



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER, 7105 WHITLEY ROAD
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Arthur L. Miner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He said the month was May instead of March. The correct date of the meeting was March 14, 2022.

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
Vacant	Council Member Place 2
Lovie Downey	Council Member Place 3
Vacant	Council Member Place 5
Mark Taylor	Council Member Place 6
Jan Hill	Council Member Place 7

and

Linda Proskey	City Secretary
Sandra Gibson	Finance Director
Bradley Fraley	Chief Information Officer
David Berman	City Attorney
Randy Richards	Building Official
Lana Ewell	Director of Library Services

INVOCATION

Police Chaplin Dennis Serratt provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Miner led the pledge to the flags.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Neal announced the mayor's book club on Monday April 4 at the library starting at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Arthur Miner announced that spring break the school lights will not be flashing so keep an eye out for children. Announced that its Ms. Queeny's birthday is today and had her birthday at McDonalds.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation

1. Tarrant County to Present to the Watauga Library the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic book Lana Ewell, Director of Library Services

Mary Louise Nicholson, Tarrant County Clerk presented the 2020 Coronavirus to Lana Ewell Director of Library Service. The book has also been placed in the Library of Congress.

Mayor Miner said that he had the privilege of going Whitley Elementary and reading to 5 classes. Every class he went into he asked the students if they were happy to be back in the classrooms and everyone of them said they were they did not like being at home on the computer.

2. Presentation of Service Awards for City of Watauga Employees celebrating a Milestone Anniversary during the month of March.

City Manger Joshua Jones presented service awards to:
Detective Benjamin Little, Police Department for 25 years service
Hugh Geipe, Parks Department for 20 years of service
Carlos Duenas, Public Works Department for 5 years of service

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 Monthly Financial Report for the period ending January 31, 2022**
2. **Consider action to authorize the expenditure of the High Density Mineral Bond Seal Program by Andale Construction, Inc. pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Hurst for cooperative purchasing of goods and services.**
3. **Consideration of an Interlocal Agreement for pavement striping of North Park Drive between Tarrant County and the City of Watauga**
4. **Discuss and consider action to authorize the expenditure for the HVAC replacement at Public Works by A&G Services available through cooperative purchasing**

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

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Discuss and consider action to declare City Council Place 2 vacant in accordance with Section 3.05 of the Watauga City Charter.**

Mayor Arthur Miner Presented this item

Due to some issues, Councilmember Snyder has missed four meetings, and our charter (written before COVID) states if you miss four out of six meetings, it is an automatic forfeiture of office.

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

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

2. **Discuss and consider action on the Appointment to Place 2 of the City Council as per Article III, Section 3.05 of the City Charter.**

Mayor Miner presented item.

Mayor Miner said Ex-Councilmember Snyder has filed to run for his position and is running unopposed. Since he is running unopposed and will be elected in May, he asks that Mr. Snyder be appointed to the vacant position of Place 2 on the City Council.

Councilmember Hill made a motion to appoint Mr. Snyder to fill the vacancy of Place 2. Councilmember Downey seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Miner called for a vote. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Ayes: Shelbourne, Neal, Hill, Downey, Taylor

Nays: None

Abstain: None

3. Discuss and consider action on the appointment to Place 5 of the City Council as per Article III, Section 3.05 of the City Charter

Mayor Arthur Miner presented the item.

City Council Place 5 is vacant; the former Council member resigned because they moved out of the city. The City Charter states that a Council member must live in the city. Malissa Minucci has filed for Place 5, in the upcoming election and is running unopposed. Mayor Miner recommends appointing her to fill the unexpired term for Place 5.

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

Ayes: Shelbourne, Neal, Hill, Downey, Taylor

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Mayor Miner recessed at 6:52 p.m. to swear in the candidates.

Mayor Miner reconvened the regular meeting at 6:58 p.m. He congratulated Place 2 and Place 5 on their appointments.

4. Discuss and consider action on convening the Charter Review Commission

Mayor Miner presented this item.

Mayor Miner said he has had two Council Members ask that the Charter Review Commission be reconvened; so that the City Charter can be updated.

Mayor Pro Tem Neal inquired if the commission is reconvened, at what point can the Council give input on possible items for the commission to explore.

Attorney Berman said anytime that the Council would like. When the commission is appointed, they will have an organizational meeting on how the commission is structured. Whatever recommendation the commission makes, the Council will have the final on the propositions. If they want input, it will depend on how the Council structures the commission and how they are to interact with the Council. If the Council has recommendations on certain provisions they would like them to focus on, give them those directions at an organizational meeting.

Councilmember Shelbourne wanted clarification on what they are voting on.

Mayor Miner said all that he is trying to do is get direction from the Council, whether or not they want to reconvene the commission. Mayor Miner also asked residents to apply to the commission that currently has three vacancies. Councilmember Shelbourne asked if he was correct that the commission can meet without the Council telling them to if they so choose. Mayor Miner said that was correct; they do have that ability. Mayor Miner said the last Charter review was over two years ago, and they have not met, so he would like to get them started.

Councilmember Taylor wanted to point out in the charter under section 13-05 the Charter Review Commission's five functions.

1. inquiring into the operation of the city government under the provisions of the Home Rule Charter and determining whether revision is required of any such provisions,
2. proposing recommendations,
3. insuring compliance with the provisions of the Home Rule Charter,
4. proposing amendments to the Home Rule Charter to improve the effective application and administrative efficiency of the operation of the city under the Home Rule Charter and
5. reporting its findings and presenting such proposed amendments to the city Council. The charter review commission shall consist of seven members to be appointed by the mayor, subject to the approval and consent of the city Council.

Councilmember Taylor feels the charter needs to be looked at to make things more effective and more efficient. It has been two years, and even if there are no changes made, they will have at least done their due diligence for the citizens.

Mayor Miner said Councilmember Downey is the liaison for the board.

Councilmember Downey said that it does need to be brought forward and agrees with Councilmember Taylor.

Councilmember Hill said that she has been on the commission for a year and a half. When the Chairman resigned, there was no one to call a meeting, and this is such an important commission. She said the Charter governs the city; these are the rules we live by; and how the Council and the city operate. She encourages citizens to apply.

Mayor Miner once again asked for people to apply.

Mayor Pro Tem Neal made a motion to reconvene the Charter Review Commission in May. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Miner called for a vote. He said the two new members would vote by show of hands after the electronic vote. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Ayes: Shelbourne, Neal, Hill, Downey, Taylor, Snyder, Minucci

Nays: None

Abstain: None

5. Discuss and consider action to approve a resolution to accept the Annual Audit and Single Audit for the period October 1 - September 30, 2021

Sandra Gibson, Director of Finance

Sandra Gibson introduced Jackie Gonzales, Audit Partner, with Weaver will be presenting the annual audit results. Ms. Gonzales. The audit was performed in accordance with the General Accepted Auditing Standards, General Accepted Government Auditing Standards, and Title 2 U.S. CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. The Federal Awards is a separate audit from the Financial Statement Audit. Because the City received over 750,000 in Federal Awards this triggers the audit to be done. They audited the Coronavirus Relief Fund and Project SAFER. There were no material weaknesses identified, no deficiencies, and no audit finding required to be reported. There were no exceptions with the cash disbursement analysis. Major Program Analysis all costs charged to the program were consistent with expectations.

Councilmember Taylor said he would like to thank the Finance Department and Weaver for the work that they did with the audit.

Mayor Miner pointed out that Councilmember Taylor was on the Audit Committee. He also complimented the Finance department on the job they did.

Mayor Miner asked for a motion.

Councilmember Taylor made motion, to accept the report as presented. Councilmember Hill seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Miner called for a vote. He said that the two new members will vote by hand after the electronic vote. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Ayes: Shelbourne, Neal, Hill, Downey, Taylor, Snyder, Minucci

Nays: None

Abstain: None

6. Consideration of an Interlocal Agreement to accept \$800,000 in funding through the 2006 Tarrant County Transportation Bond Program for Whitley Road 4 between Tarrant County and the City of Watauga

Randy Richards, Assistant Director of Public Works, presented the item. Whitley 4 will include the road between Tarrant Co. and The City of Watauga. It will include the reconstruction of the existing three-lane asphalt roadway just south of Concord Street to Oakhill Road improvements are to include concrete paving, sidewalks, designated bike lanes, storm drainage, pedestrian crossing, water and sewage mains, and other miscellaneous items. The estimated cost is approximately a total of 4.8 million. Without the 800 thousand, there would have been a shortage. The total funding set aside for this project was 5 million. Late March is when the bidding is expected to go out.

Councilmember Taylor asked when citizens could expect to see construction. Mr. Richards said the project is scheduled to start in June.

Mayor Miner asked if there were any other questions; hearing none, he asked for a motion.

Councilmember Shelbourne made motion, to accept the item as presented. Councilmember Downey seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Miner called for a vote. He said that the two new members will vote by hand after the electronic vote. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Ayes: Shelbourne, Neal, Hill, Downey, Taylor, Snyder, Minucci

Nays: None

Abstain: None

7. Discuss and Consider action to cancel the Special Election to fill the Place 5 vacancy on the Watauga City Council.

Linda Proskey, City Secretary, presented the item. Since only one candidate is running unopposed, she will automatically be declared the winner and take office once the election is canvassed. Therefore, an election is not needed. Ms. Minucci's name will still appear on the ballot, but it will state, she is the winner of the election.

Mayor Pro Tem Neal asked how often this occurs. Attorney Berman stated that it does happen, especially in smaller cities.

Mayor Miner asked if her name would still appear on the ballot. Ms. Proskey said that it would.

Mayor Miner asked if there were any other questions hearing none he asked for a motion.

Councilmember Shelbourne made a motion to approve as presented. Councilmember Downey seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Miner called for a vote. He said that the two new members will vote by hand after the electronic vote. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Ayes: Shelbourne, Neal, Hill, Downey, Taylor, Snyder, Minucci

Nays: None

Abstain: None

8. Discuss and consider action on appointment to the Parks Advisory Board in accordance with the City Charter Chapter 2 - Ordinance 2021-038

Mayor Miner presented the item. He stated a Parks Advisory Board member had resigned and that Place 1 was now vacant. He asked that the Council approve Stan Hill to the board.

Mayor Pro Tem Neal asked for the nominee's full name. Mayor Miner said Stanley Hill.

Mayor Miner asked if there were any other questions hearing none he asked for a motion.

Councilmember Downey made a motion to accept Stanley Hill to Place 1 of the Parks Advisory Board. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Miner called for a vote. He said that the two new members would vote by hand after the electronic vote. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Ayes: Shelbourne, Neal, Hill, Downey, Taylor, Snyder, Minucci

Nays: None

Abstain: None

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mayor Pro Tem Neal would like to talk about items to take to the charter review commission.

Councilmember Taylor wants the status of the bulk trash meeting. Wants a report from Parks and Recreation on what the citizens can expect for the 2022 year, like Concert in

The Parks, Kids' Fish, Watauga Fest. He thinks it is time to ramp these things up after Covid. Also, he wants the future of Watauga 101 for the youth and the citizens.

Joshua Jones, City Manager, asked if Councilmember Taylor could specify which ordinance wanted an update. Councilmember Taylor said the bulk trash ordinance, which they talked about putting more teeth into it at the last meeting. Mr. Jones asked for clarification was it on the enforcement part of the ordinances of repeat offenders.

Councilmember Taylor said not just about repeat offenders; it is about the enforcement. They spoke about shorting the time frame before code enforcement takes action.

Mr. Jones said that there is nothing in the ordinance about the time frame to take action. As far as how long it takes, how many days are given, that sort of thing is an internal operational policy, and the adjustments have been made to it. There is no actual wording in the ordinance that specifies the time frames.

Councilmember Taylor wants to know the changes made. He feels the Council and the citizens need to be updated.

Mayor Miner said he asked the City Attorney to review and modify the dangerous dog ordinance we have. He feels it takes too long to deal with the dog and the owners.

City Attorney Berman said he would review it and have it to him next month.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Arthur Miner adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

APPROVED: this 11th day of April, 2022.

SIGNED: this 11th day of April, 2022.



ATTEST: Linda Proskey /s/

Linda Proskey, City Secretary

APPROVED:

Arthur L. Miner /s/

Arthur L. Miner, Mayor

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