

**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
7105 WHITLEY ROAD, WATAUGA, TX 76148
TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the City Council was called to order at 7:11 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The meeting convened with the following members present:

Arthur L. Miner	Mayor
Andrew Neal	Mayor Pro Tem/Council Member Place 4
Pat Shelbourne	Council Member Place 1
Tom Snyder	Council Member Place 2 (Absent without notice)
Lovie Downey	Council Member Place 3
Juanita King	Council Member Place 5
Mark Taylor	Council Member Place 6
Jan Hill	Council Member Place 7

and

Andrea Gardner	City Manager/City Secretary
Raquel Guajardo	Deputy City Secretary
Sandra Gibson	Director of Finance
Deby Woodard	Assistant Director of Finance
Marcia Reyna	Director of Human Resources & Civil Service
Paul Hackleman	Director of Public Works
Bradley Fraley	Chief Information Officer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Neal announced the Watauga Animal Shelter has loving animals available for adoption and a special program for Senior Citizens.

Mayor Miner announced that paving on Meadowlark Lane started August 3, 2021, at 3:00 a.m. He also shared that during the recent Mayor's Council Session, it was reported that Covid numbers are trending up; Unemployment rates for Tarrant County (6.3%); Fort Worth (6.7%) and Arlington (6.2%); and a mental health diversion center will open soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Requests for public comment were not received.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

Requests for public testimony were not received.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Miner read the following consent agenda items:

- 1. Shared Services Agreement renewal for Jail and Dispatch services**
- 2. Consider action and approval of a resolution accepting the Certified Tax Roll for Tax Year 2021 from the Tarrant Appraisal District as certified by the Chief Appraiser Jeff Law**

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

Ayes: Shelbourne, Downey, Neal, King, Taylor, Hill
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Snyder

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Discuss and consider action on setting a Public Hearing on the FY2021-2022 Proposed Budget for August 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

Ms. Gibson presented the item to the Council stating the budget was filed with the CSO on August 1, 2021, and the Public Hearing is scheduled September 3, 2021.

Council Member Hill made a motion set the Public Hearing on the FY2021-2022 proposed budget for August 23, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Council Member Downey. As there was no discussion, Mayor Miner called for the Council to vote. Motion carried 6-0-0-1.

Ayes: Shelbourne, Downey, Neal, King, Taylor, Hill
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Snyder

- 2. Discuss and consider action on setting a Public Hearing for the FY2021-2022 Proposed Tax Rate**

Ms. Gibson presented the item to the Council stating the Public Hearing is scheduled September 13, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Council Member Taylor asked for clarification regarding the proposed hearing dates in which Ms. Gibson responding that due to new legislation, the tax rate public hearing must be held five (5) days after the published notice and not more than seven (7) days before the tax rate adoption.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to set the date for the proposed Public Hearing on September 13, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Council Member Shelbourne. As there was no further discussion, Mayor Miner called for the Council to vote. Motion carried 6-0-0-1.

Ayes: Shelbourne, Downey, Neal, King, Taylor, Hill
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Snyder

3. Discuss and consider action on the proposed tax rate of \$0.5804 per \$100 valuation for the FY2021-2022 Fiscal Year

Ms. Gibson presented the item to the Council.

Council Member Hill made a motion accept the tax rate of \$0.5804 per \$1000 valuation for the FY2021-2022 Fiscal Year. Motion seconded by Council Member Shelbourne. As there was no further discussion, Mayor Miner called for the Council to vote. Motion carried 6-0-0-1.

Ayes: Shelbourne, Downey, Neal, King, Taylor, Hill
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Snyder

Mayor Miner recalled this item prior to Executive Session, as the valuation rate within the motion was stated as \$1000 instead of the correct proposed rate of \$100.

4. Discuss and consider action on setting the date to adopt the proposed tax rate for the FY2021-2022 Fiscal Year for September 13, 2021

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

Ayes: Shelbourne, Downey, Neal, King, Taylor, Hill
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Snyder

5. Discuss and provide direction on employee health, dental and vision insurance plan design and employer contribution amounts

Ms. Reyna presented the item to the Council.

Council Member Taylor stated that along with salary, total compensation includes leave, sick days and holidays which are all factors that come into play; an HMO plan is the best option for healthy employees; high deductible plans should be incentivized; and he is leaning towards option 2A.

Mayor Pro Tem Neal stated that he is in favor of Option 1A. He further commented that if more costs get pushed onto the employee, the applicant pool will be affected. Ms. Reyna responded that recruitment has been difficult.

Council Member Downey stated favor of Option 1A and commented that possibility to restructure should be looked at within 5-10 years. She further stated that to retain talent, employees must be incentivized to stay and recommended further discussion on this topic at the next council retreat; and looks forward to seeing the employee survey results.

Council Member Hill stated favor of Option 1A.

Council Member King stated favor of Option 1A.

Council Member Shelbourne stated favor of Option 1A.

Mayor Miner stated favor of Option 1A and commented that now is not the time to take more money from employees, however, at some point down the road, other options need to be considered.

Ms. Reyna stated that as the consensus of the Council was to proceed with Option 1A, the cost to the city will be an additional \$21,000 with no additional cost to employees.

Mayor Miner recalled Action Item #3, as the valuation rate within the motion was stated as \$1000 instead of the correct proposed rate of \$100.

Council Member Hill amended the motion to accept the proposed tax rate of ***\$0.5804 per \$100 valuation for the FY2021-2022***. Motion seconded by Council Member Shelbourne. As there was no further discussion, Mayor Miner called for the Council to vote. Motion carried 6-0-0-1.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Snyder

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Miner recessed the Special Meeting at 7:59 p.m., for Executive Session to discuss the following items:

1. Pursuant to Section 551.074, to deliberate upon the duties of the City Manager, Andrea Gardner
2. Pursuant to Section 551.074, to deliberate upon the duties of the Mayor, Arthur L. Miner

RECONVENE

Mayor Miner reconvened the Special Meeting at 8:58 p.m.

ITEMS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION DELIBERATION

1. Pursuant to Section 551.074, to deliberate upon the duties of the City Manager, Andrea Gardner

Council Member Hill made a motion for special council be retained in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. 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, Downey, Neal, King, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Snyder

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the Special Meeting at 9:01 p.m.

APPROVED: this 23rd day of August, 2021.

SIGNED: this 24th day of September, 2021.



APPROVED:

Arthur L. Miner /s/
Arthur L. Miner, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Terri Johnson
Terri Johnson, Interim City Secretary

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