



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD,
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Arthur Miner called the meeting to order at 6:50 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

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

and

Sandra Gibson
Linda Proskey
David Berman
Timothy Hamilton
Paul Hackleman
Lana Ewell
Timothy Hamilton
Deby Woodard

Interim City Manager/Finance Director
City Secretary
City Attorney
Director of Parks and Community Services
Director of Public Works
Director of Library Services
Director of Parks and Community Services
Assistant Finance Director

INVOCATION

Assistant Pastor Ralph Owens Victory Tabernacle Church of Watauga gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Miner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Neal announced Mentioned the costume exchange at the library and the Halloween bash at the community center. He also asked that people adopt a pet.

Mayor Miner stated that he just adopted a dog from the animal shelter and asked if you can please adopt a pet the animal shelter is full.

PRESENTATIONS

- 1. Presentation of Service Awards for the City of Watauga Employees celebrating a Milestone Anniversary during the month of October.**

Sandra Gibson, Interim City Manager, and Mayor Miner presented the milestone awards to Vickie Atchley for 30 years with the city.

- 2. Employee of the Month Award for the month of October.**

Sandra Gibson, Interim City Manager, and Mayor Miner presented the Employee of the Month Award to Scott Orwig with Animal Services.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Hopkins, 7509 Meadowbrook Dr. Watauga, TX, spoke about the Bee Ordinance that was previously passed. He stated that he sees three issues with the ordinance. The first issue is that the ordinance limits the number of hives to two, but some people currently have more than two, putting them in violation of the ordinance. The second issue is that individuals can receive a misdemeanor if their bees attempt to sting someone. Hopkins questioned how it could be proven where the bee lives or its intent, and he believes the process should be clearly outlined in the ordinance. The third issue is that any law enforcement officer, whether police or code enforcement, may inspect the hive and is required to attempt to contact the resident beforehand. He feels this gives officers the right to enter someone's yard without permission, which he believes could be a violation of the Fourth Amendment.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

Eric Crile 11325 Gale Ridge Terrace Fort Worth, He asked the council for their nomination to the Tarrant County Appraisal District board.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider action on approval of the City Council Workshop minutes for August 26, 2024.**
- 2. Consider action on approval for the reappointment of Henrietta Egenti to the Library Board.**

- 3. Consider action on approval for the reappointment of Lindsey Neal to Place 2 on the Zoning Board of Adjustments and the Charter Review Commission.**
- 4. Consider action on approval of Richard Laporte to Place 1 on the Board of Appeals.**
- 5. Consider action on approval of Bryan Goswick to Place 2 on the Board of Appeals.**
- 6. Consider action on approval of the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending August 31, 2024.**
- 7. Consider action to ratify the Meet and Confer Agreement between the City of Watauga and the Watauga Police Officers' Association.**
- 8. Consider action on approval of the Library Circulation Policy.**
- 9. Consider action on approval of the Library Interlibrary Loan Policy.**
- 10. Consider action on approval of the Library Confidentiality Policy.**
- 11. Consider action on approval of the Library Insect Infestation Policy.**
- 12. Consider action on approval of a resolution to adopt the fiscal year 2024-2025 Classification plan for all employees.**
- 13. Consider action authorizing anticipated expenditures exceeding \$50,000 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 procured by cooperative purchasing, interlocal agreements or which are exempt by law from competitive procurement.**
- 14. Consider action authorizing purchases pursuant to certain cooperative purchasing programs and interlocal agreements for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.**
- 15. Consider action by the City Council of the City of Watauga, Texas for the purchase of a John Deere Model 35 P-Tier Compact Excavator with attachments from John Deere RDO Equipment.**
- 16. Consider action to approve the purchase of Ford Trucks from Silsbee Ford through the TIPS Cooperative purchasing program - Contract #210907.**

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

Motion carried 7-0-0-0.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Blackburn, Downey, Neal, Minucci, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ACTION ITEMS

1. Consider action on approval of the Watauga Revitalization Action Program Incentive Policy (WRAP)

The program, its goals, and the associated policy were presented during the workshop. During the discussion, it was suggested that a callback or recapture provision be included in the policy, along with the need for a grant agreement for businesses participating in the program.

Based on feedback from several council members, the policy was revised to require businesses to operate continuously for one year after receiving the grant. Additionally, City Attorney David Berman has prepared the grant agreement, which will be ready for businesses when the program is launched.

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Downey made a motion to approve as presented. Councilmember Shelbourne seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion carried 7-0-0-0.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Blackburn, Downey, Neal, Minucci, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

2. Consider action to approve a Professional Services Agreement between the City of Watauga and Burgess & Niple, Inc. for General Engineering Services.

Paul Hackleman, Director of Public Works, presented the agenda item regarding the general engineering which is a yearly contract renewed annually. This contract, valued at \$30,000, supports various city engineering needs, including plan reviews, map creation, and updates or assistance with the city's GIS system.

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Shelburne made a motion to accept the item as presented. Councilmember Neil seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion carried 7-0-0-0.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Blackburn, Downey, Neal, Minucci, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

3. Consider action approving a professional services agreement between the City of Watauga, Texas and Burgess & Niple, Inc. for a FEMA Flood Study for the Watauga Animal Shelter.

Paul Hackleman, Director of Public Works, presented the item. The proposed engineering contract, costing \$66,700, is for a flood study at the animal shelter, as required by federal law. The city's strategic plan includes evaluating options to expand or renovate the shelter, which is located in a regulated floodway. Federal law prohibits construction or land modifications in such areas without a flood study and approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The study will ensure compliance and provide a model for future changes.

The contract is for a 14-month period and will enable planning for renovations, relocations, or future decisions regarding the shelter's viability at its current location. Without this study, even minor changes like adding a fence would violate federal regulations. The study's findings will remain valid indefinitely unless significant changes to the land or floodway occur.

Councilman Taylor and Mayor Miner expressed concerns about spending money on a study given the uncertainty surrounding the shelter's future plans. They also sought assurance that the flood study would remain valid indefinitely.

Councilwoman Blackburn emphasized the need to prioritize the shelter's quality of life improvements and compliance with federal laws.

Councilman Neil inquired about the study's scope and its implications for surrounding infrastructure projects.

Councilwoman Downey supported the study, citing its necessity for any future work, including demolition or relocation.

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Downey made a motion to accept the item as presented. Councilmember Blackburn seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion carried 6-1-0-0.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Blackburn, Downey, Neal, Minucci, Hill

Nays: Taylor

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4. Consider action approving a professional services agreement between the City of Watauga, Texas and Burgess & Niple, Inc. for a FEMA Flood Study for the Foster Village Park.

Paul Hackleman, Director of Public Works, presented the item, explaining the need for a detailed flood study for Foster Village Park. The study is critical for renovations, as changes in the floodplain require FEMA-approved modeling. The

detailed survey will identify properties in or out of the floodplain, potentially impacting residential flood insurance requirements.

Councilman Taylor questioned the necessity of the study, citing prior flood studies in the area. Hackleman clarified that FEMA lacks the original models, this study will address current floodplain conditions, ensuring future renovations, such as ball field improvements, comply with federal regulations.

Councilman Hill Councilmember Neal and Councilman Blackburn raised concerns about the study's cost and its impact on nearby properties, particularly in cases of potential floodplain expansion or reduction. Hackleman emphasized that any significant changes, even minor grading or construction, necessitate the study to avoid legal issues or unintentional flooding.

Councilmember Downey brought up residents' concerns about parking and property impacts. Hackleman confirmed that maintenance does not trigger a study, but new construction or elevation changes would. The study will provide clarity for future improvements, including parking and facilities, while updating floodplain boundaries to reflect current conditions.

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Shelbourne made a motion to accept the item as presented. Councilmember Neal seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion carried 6-1-0-0.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Blackburn, Downey, Neal, Minucci, Hill

Nays: Taylor

Abstain: None

Absent: None

5. Discuss and consider the nomination of a candidate to be on the ballot for the Tarrant County Appraisal District Board. Ballots will be prepared and mailed out to taxing units to vote on by October 30 and will be voted on before December 15.

The council discussed and finalized nominations for the County Appraisal District Board. Councilmember Neal expressed dissatisfaction with the TAD Board's direction and highlighted the voting influence of school districts, suggesting either abstaining or nominating Eric Crile. Councilmembers Shelbourne, Hill, and Blackwell supported Crile, citing his dedication, community involvement, and commitment to improving TAD practices.

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Shelbourne made a motion to nominate Eric Crile. Councilmember Hill seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion carried 7-0-0-0.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Blackburn, Downey, Neal, Minucci, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. Pursuant to Section 551.076 and Section 551.089 of the Texas Government Code, the Council will convene in executive session to discuss matters relating to the deployment/implementation of security devices, security assessments and deployments relating to information resources technology, and network security information.**
- 2. Pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, discuss matters relating to personnel as follows: discuss duties, responsibilities, pay and compensation for the interim City Manager.**

Mayor Miner recessed into executive session at 8:06 p.m.

RECONVENE

Mayor Miner reconvened the meeting at 9:14 p. m.

ITEMS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION DELIBERATION

- 1. Consideration and possible action relating to the deployment/implementation of security devices, security assessments and deployments relating to information resources technology, and network security information as discussed in the Executive Session Bradley Fraley, Chief Information Officer.**

No action was taken on this item.

- 2. Consideration and possible action relating to the duties, responsibilities, pay and compensation for the interim City Manager.**

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Hill made a motion to approve a pay increase for the acting City Manager. Councilmember Downey seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion carried 7-0-0-0.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Blackburn, Downey, Neal, Minucci, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Councilmember Blackburn proposed an item changing the biweekly departmental reports to monthly, and Councilmember Hill seconded.

Councilmember Taylor wants the change with TRMS and COLA brought back before the end of December. Councilmember Hill seconded.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 9:17 pm

Approved: this 13 day of January, 2025

Signed: this 13 day of January, 2025

APPROVED:

Arthur L. Miner /s/
Mayor

ATTEST:

Linda Proskey /s/
Linda Proskey, City Secretary

