



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER, 7105 WHITLEY ROAD
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Arthur L. Miner called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 with notice)
Lovie Downey	Council Member Place 3
Vacant	Council Member Place 5
Mark Taylor	Council Member Place 6
Jan Hill	Council Member Place 7

and

Robert Parker	Interim City Manager
Linda Proskey	City Secretary
Terri Johnson	Interim City Secretary
Sandra Gibson	Finance Director
Bradley Fraley	Chief Information Officer
Caroline Kelley	City Attorney
Shawn Fannan	Fire Chief
Corie Wood	HR Generalist
Lana Ewell	Library Director
Brian Hatfield	Fire Lieutenant

INVOCATION

Senior Pastor Dennis Hester, of the First Baptist Church of Watauga provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Miner led the pledge to the flags.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Neal announced two events one on Veteran's Day November 11, 2021, at Capp Smith Park led by Councilmember Taylor, and the City's Tree lighting celebration will be on December 1, 2021, at Capp Smith Park. He also announced that during November, you can bring non-perishable food items and personal hygiene products to the library to benefit the CDC.

Mayor Miner welcomed the new City Secretary, Linda Proskey. He expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts with the Trick or Treat event outside the library and to the Fire Department for the Halloween event they held for special needs child.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Service awards for the City of Watauga Employees celebrating a milestone anniversary during the month in November 2021**

Interim City Manager Robert Parker presented a service award to Thomas Williams (5 years) and Trina Nosenzo (15 Years)

2. **Recognition of the 1st place winners of the Fire Safety Poster Contest**

Fire Marshal Hatfield and Chief Fannan announced the winners of the poster contest.

3. **Proclamation declaring November 27, 2021, as Small Business Saturday in the City of Watauga**

Mayor Miner presented the Small Business Saturday proclamation.

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 addenda items:

1. Consider action to approve the meeting minutes of the October 4, 2021, City Council Special Meeting, the October 11, 2021, City Council Workshop Meeting, the October 11, 2021, City Council Regular Meeting, the October 15, 2021, City Council Special Meeting, and the October 25, 2021, City Council Regular Meeting
2. Consider action to ratify the Charity Care Policy for the Watauga Fire Department
3. Consider action to ratify the Interim City Manager's execution of the Electricity Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT) Membership Application and Agreement for Membership Year 2022 and designation of Sandra Gibson, Director of Finance, as the Designated Representative and Deby Woodard, Assistant Finance Director, as the Designated Representative Alternate
4. Consider action to declare multiple technology items as surplus property and to authorize the disposal of surplus property.
5. Consider action to approve a Professional Services Agreement between the City of Watauga and Burgess & Niple, Inc. for General Engineering Services for Fiscal Year 2021-2022
6. Consider action to approve a resolution by the City of Watauga, Texas authorizing the execution of the Crash and Reconstruction Team Interlocal Agreement; providing for repeal; providing for severability; and providing an effective date
7. Consider action to adopt an Ordinance of the City of Watauga, Texas; amending Chapter 40 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Watauga, Texas; amending rules and regulations for the park zone for Foster Village Park; providing for repeal; providing for severability; and providing an effective date
8. Consideration of Voting Member and Alternate Member reappointment/appointment to the City of Fort Worth Water and Wastewater Wholesale Customer Advisory Committee
9. Consider action to approve the purchase of a new Ford Truck from Sam Pack's Ford through the BuyBoard cooperative purchasing program
10. Consider action to approve the purchase of a new Chevy Tahoe PPV from Lake Country Chevrolet through the TIPS cooperative purchasing program

Mayor Miner requested item #7 be pulled from the consent agenda and moved to item #1 in the action items section. Mayor Miner called for a Motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Neal made a motion to approve the consent items as amended. Councilmember Hill seconded the motion. Mayor called for a vote. Motion carried 5-0-0-1

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

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Consider action to adopt an Ordinance of the City of Watauga, Texas; amending Chapter 40 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Watauga, Texas; amending rules and regulations for the park zone for Foster Village Park; providing for repeal; providing for severability; and providing an effective date (previously Consent item #7).**

Mayor Miner stated he pulled the item to address citizens' safety concerns about the intersection of Starnes and Rue Snow. The park zone is being extended to try and bring the speed limit down. That section of Rue Snow is under North Richland Hills jurisdiction. The Watauga police department is working with North Richland Hills on this matter.

Mayor Miner called for a Motion. Councilmember Mark Taylor made a motion to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Lovie Downey second the motion. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Miner called for a vote.
Motion carried 5-0-0-1.

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

- 2. Discuss and consider action to adopt an Ordinance by the City Council of the City of Watauga, Texas authorizing the issuance of "City of Watauga, Texas general obligation refunding bonds, series 2021"; levying an annual ad valorem tax, within the limitations prescribed by law, for the payment of the bonds; prescribing the form, terms, conditions, and resolving other matters incident and related to the issuance, sale, and delivery of the bonds, including the approval and distribution of an official statement pertaining thereto; authorizing the execution of a paying agent/registrar agreement, an official bid form, and an escrow deposit letter; complying with the letter of representations on file with the depository trust company; authorizing the execution of any necessary engagement agreement with the city's financial advisors; and providing an effective date. (Previously agenda item #1)**

Finance Director Gibson, introduced Andrew Friedman, Managing Director of SAMCO Capital Markets, the city's Financial Advisor who presented the bidding information for the refunding on the current outstanding debt to Council. There was a total of 7 bids received. The winning bid was Piper Sandler & Co. at 1.243086% which based on the bid gives the city a gross savings of \$419,775. Closing on bonds will be on December 1, 2021.

Mayor Miner called for a Motion. Mayor Pro Tem Neil made motion, to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Shelbourne second the motion. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Miner called for a vote. *Motion carried 5-0-0-1.*

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

3. Discuss and consider action to appoint a City Manager (Previously agenda item #2)

Interim City Manager Robert Parker presented this item for consideration by the City Council. He reported that an offer was made and accepted by. Mayor Miner pointed out that there was a city manager search sub-committee that consisted of himself, Councilmember Downey and Councilmember Shelbourne, who went through 44 applications and narrowed it down to four and then selected Joshua Jones who is currently with the City of Converse.

Mayor Miner called for a Motion. The motion was made by Councilmember Downey to appoint Joshua Jones to become the City of Watauga's City Manager. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Neal.

Councilmember Taylor commented while he supports Joshua Jones and believes he will be a great addition as the City Manager, he said that he cannot support the contract. Councilmember Taylor stated he has issues with section 11 (vacation and sick leave) of the contract as Mr. Jones is receiving leave that no other new employee has received.

Mayor Miner pointed out that the contract was presented at the last executive session and then brought to the dais and voted on by council.

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Miner called for a vote.
Motion carried 4-1-0-1.

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

4. Discuss and consider action to ratify the Meet and Confer Agreement between the City of Watauga and the Watauga Firefighters' Association (Previously agenda item #3)

Interim City Manager Robert Parker presented this item. The Watauga Firefighters' Association would like the classification and compensation package to include part-time firefighters/paramedics to fill gaps when full-time employees can not cover when others are out. The benefits to the city are a 2nd ambulance available more often, and it reduces costs by cutting down on overtime by full-time staff.

Councilmember Hill asked what steps would be taken to keep the part-time firefighters/paramedics under the 1000 hours, so they are not considered full-time employees and eligible for TMRS. Interim City Manager Parkers said a worksheet is in place to prevent them from reaching the 1000-hour mark.

Mayor Miner called for a Motion. Councilmember Shelbourne made motion, to approve the item as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Neil second the motion. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Miner called for a vote. *Motion carried 5-0-0-1.*

Ayes: Shelbourne, Downey, Neal, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Snyder

5. Discuss and consider action to adopt a resolution by the City Council of the City of Watauga, Texas approving the classification plan for general government employees; providing for repeal; providing for severability; and providing an effective date (Previously agenda item #4)

Interim City Manager Robert Parker presented this item; he stated that this is a follow-up item to the previous item for the part-time firefighters/paramedics.

Councilmember Taylor asked to make a point of order on the previous item #3 regarding contract negotiations. He stated when the item came out of executive session at the last council meeting there was no vote and no action taken. Mayor Miner acknowledged that no vote was taken and said the contact will move forward with this evening's vote.

Mayor Miner asked that the council return to item #5 and called for a Motion. Councilmember Hill made motion, to approve the item as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Neil second the motion. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Miner called for a vote. *Motion carried 5-0-0-1.*

Ayes: Shelbourne, Downey, Neal, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Snyder

- 6. Discussion and consider action to adopt a resolution by the City Council of the City of Watauga, Texas supporting the adoption and approval of the Texas opioid abatement fund council and settlement allocation term sheet; providing for repeal; providing for severability; and providing an effective date (Previously agenda item #5)**

Interim City Manager Robert Parker presented this item; he stated that the State of Texas realizes the opioid crises and has sued the manufacturers and distributors of opioids. They are coming close to a settlement and are willing to distribute to local governments statewide if we join. There are stipulations on what you can use the funds for.

Councilmember Taylor asked about information/cost of the drug Narcan which is used to treat known or suspected opioid overdose and if this is something that the city could use the money for. Mr. Parker said it is an option for use of the funds.

Mayor Miner called for a Motion. Councilmember Hill made motion, to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Downey second the motion. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Miner called for a vote. *Motion carried 5-0-0-1.*

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

- 7. Discuss and consider action on appointments to the Animal Advisory Committee (Previously agenda item #6)**

Mayor Miner requests that Dr. Shannon Tucker for the veterinarian position, Sargent Mead with the police department, Tonya DeGrand as ACO and Stacey McCool as a board member be appointed.

Mayor Miner called for a Motion. Councilmember Taylor made motion, to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Hill second the motion. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Miner called for a vote. *Motion carried 5-0-0-1.*

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

8. Discuss and consider action on appointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission (Previously agenda item #7)

Mayor Miner requests Mike Arend to Place 1 with a term expiration date of August 2023 and Jillian Giles to place 3 with at term expiration date of August 2023 be appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mayor Miner called for a Motion. Councilmember Taylor made motion, to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Downey second the motion. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Miner called for a vote. Motion carried 5-0-0-1.

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

Mr. Mike Arend was present in council chambers for tonight's meeting.

9. Discuss and consider action on appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (Previously agenda item #8)

Mayor Miner requests Lindsey Neal to Place 2 with a term expiration date of August 2022 be appointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Mayor Miner called for a Motion. Councilmember Hill made motion, to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Downey second the motion. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Miner called for a vote. Motion carried 5-0-0-1.

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

10. Discuss and consider action to adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Watauga, Texas voting on nominees for appointment to the Board of Directors of the Tarrant Appraisal District for the 2022-2023 term.

Mayor Miner asked that this item be postponed until the next meeting and asked for a motion.

Director of Finance Sharon Gibson stated to the Council that the deadline for this item is December 15, 2021. So, it could be postponed until the December 13, 2021, meeting.

Councilmember Hill made motion, to postpone the item to the next meeting. Councilmember Downey second the motion. Mayor Miner asked for discussion.

Councilmember Downey asked Mayor Miner to share the reason for wanting to postpone. Mayor Miner responded he would like to do further investigation into the nominees.

Director of Finance Sharon Gibson pointed out that the city has ten votes, which is an increase over last year's nine.

Councilmember Taylor wanted to point out that the city receives ten votes out of 5000+ votes, and he believed in years past staff made a recommendation.

Interim City Manager Robert Parker clarified that the previous city manager researched the nominees and made recommendations. This year, the same nominees were brought forward from last year. Since he is unfamiliar with the nominees, he can't recommend anyone. By postponing this would give him the chance to do research.

Councilmember Taylor asks that this be given to staff to look at who will represent the city the best and come back to the council and make the recommendations.

Mayor Pro Tem Neal said two years ago after, his research, he recommended Mr. Losada. Mr. Losada had worked closely with the TAD board and made changes that helped create transparency. Mr. Bennett spoke at the last meeting highly of Mr. Losada and the changes made. These included being able to see the minutes and the meetings online. Mayor Pro Tem Neal recommends Mr. Losada.

Councilmember Downey reiterated what Mayor Pro Tem Neil said about Mr. Losada the change and transparency.

Hearing no further discussion Mayor Miner called for a vote. Motion carried 5-0-0-1.

Ayes: Shelbourne, Downey, Neal, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Snyder

REPORTS

1. Staff Report on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Director of Finance Sharon Gibson presented the report on the American Rescue Plan Act funds; the steps staff is looking at taking, and asked for input and direction from the council.

Councilmember Downey asked about a timeline and the preliminary spending.

Director of Finance Sharon Gibson would like input on the timeline. The final rule has not come out yet, but they have the categories that can be funded within the interim rule.

Councilmember Downey suggested a workshop to discuss the options and explain the impact with regards to the future.

Councilmember Taylor wanted to clarify that this would not impact the current budget. Director of Finance Sharon Gibson stated it would not unless funds were added into infrastructure projects, then it would open up funding for additional infrastructure projects. Councilmember Taylor asked if ARPA money would be a separate budget to be approved by the council and could tax obligations be reduced for citizens with the funds. Director of Finance Sharon Gibson said it would not impact the current budget and that a budget amendment would be needed. The funds are to promote economic recovery and aren't available for taxes. Councilmember Taylor made it clear that any budget amendments would need to be brought before the citizens and the council before any money is spent or action taken.

Councilmember Downey inquired how many staff members would be dedicated to ARPA; and if there is a need for additional staff. Councilmember Downey inquired how many staff members would be dedicated to ARPA; and if there is a need for additional staff. Director of Finance Sharon Gibson named herself and two other employees, additional staff depending on the projects.

Mayor Pro Tem Neal suggested possible funding retention bonuses or better pay for employees with the current employment climate. He would also like a workshop.

Councilmember Shelbourne suggested a January workshop.

Councilmember Hill would like a list of potential projects, the cost, and how much would be allocated to each department to help with the decision.

Councilmember Taylor suggested having a stand-alone or retreat workshop due to time constraints before a regular meeting.

Councilmember Downey agreed with Councilmember Taylor and would like to see the local business included and a possible 2-day weekend at the recreation center.

Mayor Miner stated that the city has not received a finalized plan on what they can and cannot do from the state and asked when the workshops sessions should start. Director of Finance Sharon Gibson informed the council the rules for the fund are coming from the treasury. There are not a lot of changes expected, mainly clarification. Believes mid-January would be a good start gathering information and can get input from the new city manager.

Councilmember Downey feels multiple workshops will be needed and would like input from local businesses.

Interim City Manager Robert Parker stated that it would be preferred by staff that the workshops be held in the evenings rather than on the weekends, and more business might be able to attend. He also asked that if the Council has any questions, they would like added to the survey to email him.

Councilmember Taylor suggested waiting until the new city manager is on board to include him.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Discuss and consider action to adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Watauga, Texas voting on nominees for appointment to the Board of Directors of the Tarrant Appraisal District for the 2022-2023 term.

Mayor Miner asks that people apply for board and commissions positions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council did not go into executive session

RECONVENE

N/A

ITEMS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION DELIBERATION

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Arthur Miner adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

APPROVED: this 13th day of December, 2021.

SIGNED: this 17th day of December, 2021.

APPROVED:

Arthur L. Miner /s/

Arthur L. Miner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Linda Proskey /s/

Linda Proskey, City Secretary

