



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD,
July 29, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Arthur Miner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The meeting convened with the following members present:

Arthur L. Miner
Malissa Minucci

Pat Shelbourne
Cris Blackburn
Lovie Downey
Andrew Neal
Mark Taylor
Jan Hill

and

Sandra Gibson
Linda Proskey
David Berman
Brian Teneyck
Deby Woodard
Paul Hackleman
Randy Richards
Jeannette Garcia
Randy Barkley
Robert Parker
Julie Rodriguez
Lana Ewell

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

Interim City Manager and Finance Director
City Secretary
City Attorney
Assist. Director of Parks and Community Srv.
Assistant Finance Director
Public Works Director
Assistant Public Works Director
Planner I
Fire Chief
Police Chief
Director of Human Resources
Director of Library Services

INVOCATION

Pastor Ramón Anguiano of Iglesia Bautista El Buen Samaritano Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Miner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Neal asked that people have their pets spayed or neutered. He also mentioned that the Parks Kids Fish event is coming up.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests for public testimony were received.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

No requests for public testimony were received.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Consider the appointment of Steve Welch to Place 1 on the Watauga Economic Development Corporation**
2. **Consider the appointment of Brian Downey to Place 7 on the Watauga Economic Development Corporation.**
3. **Consider action to accept the Watauga Economic Development Corporation's Proposed Fiscal Year Budget for FY2024-2025; providing for all anticipated expenditures.**
4. **Consider action to set the Watauga Economic Development Corporation's Proposed FY2024-2025 Budget Public Hearing for August 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. and the budget adoption Date for Monday, August 26, 2024**

Mayor Miner called for a Motion. Councilmember Neal made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Councilmember Hill seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion carried 4-0-0-3.

Ayes, Blackburn, Neal, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Shelbourne, Downey, Minucci

There was no request to speak.

Mayor Miner closed the public hearing at 7:11 pm.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Discuss and consider action to approve the Community Development Block Grant (CDGB)-CV Round 4 Project (Plum Street Water Improvements) - Construction Bid Acceptance.**

Paul Hackleman, Director of Public Works, presented the item. He said this is to accept the bid and not to award the bid; Tarrant County will do that at a later date. The CDBG Grant project involves replacing the water line along the east side of Plum Street from Shipp Drive to Bowie Street because the existing cast iron waterline has been leaking and failing. He spoke about the timeline for the project, with a start date of around September 2024.

Councilmember Taylor made the motion: "I move to accept the bid from MX Construction Services, Inc. for the construction of the Plum Street Water System Improvements project in the amount of three hundred thirty-three thousand seven hundred thirty-eight dollars and twenty-six cents. Watauga's pledge above and beyond Tarrant County's grant is zero dollars and no cents."

Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion carried 4-0-0-3.

Ayes, Blackburn, Neal, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Shelbourne, Downey, Minucci

2. **Discuss and consider action for the purchase of medical, dental, and vision insurance for all eligible employees and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute a contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield.**

Juliet Rodriguez, Human Resources and Civil Service Director, introduced Heath Haigood from Hud International, who spoke about the bids received for the healthcare plan and suggested switching to Blue Cross/Blue Shield, which came in with cost savings. He also recommended bundling the dental and vision plans with the healthcare plan for even greater savings. He added that the health and dental plans have 1-year rates, while the vision plan has a 4-year rate.

Juliet Rodriguez stated that since the deductible is higher and the savings substantial, the HSA city contribution will increase from \$450 to \$750 for employee-only plans, and to \$1000 for family plans to help employees with the higher deductible. She introduced a \$50 WataugaFit reward for employees who bring confirmation of a completed annual physical. She also mentioned plans to increase education on the different types of care available and add a wellness fair to help employees understand how they can help keep insurance costs down. Additionally, they will continue to offer supplemental benefits such as pet insurance, accident, cancer, critical illness, hospital indemnity, permanent life insurance, legal and identity theft protection, short-term disability, and medical transportation insurance at the employee's cost.

Councilmember Taylor believed that the contribution should be \$1000 for employees and \$1500 for family plans to make the city more competitive with other cities. He also wanted to explore other HSA accounts and investment opportunities available through Optum Bank for employees' accounts, as well as alternatives to Optum Bank.

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Taylor made a motion to accept the proposal with the adjustment to the HSA contribution of 1000 for individuals and 1500 for families. Councilmember Neal seconded the motion,

Motion carried 4-0-0-3.

Ayes, Blackburn, Neal, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Shelbourne, Downey, Minucci

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 7:16 pm.

Approved: this 12 day of August, 2024

Signed: this 13 day of August, 2024

APPROVED:

Arthur L. Miner /s/
Mayor

ATTEST:

Linda Proskey /s/

Linda Proskey, City Secretary

