



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD,
MARCH 11, 2024
5:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Arthur Miner called the meeting to order at 5:32 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
David Berman
Sandra Gibson
Paul Hackleman
Randy Richards
Jeannette Garcia

City Manager
City Secretary
City Attorney
Director of Finance
Director of Public Works
Assistant Director of Public Works
Planner 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation/Update on Watauga Road Capital Improvement Plan Project.

Paul Hackleman, Director of Public Works, presented the item. He stated that this project is estimated at \$47,000,000 for all phases. It will go from the Western property line of Watauga to the Eastern property line at Rufe Snow. The project will have a lot of coordination between the utility companies, the railroad, TxDOT, and the city of North Richland Hills, which has a planned water main improvement going down Watauga Rd. He has a meeting with North Richland Hills to discuss coordinating this, so some of the information presented may change after that discussion. He does not want to finish Watauga Road, then North Richland Hill comes through and tears it up for the water main, so it has to be done within the same project. The City Council should see the award to the engineering company in April or May. They have a developer looking at a tract of land south of Watauga Rd. at Whitley Road, who would like to put in a subdivision for single-family homes. So, he is considering delaying the engineering contract to see what happens. When this project was added, it would transition from residential to commercial retail because it's our last real corridor. If this subdivision is approved, it goes against the current vision for Watauga, Rd., of commercial retail. This is a 10/20/30-year plan. This is the engine that will drive the city of Watauga into that 10, 20, and 30 years, and since there is no downtown, this is our redevelopment chance. He mentioned that the WEDC would ideally start buying these homes as they come up for sale, that front Watauga Rd., and then the WEDC would be able to combine these pieces of land and then help them develop into commercial retail.

2. General Capital Improvement Plan Project update.

Paul Hackleman, Director of Public Works, presented the item. He went over the following projects.

- a) Parks Project—Pole Barn 5633 Linda Drive. This is a new overhead structure for the park's equipment. Burgess and Niple are working with Parks Director Timothy Hamilton on the exact location of the new overhead structure. An existing structure on the property will need replacing because it is deteriorating, but this is separate.
- b) Parks Project—Park Vista Park Culvert Extension. This runs through a future park project off Yampa Trail and Ridgeview Dr. It fills several hundred feet of culvert with the concrete channel. Since they started, the Corps of Engineers has asked us to buy into a land mitigation bank for 138,000. That is what we would have to pay the Corp to fill in the channel.
- c) Park Project—Park Vista Park, Phase 1. He showed a diagram of the park and said the funding was mainly for sidewalks and pads, and all the amenities would come after. However, it will continue to be delayed until the drainage culvert is finished.
- d) Whitley Road 4 from Concord St/ to Oakhill Road - This is the project that runs in front of the City Hall. It was divided into three phases, which phase one is almost complete. There are new enhanced bicycle lanes, and the reduced driving lanes should help control speeding.

Contractually, it should be completed by July, but he feels it will be in May or June.

- e) Whitley Road 5 From Starnes Road to Bursey Road -The design is 90% complete. There was a public meeting last fall to discuss. This will be a continuation of Whitley Road 4.
- f) Drainage Master Plan-This was completed last summer, but an ordinance update still needs to be made.
- g) Street Maintenance Projects—We partnered with Tarrant County to do street asphalt overlays. In January, we started sidewalk and curbing gutter work. Tarrant County is scheduled to come this fall and will include Lara Lane, Whispering Lane, Kennedy Street, Plum Street, and Bowling Drive.
- h) 50th Year CDBG Bunker Blvd. Water Mai – This is a Tarrant County CDBG grant project to replace the water line along the north side of Bunker Blvd. from west of Yorkston Street and west of Constitution Drive because the existing water line has been leaking and failing.
- i) CDBG-CV Round 4 Plum Street Water Main—This will replace the leaking and failing water main on Plum Street. The pipe will be going from 6" to 8". Plum Street is in the asphalt overlay project area, so it needs to be completed before that project.
- j) 2019-2020 Water & Wastewater CIP, Group 1 through 4—These are under construction, and there are multiple locations throughout the city. This first one covers all sanitary sewer locations.
- k) Lead Water Service Line Identification ARPA – This is ARPA-funded. It started about a week ago with the identification plan. Two to four crews will go around the entire City checking water meter boxes. They will just be opening lids, but if they can't tell what is going on by that, then they will need to do some digging. This is a mandate from the federal government, and we must identify on both sides of the meter what the service is made of. If it is decided that it is lead, it must be replaced up to the house. Paul believes there is any to replace it will be in the older part of the town. Residents may not have the economic means to replace it. So, a program will be proposed where the City replaces it up to the house. He can not tell what that number would be, so he is not asking the council to commit. Said it would probably run about 3000 per house to run a new line to the house. The report must be completed by the fall of this year, and there are 8400 meters in the City.

Beautification Project, Green Ribbon 4 Grant, 377 Denton Highway – Phase 3 is Starnes Road to Basswood Blvd. They have applied for the grant but did not hear back. If they don't hear back, they will reapply when the next round opens up. It will probably take about 6 phases to finish it. This is the beautification project for Denton Highway, where we put the rocks and the drought-resistant plants all along the Western corridor of

Denton Highway. The city does have to fund the engineering cost, but the state funds all the construction costs. So far, we have collected 1.2 million in grant money.

Councilmember Taylor asked if the Whitley Road from Hightower to Oak Hill lanes were consistent.

Paul Hackleman said they stopped the striping short in front of City Hall. They are still running equipment over the road, and they don't want the striping messed up, but it will be the same. The difference is Watauga has always had this dead-center line. That anybody can get in turn. However, they noticed over the years that when school gets out, parents stay out of that center lane even though they could get in and use it as a turn lane. So, a dedicated left turn lane is installed for northbound traffic leaving Hickory Hill. Then, at Whitley 5, there will be more dedicated bike and pedestrian areas where they can be separated from traffic.

Councilmember Neal asked about the water meters and if they are brass and if it is lead-free brass.

Paul Hackleman stated they would look at the meters and the solder during inspections.

3. Presentation on status and discussing the date for a Public Input Meeting for the Hightower Drive Capital Improvement Plan Project.

Paul Hackleman, Director of Public Works, presented the item. This is the Hightower Drive project, which runs from Denton Highway to Lyndale. He scheduled a public meeting to discuss the project for April 24 at 5:30.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 6:07 pm

Approved: this 8 day of April, 2024

Signed: this 9 day of April, 2024

APPROVED:

Arthur L. Miner /s/

Mayor

ATTEST

Linda Proskey /s/

Linda Proskey, City Secretary

