



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
CANVASS ELECTION
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD
MAY 15, 2024
12:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Arthur L. Miner called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The meeting convened with the following members present:

Arthur L. Miner
Jan Hill
Pat Shelbourne
Malissa Minucci
Mark Taylor

Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem/Council Member Place 7
Council Member Place 1
Council Member Place 5
Council Member Place 6

and
Linda Proskey

City Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Requests for public comments were received.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

No Requests for public testimony were received.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Consideration and action on canvassing the votes for the May 4, 2024, General Election to include approval of a Resolution canvassing the votes and declaring the results.**

Mayor Miner presented the voting results for the May 4, 2024, General Election.

ELECTION	TOTAL EARLY VOTING VOTES CAST (Including mail ballots)	TOTAL VOTES CAST AT POLL ON ELECTION DAY	TOTAL VOTES CAST
General Election	941	845	1786

The returns of the General Election, including the returns of the early voting ballots, duly and legally made, showed that each candidate received the following votes:

NAME OF CANDIDATE	COUNCIL PLACE	TOTAL EARLY VOTING VOTES RECEIVED (Including mail ballots)	TOTAL VOTES RECEIVED AT POLL ON ELECTION	TOTAL VOTES RECEIVED
Patrick Shelbourne	1	185	162	347
Yanghui "Tira" Meyers	1	62	63	125
Tom Snyder	2	110	102	212
Cris Blackburn	2	129	118	247
Veronica Gomez	6	93	91	184
Mark Taylor	6	144	126	270
Jan Hill	7	218	183	401

Mayor Miner called for a Motion. Councilmember Hill made a motion to approve the resolution canvassing the voting tabulation as read for the May 4th election. Mayor Pro Tem Minucci seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion carried 4-0-0-0.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Minucci, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Blackburn, Downey, Neal

- 2. Consideration and action on canvassing the votes for the May 4, 2024, Charter Amendments Special Election, to include approval of an Ordinance canvassing the votes and declaring the results.**

Mayor Miner presented the voting results for the May 4, 2024,

PROPOSITION A

Shall Section 3.01 and 3.05 of Article III of the Home Rule Charter be amended by extending the terms of office of the mayor and members of the city council from two (2) years to three (years); by adding transitional language such that three-year terms of office will begin for the mayor and councilmembers elected in May, 2025, election, and to provide that a vacancy may be filled by appointment of the council if less than 12 months remain in the term of office.

	Total Number of Absentee and Early Voting Votes:	Total Number of Votes on Saturday, May 4, 2024:	Total Number of Votes:
For	141	118	259
Against	122	119	241

Proposition passed

PROPOSITION B

Shall Section 3.05 of Article III of the Home Rule Charter be amended by specifying the events in which the office of the mayor or councilmember shall become vacant, by replacing crimes involving moral turpitude with theft as an event of forfeiture of office, by adding illness as an excuse for absence from meetings of the council, and by reducing from four to three the number of absences from six consecutive regular meetings as grounds for forfeiture of office of members of the city council.

	Total Number of Absentee and Early Voting Votes:	Total Number of Votes on Saturday, May 4, 2024:	Total Number of Votes:
For	224	196	420
Against	36	40	76

Proposition passed

PROPOSITION C

Shall Section 3.05 of Article III of the Home Rule Charter be amended by removing “recall election” as an event causing the initiation of forfeiture proceedings by the city council, by changing “personal emergency” to “sufficient grounds for forfeiture,” and to require that the council declare the office of a councilmember vacant, and to fill the vacancy, if a majority of the council determines that the acts giving rise to forfeiture have been established.

	Total Number of Absentee and Early Voting Votes:	Total Number of Votes on Saturday, May 4, 2024:	Total Number of Votes:
For	183	155	338
Against	73	77	150

Proposition passed

PROPOSITION D

Shall Section 3.06 of Article III of the Home Rule Charter be amended by stating that the mayor shall be recognized as the official and ceremonial head of the City, instead of the ceremonial and governmental head of the City.

	Total Number of Absentee and Early Voting Votes:	Total Number of Votes on Saturday, May 4, 2024:	Total Number of Votes:
For	193	164	357
Against	65	66	131

Proposition passed

PROPOSITION E

Shall Section 7.06 of Article XII of the Home Rule Charter be amended to require the city manager to reside within the City within 12 months of the commencement of employment but may continue residency outside the City if he/she resided within a radius of 15 miles when hired, and to remove the six-month extension that may be allowed by the council.

	Total Number of Absentee and Early Voting Votes:	Total Number of Votes on Saturday, May 4, 2024:	Total Number of Votes:
For	182	155	337
Against	88	78	157

Proposition passed

PROPOSITION F

Shall Section 11.01 of Article XI of the Home Rule Charter be amended to remove the requirement that members of the City's Planning and Zoning Commission own real property within the City.

	Total Number of Absentee and Early Voting Votes:	Total Number of Votes on Saturday, May 4, 2024:	Total Number of Votes:
For	106	94	200
Against	158	142	300

Proposition failed

PROPOSITION G

Shall Section 12.01 of Article XII of the Home Rule Charter be amended to remove the heightened requirements for grants of franchises, including the dual reading, multiple publication, 30-day waiting periods, and filing of certified copies requirements, to simplify and expedite the grant of franchises by the City.

	Total Number of Absentee and Early Voting Votes:	Total Number of Votes on Saturday, May 4, 2024:	Total Number of Votes:
For	158	139	297
Against	96	90	186

Proposition passed

PROPOSITION H

Shall Section 13.01 of Article XIII of the Home Rule Charter be repealed as it Against longer has effect.

	Total Number of Absentee and Early Voting Votes:	Total Number of Votes on Saturday, May 4, 2024:	Total Number of Votes:
For	187	161	348
Against	56	61	117

Proposition passed

PROPOSITION I

Shall Section 14.03 of Article XIV of the Home Rule Charter be amended to comply with state law to reduce the two-year prior continuous employment requirement to six months, such that employees who have previously been employed for at least six months may continue in their employment if a close relative is elected to office after his/her commencement of employment.

	Total Number of Absentee and Early Voting Votes:	Total Number of Votes on Saturday, May 4, 2024:	Total Number of Votes:
For	176	154	330
Against	79	72	151

Proposition passed

PROPOSITION J

Shall Section 14.04 of Article XIV of the Home Rule Charter be amended to allow discretion to the council as to whether bonds shall be required of officers and employees who receive or disburse funds.

	Total Number of Absentee and Early Voting Votes:	Total Number of Votes on Saturday, May 4, 2024:	Total Number of Votes:
For	138	122	260
Against	112	106	218

Proposition passed

PROPOSITION K

Shall Section 14.05 of Article XIV of the Home Rule Charter be amended to restate the City's sovereign immunity and to establish written notice requirements for claims filed against the City.

	Total Number of Absentee and Early Voting Votes:	Total Number of Votes on Saturday, May 4, 2024:	Total Number of Votes:
For	174	136	310
Against	80	90	168

Proposition passed

PROPOSITION L

Shall Section 14.17 of Article XIV of the Home Rule Charter be amended to correct a misspelling in the heading, so that the heading will correctly read, "Charter to become effective notwithstanding some section or portion thereof being invalid."

	Total Number of Absentee and Early Voting Votes:	Total Number of Votes on Saturday, May 4, 2024:	Total Number of Votes:
For	229	201	430
Against	23	24	47

Proposition passed

Mayor Miner called for a Motion. Mayor Pro Tem Minucci made a motion to approve the Charter Amendment canvassing the voting tabulation as read for the May 4th election. Mayor Pro Tem Minucci seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion carried 4-0-0-0.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Minucci, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Blackburn, Downey, Neal

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mayor Arthur Miner addressed the city council and citizens to express concern over low voter turnout in the recent election, where only 3.5% of Watauga's 14,541 registered voters participated (509 votes cast). He emphasized the importance of voting as a civic duty and a defining aspect of American democracy, contrasting it with countries where voting rights are restricted. Mayor Miner expressed hope for higher turnout in upcoming elections, including a May runoff and the November presidential election. He also thanked candidates who ran for office.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm

Approved: this 13 day of January, 2025

Signed: this 13 day of January, 2025

ATTEST:

Linda Proskey /s/

Linda Proskey, City Secretary

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APPROVED:

Arthur L. Miner /s/

Mayor