



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 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 (Absent w/notice)
Council Member Place 3
Council Member Place 4
Council Member Place 5
Council Member Place 6

and

Joshua Jones
Linda Proskey
Lisa Benavidez
David Berman
Robert Parker
Lana Ewell
Tonya DeGrand

City Manager
City Secretary
Assistant to the City Secretary
City Attorney
Chief of Police
Director of Library Services
Animal Services Supervisor

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. Watauga Public Library Workshop

Lana Ewell, Director of Library Services, gave a presentation on the Watauga Library and how it compares to others in the area. She reviewed the hours, personnel, programs, city population, budget, and what it would take to increase the library hours. This Workshop was to answer questions the City Council had during the October 9th Workshop on what the costs would be to increase the hours at the library. She stated they would need to reconfigure the library with a centralized desk, add personnel, including two part-time and one full-time employee, and increase the budget. She also fears that it could significantly impact Customer Service during busy times and that there is a safety concern because parts of the building cannot be watched.

Mayor Miner stated that he pulled close to 400 emails concerning the library to see what kind of complaints they received, and not one of them was about the hours.

Councilmember Minucci wanted to know the extended hours they were looking at.

Lana Ewell said Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and extending Saturdays.

City Manager Josh Jones said they are looking at an additional 10 hours per week.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill said she was impressed that we provide the number of programs that Keller does, that they get about \$1,000,000 more per year for their budget, and that we have roughly the same number of employees. She would favor more staff for the amount of work they do but still wonders if the library hours need to be expanded.

Councilmember Shelbourne said Keller is open 54 hours with 12 staff, and Watauga has 43 hours with nine full-time staff members. He stated that Keller runs the same number of programs, so the libraries are similar. However, the Watauga library hours are 20% less, but the staff is not 20% less, which raises a question in his mind. He said they wanted this feasibility study done to look at the possibilities of the library being open more in the evenings and on Saturdays. Simply so that those who may not utilize it now because it is not open. But your studies or you conclude that we don't need to do anything different. He feels that Lana Ewell presented everything he requested and accepts the results. Josh Jones stated that he thinks the library should be discussed next year at the budget retreat. They can look at adjusting the staffing levels and possible additional funding that may be needed.

Councilmember Neal asked if there is a timeline for the next survey. He would like to see the results and the difference between pre-COVID and post-COVID.

Lana Ewell stated that they are working on the survey.

2. Discussion of a proposed ordinance regulating the keeping of bees.

Chief Parker said that at the last workshop, the council asked that they develop a revised ordinance with input from the Ad-hoc subcommittee. Chief Parker stated that the committee had problems getting together but emailed and had a meeting on Friday, and they have come up with a revised ordinance. He introduced Tonya DeGrand, the Animal Services Supervisor, to present the item and answer their questions.

Tonya DeGrand stated that the ordinance was the same as discussed at the last workshop except for colony density. The concern then was that there may need to be more hives to be a beekeeper properly. So, they increase the colony density. A person may keep up to two colonies on the residential lot, track, or individual property. It includes that they can have a nucleus colony. Also, a person may have up to two brood boxes per colony.

Councilmember Shelbourne asked about fencing and what properly fenced and any other structure, flyaway barrier means would like the definitions listed in the ordinance. He also had a comment on the enforcement procedures.

Councilmember Taylor said his main concern was that rules were established to protect both the beekeeper and the neighbors.

Tonya DeGrand stated that she would like to change the section under enforcement about conducting a hearing to say the hearing would be in front of a judge.

David Berman, City Attorney, stated that the ordinance has changed from the one he provided the council earlier, and he has yet to have an opportunity to review this before this workshop. He would like that opportunity since he must approve the form and legality before signing off on the ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no other questions or comments, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 6:06 pm

Approved: this 8th day of Jan., 2024

Signed: this 10th day of Jan., 2024

ATTEST: [Signature]
Linda Proskey /s/

Linda Proskey, City Secretary

APPROVED:
Arthur L. Miner /s/
Mayor

