



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD,
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024
6:30 PM**

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

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 with notice)

and

Sandra Gibson
Linda Proskey
Courtney Morris
Timothy Hamilton
Paul Hackleman
Deby Woodard
Julie Rodriguez
Randy Barkley

Interim City Manager/Finance Director
City Secretary
City Attorney
Director of Parks and Community Services
Director of Public Works
Assistant Finance Director
Human Resources Director
Fire Chief

INVOCATION

Pastor Tony Laredo Tabernacle Church of Watauga gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Miner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Neal announced November 5th is election day, and that BISD has a bond proposition for a multi-use facility on the ballot. He also thanked the Parks Department for the Halloween Bash. Also, he and Councilmember Taylor, reminded people to please go and adopt a pet.

Mayor Miner expressed appreciation for Saturday's Halloween Bash, noting the significant effort involved and the success of the Hayride addition.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no request for public comment

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

There was no request for public testimony

REPORT

Update on water service lines made of lead from the Burgess and Niple, Inc. engineering report complying with EPA Regulations

Paul Hackleman, Director of Public Works introduced Billy Wendland and John Swartzbaugh with Burgess and Niple.

John Swartzbaugh from Burgess and Niple presented findings from a federally mandated investigation into lead service lines and galvanized piping in the city. The study, funded with \$800,000 in ARPA funds, involved an extensive survey of approximately 8,500 water meters conducted between June and October. The team tested both public and private service lines for lead content. Swartzbaugh emphasized the urgency of complying with the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule revisions, which require the identification, public notification, and eventual replacement of lead-containing lines.

The results were highly favorable: only 17 properties (0.2% of the city's total) were identified with issues—6 had lead, and 11 had galvanized pipes. Remarkably, no public service lines were impacted; the issues were confined to private property. Notifications to affected residents are currently underway, with a deadline of November 13.

Swartzbaugh outlined the city's responsibilities, including publicly posting the inventory, providing water filters to affected residents, and formulating a replacement plan. He also highlighted broader implications, noting federal requirements to replace all lead service lines within 10 years and maintain updated, publicly accessible inventories. Swartzbaugh applauded the city for its proactive approach and successful mitigation efforts, which have placed it well ahead of the national average for lead service line presence.

The city plans to partner with residents to replace private service lines up to the house, with funding partially covered through ARPA and potentially additional local measures. Commercial properties, however, will need to address the issue independently. The city

also aims to implement a GIS-based public inventory to ensure transparency and compliance.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider action on approval of a resolution setting the City Observed Holiday Dates for the 2025 Calendar Year**
- 2. Consider action on approval to declare the items shown on the October 2024 Surplus List (Library Furniture) as surplus personal property assets of the city approved for sale or disposition**
- 3. Consider action on approval of the August 26, 2024 City Council Regular meeting minutes**

Mayor Miner asked the council if they wish to pull any of the items, hearing none he asked for a Motion. Councilmember Downey made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Councilmember Neal seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion carried 6-0-0-0.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hill

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no Public Hearings.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Consider action on approval of an Engineering Contract with Burgess Niple, Inc. for the design and construction administration of 50th Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project**

Paul Hackleman, Director of Public Works presented the item. This project is part of Watauga's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, now in its 50th year, operating on a two-year cycle (skipping odd years). The proposal seeks to award Burgess & Niple an engineering contract worth \$60,300 to design a water main on Bucker Boulevard, connecting 5621 Bucker Boulevard to Constitution Drive, as a continuation of the 46th-year project on the same road. The city anticipates \$170,000 in grant funding from Tarrant County CDBG, with an estimated construction cost of \$350,010.

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

Motion carried 6-0-0-0.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Blackburn, Downey, Neal, Minucci, Taylor
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Hill

2. Consider action on approval of a Professional Service Agreement with Burgess Niple, Inc. for the design and construction administration of Watauga Road

Paul Hackleman, Director of Public Works outlined the project, stating that it was added to the CIP last summer. He highlighted that this is the engineering contract for phase one improvements, covering the western city limit to the west side of the U.P. railroad tracks at Denton Highway, as well as conceptual designs for phases two through five, which extend to Rufe Snow. The project will involve extensive surveying, subsurface utility exploration, and coordination with entities such as the railroad, TxDOT, and neighboring cities. Hackleman emphasized the complexity of the undertaking, describing it as the largest public infrastructure project in Watauga's history. Councilmember Mark Taylor inquired about potential funding assistance from Tarrant County, given the road's regional importance. Hackleman responded that the project would be submitted for consideration after the Whitley 5 project is completed, but there are no guarantees of county support. As a result, the bulk of the estimated \$47 million cost will likely fall on the city, with construction at least two years away.

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 6-0-0-0.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Blackburn, Downey, Neal, Minucci, Taylor
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Hill

3. Discuss and consider action on approval to waive permit fees for temporary signage for new businesses for a specified timeframe as recommended by the WEDC

Sandra Gibson, Interim City Manager and Director of Finance, presented the item to waive temporary signage permit fees for new businesses for a six-month period, as recommended by the Watauga Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). She explained that the city attorney stated the action does not require a formal ordinance but must be reflected in the minutes if approved. The waiver applies exclusively to new businesses during their initial six months of operation, with all existing signage rules and regulations remaining in effect.

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

Motion carried 6-0-0-0.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Blackburn, Downey, Neal, Minucci, Taylor
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Hill

4. **Discussion and action on approval to authorize the City of Watauga to enter into a Construction Contract with Maya Underground Contractors for the construction of Park Vista Stormwater Rehabilitation pursuant to Bid #24-005 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to the contract utilizing ARPA Funds**

Paul Hackleman, Director of Public Works presented the construction contract for storm drain improvements at Park Vista Park, which is funded by ARPA. The project involves constructing two parallel 5x5 storm drain boxes along the channel, along with a new headwall, safety fencing, and a connection to the existing storm drain from Deer Run. It is expected to take 120 days to complete and is a critical step toward advancing park improvements.

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

Motion carried 6-0-0-0.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Blackburn, Downey, Neal, Minucci, Taylor
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Hill

5. **Discussion and action on approval to authorize the City of Watauga to enter into a Construction Contract with Quality Excavation, LLC for the construction of Summertime Lane Improvements pursuant to Bid #24-007 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to the contract utilizing ARPA and Certificate of Obligation Funds**

Paul Hackleman, Director of Public Works presented the details of the project. Summertime Lane will undergo a complete reconstruction, similar to the Meadowlark project. The project is expected to take approximately 345 days to complete and will involve removing the existing pavement, replacing water and sewer mains, removing sidewalks, installing new storm drains, and repaving the street. While the project will cause significant disruption for residents, it will ultimately result in a new concrete street, enhancing property values.

Hackleman emphasized that the city will notify residents, provide flyers, and offer an email subscription for monthly updates on the project. Quality Excavation LLC, the contractor, has previously completed two successful projects for the city, including the Whitley Road projects. Eight bids were received for this project, with Quality Excavation being the lowest qualified bidder. This project is the last ARPA-funded project for the city.

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

Motion carried 6-0-0-0.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hill

6. Consider action on approval for the purchase of three (3) Cardiac Monitors for the Fire/EMS Department from Stryker Corporation

Randy Barkley, Fire Chief presented the item for the purchase of three cardiac monitors to replace the existing units on medical and first-response apparatus. The current monitors are over ten years old and are no longer supported by the manufacturer. Although grant funding was sought, the request was unsuccessful. The purchase is included in the current budget and capital plan, and a trade-in option is available to help offset some of the costs.

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

Motion carried 6-0-0-0.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hill

7. Consider action on approval of the Purchase of one Spartan CAFS pumper on a Metro Star Chassis with equipment as specified from Metro Fire Apparatus Specialist

Randy Barkley, Fire Chief presented a request to approve the purchase of a new pumper fire engine to replace the current 2012 Quint apparatus. The replacement transitions from the Quint concept to a standard engine, aligning with the department's operational needs and replacement schedule. The purchase includes a trade-in option for the existing Quint to offset some of the costs. Due to manufacturing delays, the anticipated turnaround time is approximately 600 to 800 days, with a guarantee of no more than 800 days. Securing the order promptly is necessary to maintain the frontline apparatus replacement schedule and to avoid a cost increase scheduled for November 1, 2024.

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

Motion carried 6-0-0-0.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Blackburn, Downey, Neal, Minucci, Taylor
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Hill

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, discuss matters relating to personnel as follows: Discuss the City Manager Search Committee and the duties /responsibilities of the City Manager

Mayor recessed the meeting at 7:37 p.m. to go into executive session.

RECONVENE

Mayor Miner reconvened the meeting at 8:43 p.m

ITEMS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION DELIBERATION

1. Consideration and possible action relating to the City Manager Search Committee and the duties /responsibilities of the City Manager.

No action was taken.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Councilmember Blackburn would like to move the Biweekly report to monthly.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

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



