



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD
MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023
5:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor 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
Council Member Place 3(Absent w/notice)
Council Member Place 4
Council Member Place 5
Council Member Place 6

and

Joshua Jones
Linda Proskey
Lisa Benavidez
David Berman
Sandra Gibson
Deby Woodard
Timothy Hamilton

City Manager
City Secretary
Assistant to the City Secretary
City Attorney
Director of Finance
Assistant Director of Finance
Director of Parks and Community Services

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests for public comment were received.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

No requests for public testimony were received.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of the City Manager's Proposed Budget - Overview

Sandra Gibson, Director of Finance, gave the presentation and summarized the proposed budget. The City Manager's budget message and the budget in brief have a very concise budget summary. The balanced budget addresses the council's priorities from the strategic planning sessions. It focuses on recruitment and retention infrastructure and maintaining and improving services for citizens. The budget meets the state law and charter requirements.

2. Presentation of the City Manager's Proposed Budget - Departmental Budgets

Sandra Gibson, Director of Finance, went over the departmental budgets. She reviewed the budget's significant impacts on each department's budget.

Mayor Miner thanked everyone who worked on the budget and recognized the amount of work that goes into it.

Councilmember Hill wants to know how much of the personnel requests will increase the verticalness of the organization chart and how many positions will be added to increase the verticalness.

Sandra Gibson said most personal requests are community services; 15 are part-time seasonal positions. There is one position at the library. A Library Assistant position is being requested to go from part-time to full-time. Then, Parks and Community Services is looking to reclassify the current Parks Supervisor to Assistant Director of Parks and Community Services.

Timothy Hamilton spoke on the Parks Supervisor position, stating that this position would not increase supervisory layers; it is just in recognition of the individual abilities and the contribution to the organization and the department. The assistant will not directly supervise the recreation center but will contribute more since he has an extensive background.

Joshua Jones said initially, the department organizational chart called for three supervisors, but when COVID hit, one of those went away. Now that the department is being built back, instead of bringing that supervisor position back, they are allocating the responsibilities to someone already there to create two supervisors instead of three. So, it is a decrease in supervisors.

Councilmember Hill wants to know how many total employees are between the Parks and Community Services department divisions.

Timothy Hamilton said there are 16 employees between full-time and part-time. There are 12 full-time employees.

Councilmember Hill does not believe that this is an efficient organizational model and does not believe that the Assistant Director position is needed.

Mayor Miner said he had noted her concerns. He said he spoke to Mr. Jones and Ms. Gibson because the proposed budget maintains the current tax rate, and he would like it looked at to see what can be done to lower it. He said the council will take a roll call vote tonight to cap the tax rate.

Councilmember Taylor wanted to ensure they would have another opportunity to challenge some of the items. He wants to look at the budget more in-depth and ask for justification.

Mayor Miner said they will have another opportunity.

Sandra Gibson said there is a public hearing on the 28th, so if there is another discussion, she would like to do that before then. This way, if there are any adjustments or concerns, they can be addressed before then.

Councilmember Hill asked that they have another workshop.

Mayor Miner said he would work with the City Manager to schedule another workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm

Approved: this 8th day of Jan, 2024

Signed: this 10th day of Jan, 2024

APPROVED:

Arthur L. Miner /s/

Mayor

ATTEST:

Linda Proskey /s/

Linda Proskey, City Secretary

