



**MINUTES  
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
7105 WHITLEY ROAD  
MONDAY OCTOBER 9, 2023  
5:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Arthur L. Miner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting convened with the following members present:

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

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

and  
Joshua Jones  
Linda Proskey  
Lana Ewell  
Trina Nosenzo  
Barbara Goss  
Dana Harper

City Manager  
City Secretary  
Director of Library Services  
Technical Services Supervisor  
Senior Youth Librarian  
Adult Services Librarian

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements made.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Requests for public comment were received.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS**

No Requests for public testimony were received.

## PRESENTATIONS

### 1. Discuss library hours, staffing and attendance concerns.

Councilmember Shelbourne said that back in May, he asked for a workshop requesting a workshop to discuss extending the library and what it would take. He said that in the past, the library was open more, and his concern is that the library is open enough hours to service the community.

Councilmember Taylor looked at the cities around us and what their hours are.

Lana Ewell, Director of Library Services, said the library operates under the Texas Public Library Standards. Population has an impact on how many hours the library is open. The Watauga population fits in the category of 10,000 to 24,999 population. That range is 45–50 hours a week, and they are at 44. Would like to stay open longer but does not have the staffing,

Councilmember Taylor commented that the 14 surrounding libraries are open an average of 53.2 hours a week. His concerns are that during the day, most people are out of town working, and when they come home, the library is closed. He wants to know why we aren't open more when people are home. He commented that the library staff does an excellent job. The problem is there are not enough people to utilize the staff. Wants to know who is attending the events and whether they are the same people all the time. What will it take to get more hours and more availability to the residents so they can utilize the library?

Lana Ewell, Director of Library Services said they have been tracking statistics for years and the attendance is still building back up from Covid. She gave off the attendance numbers from 2016 to 2023. She advises that council does not touch the hours they are open now because they have devoted followers for several programs that are open during the day who would not like that. Programing is not the only thing that happens in the library, there are many things that go on behind the scenes when they are closed. She says they have been working short staffed for a while and they are struggling to get things done. She welcomes being open in the evenings, but they will need more staff. Trina Nosenzo, Barbara Goss and Dana Harper attended the meeting and spoke on the programs and events at the library,

Joshua Jones, City Manager, apologizes for the delay in having the workshop for this item; he was under the impression that the council would give him what information they were looking for, he would research the answers, and then they would have the workshop. He asked Councilmember Taylor if he is looking at the later hours the current staff should facilitate or if he is asking to have extended hours and how much more staff they need.

Councilmember Taylor said his concern is that Watauga has the least open hours compared to all the cities around. What do the other facilities have that we don't have, and what do we need to meet those requirements?

Councilmember Neal said that some of the data that needs to be included is how many programs the other cities have. It also asks if we have data showing that



people are leaving the city during the day because of the changes in demographics. Since COVID, more people are working from home, stay-at-home parents and different shifts may not warrant extending hours.

Councilmember Hill asked how many employees, how many hours, the programs, youth programs, and the categories of programs, and would like to see what all the other cities offer.

Mayor Miner asked the council to submit what they want to know, and he will get the City Manager for the answers. Wants to know the optimal staffing levels for 52 hours a week and what additional hours would take.

Councilmember Downey asked Mayor Miner when he wanted the questions. Mayor Miner said he would bring this back to another workshop as soon as the City Manager and staff have all the questions answered.

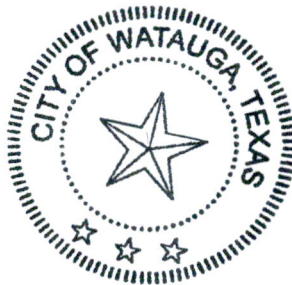
## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 6:24 pm

Approved: this 13 day of Nov, 2023

Signed: this 13 day of Nov, 2023

ATTEST: Linda Proskey /s/  
Linda Proskey, City Secretary



APPROVED:  
Arthur L. Miner /s/  
Mayor

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