed Budget. Motion seconded by Vice-President Sieja.

Director Minucci amended the motion make the scheduled meeting for June 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. Amended motion seconded by Vice-President Sieja. President Miner called for discussion and hearing none, called for the Board to vote by a show of right hand. Motion carried 3-0-2.

Ayes: Minucci, Sieja, Alexander

Nays: None

Absent: Fazalbhaj, Hill

4. Consider action on setting the date of July 20, 2021 for the Board to adopt the Watauga Economic Development Corporation Proposed Budget and submit to City Secretary's Office for inclusion on the Council agenda

Director Minucci made a motion to approve the item as presented. Motion seconded by Vice-President Sieja. President Miner called for discussion and hearing none, called for the Board to vote by a show of right hand. Motion carried 3-0-2.

Ayes: Minucci, Sieja, Alexander

Nays: None

Absent: Fazalbhaj, Hill

5. Discuss and consider action to approve the meeting minutes for the WEDC Regular Meeting held April 20, 2021 and Joint WEDC & Council Meeting held April 24, 2021

Director Minucci made a motion to approve the item as presented. Motion seconded by Director Alexander. President Miner called for discussion and hearing none, called for the Board to vote by a show of right hand. Motion carried 3-0-2.

Ayes: Minucci, Sieja, Alexander
Nays: None
Absent: Fazalbai, Hill

ADJOURNMENT

President Miner adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

APPROVED:

this 15th day of JUNE, 2021

SIGNED:

this day of , 2021

APPROVED:

Arthur L. Miner /s/
Arthur L. Miner, President

ATTEST:

J. Hill /s/
Jan Hill, Secretary

NOTE: Original Audio and Video Recording of this meeting is preserved and maintained by the City Secretary's Office