



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD,
MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Arthur Miner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The meeting convened with the following members present:

Arthur L. Miner
Pat Shelbourne
Tom Snyder
Lovie Downey
Andrew Neal
Malissa Minucci
Mark Taylor
Jan Hill

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

and

Joshua Jones
Linda Proskey
David Berman
Sandra Gibson
Timothy Hamilton
Paul Hackleman
Deby Woodard
Julie Rodriguez

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

INVOCATION

Pastor Dennis Hester First Baptist Church of Watauga and Watauga Police Chaplin gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Miner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Miner addressed the upcoming "Clear the Shelters" event, emphasizing its importance due to the local animal shelter being at full capacity. The mayor encouraged everyone to visit the shelter and consider adopting a pet to help reduce overcrowding and provide these animals with a loving home.

Councilmember Neal expressed gratitude to the library for organizing the Summer Reading Club, describing it as enjoyable and now an annual event. He highlighted upcoming community activities, including a Movie in the Park on August 11 and the "Running Scared" 5K in October. Neal also thanked the First Baptist Church for its backpack giveaway and encouraged residents to consider adopting a pet.

Councilmember Taylor urged residents to look out for animals in their neighborhoods during the heat, ensuring they have access to water, shade, food, and protection. He emphasized the importance of reporting any animals in distress.

Councilmember Hill stated that the final section of Whitley was set to begin and encouraged residents to check the city's website for meeting dates and times to stay informed about how the construction will impact them.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider action and approval of a resolution accepting the Certified Tax Roll for Tax Year 2023 from the Tarrant Appraisal District as certified by the Chief Appraiser Jeff Law (moved to action item #1)**
- 2. Consider approval of the May 13, 2023, minutes for the Budget Retreat meeting and the June 26, 2023 Budget Workshop meeting**
- 3. Consider the approval of the minutes for the May 17, 2023, City Council Special Meeting to canvass the General Election**

Mayor Miner asked the council if they wish to pull any of the items.

Councilmember Taylor asked that item #1 be removed from the consent agenda.

Mayor Miner announced that Item 1 would now be action item #1.

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

Motion carried 6-0-0-1.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Snyder, Neal, Minucci, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Downey

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Consider action and approval of a resolution accepting the Certified Tax Roll for Tax Year 2023 from the Tarrant Appraisal District as certified by the Chief Appraiser Jeff Law (was consent item #1)**

Councilmember Taylor expressed frustration with understanding the appraisal report and requested that someone from TAD explain how to read it. Despite having a lengthy discussion with Mayor Miner earlier, they struggled to connect the numbers to anything previously used. Mayor Miner acknowledged the conversation and mentioned reaching out to Mr. Law multiple times without receiving a response. Sandra Gibson added that she has a mapping of the report, noting that the system had changed a few years ago, making it harder to read. She suggested inviting Jeff Law from TAD to assist the council and offered to provide the mapping in the meantime.

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

Motion carried 5-1-0-1.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Snyder, Downey, Neal, Minucci, Hill

Nays: Taylor

Abstain: None

Absent: Downey

2. **Discuss and consider action on setting a Public Hearing on the FY2023-2024 Proposed Budget for August 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. (was action item 1)**

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Hill made a motion to set the date as August 28, 2023. Councilmember Snyder seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion carried 6-0-0-0.

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

3. Discuss and action and take a record vote on the proposed tax rate of \$0.5702 per \$100 valuation for the FY2023-2024 Fiscal Year (was action item 2)

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Taylor 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, Neal, Minucci, Taylor, Hill
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Downey

4. Discuss and consider action on setting the date to adopt the proposed tax rate for the FY2023-2024 Fiscal Year for September 11, 2023 (was action item 3)

Mayor Miner said this was to set the cap; it does not lock the council into anything other than preventing them from exceeding the number.

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

A record vote was taken.

Motion carried 5-1-0-1.

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

5. Discuss and consider action on setting the date to adopt the proposed tax rate for the FY2023-2024 Fiscal Year for September 11, 2023

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

Motion carried 6-0-0-1.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council did not go into executive session

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Councilmember Hill would like to have a roundtable discussion on the departmental budget prior to the approval of the budget

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm

Approved: this 13 day of January, 2025

Signed: this 13 day of January, 2025

APPROVED:

Arthur L. Miner /s/

Mayor

ATTEST: [Signature]

Linda Proskey /s/

Linda Proskey, City Secretary

