



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD
AUGUST 14, 2023
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Arthur L. Miner called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 w/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
Lana Ewell
Julie Rodriguez
Timothy Hamilton

City Manager
City Secretary
City Attorney
Director of Finance
Director of Library Services
HR/Civil Service Director
Parks and Community Services Director

INVOCATION

Pastor Dennis Hester of the First Baptist Church of Watauga and Police Chaplain provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Miner led the pledge to the flags.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Miner noted that it is the Clear the Shelters event all month long, and our local shelter is at full capacity with many animals in need of homes. Councilman Andrew Neal highlighted the September 22nd Movie in the Park featuring The Greatest Showman and encouraged attendance. He also suggested adopting pets from the shelter, which can provide comfort. Councilwoman Jan Hill emphasized the stress-relieving benefits of adopting a pet.

PRESENTATIONS

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

City Manager Joshua Jones presented the service awards to: Brandon Pickett for 5 years; Barbara Goss for 5 years;

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Requests for public comment were received.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

No Requests for public testimony were received.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider action on a resolution finding that Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's application for approval to amend its distribution cost recovery factor and update generation riders to increase distribution rates within the City of Watauga should be denied; authorizing participation with OCSC; authorizing the hiring of legal counsel and consulting services; and finding that the City's reasonable rate case expenses shall be reimbursed by the Company; finding that the meeting at which this resolution is passed is open to the public as required by law; requiring notice of this resolution to the company and legal counsel.
2. Consider action to accept the Watauga Economic Development Corporation's Proposed Fiscal Year Budget for FY2023-2024; providing for all anticipated expenditures.
3. Consider action to set the Watauga Economic Development Corporation's Proposed FY2023-2024 Budget Public Hearing and Adoption Date for Monday, August 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
4. Consider action to approve Police Safety Armor and Equipment Bid # 23-007 to MPAK, Princip Defense, and Dana Safety

5. **Consider approval of the minutes from the June 12 and June 26, 2023 Regular City Council meeting.**
6. **Consider approval of the minutes from the May 8, 2023, Council Workshop.**
7. **Consideration and approval of the Quarterly Investment Report for the period ending June 30, 2023.**
8. **Consider approval of the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2023.**
9. **Consider action to appoint Cristy McCauley-Blackburn and Lindsey Neal to the Charter Review Committee.**

Mayor Miner called for a Motion. Mayor Pro Tem Hill 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, Snyder, Neal, Minucci, Taylor, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Downey

PUBLIC HEARINGS / ACTION

Public Hearing and action on the Watauga Crime Control and Prevention District Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Sandra Gibson, Finance Director, presented the item for the public hearing on the Crime Control and Prevention District's proposed budget. The budget, which includes \$2.1 million in revenues and \$2.256 million in expenditures, has already undergone amendments following the Crime Control Board's public hearing on June 19th and was adopted on July 10th. It also includes one-time capital outlay expenditures. This public hearing allows for citizen comments, and a vote on approval must be taken afterward to meet requirements.

Mayor Miner opened the public hearing at 6:42 p.m.

There were no requests to speak

Mayor Miner closed the public hearing at 6:43 p.m.

Mayor Miner called for a Motion. Councilmember Neal made a motion to approve the Crime Control and Prevention budget as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Hill seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion carried 6-0-0-0.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Downey

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Discuss and consider action to approve the purchase of health, dental and vision insurance with United Healthcare for all eligible employees and authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with United Health Care.**

Juliet Rodriguez, Human Resources and Civil Service Director, presented an update on the health insurance plans for the fiscal year 2023-2024. The city faced high loss ratios in 2021 and 2022 but saw significant improvement in 2023. In May, two vendors, United Healthcare and Scott and White, submitted proposals. United Healthcare proposed an 8% increase, while Scott and White offered a 1.1% decrease. However, switching to Scott and White would have caused provider disruptions for employees.

The recommendation is to continue with United Healthcare, bundling medical, dental, and vision plans at the reduced rate. There will be no changes to medical plans or employee premiums, and the city aims to maintain the existing tiers. For dental, United Healthcare proposed a 2.5% increase, which would be waived if bundled. Other benefits, including vision, life insurance, long-term disability, and HSA, will not see any rate changes.

The city plans to enhance health and wellness efforts and continue initiatives like tobacco cessation. Open enrollment will run from August 21 to September 1, with an effective date of October 1. FFGA will assist with the enrollment process, and additional supplemental insurance options, such as pet and accident insurance, will be available at the employee's expense. Communication will also be sent to retirees and COBRA members regarding any changes.

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

Motion carried 6-0-0-0.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Downey

- 2. Discussion and action on approval to authorize the City of Watauga to enter into a Construction Contract with Gra-Tex Utilities, Inc. for the construction of Group 1: Miscellaneous Wastewater Rehabilitation projects and Group 4: Miscellaneous Water Rehabilitation Projects pursuant to Bid #23-004 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to the contract**

Director of Public Works Paul Hackleman presented a discussion on a construction project under the 2019 CIP Water and Wastewater plan, covering ten locations for water and sewer improvements. The project includes drainage fixes and sidewalk replacements near Foster Village Park. Gra-Tex Utilities, Inc. was the lowest bidder, but they admitted to underestimating the project timeline by 100 days. Hackleman

explained that while the contract allows a \$500 per day penalty for delays up to \$50,000, his approach is to work collaboratively rather than immediately enforcing penalties.

Councilmember Minucci questioned the timeline discrepancy, and Hackleman clarified that while the contractor bid 130 days instead of 230, they will proceed with the project and address delays if they become excessive. Mayor Miner inquired about alternatives if Gra-Tex was not chosen, and Hackleman noted that selecting the next lowest bidder would cost an additional \$716,000, making it a less viable option.

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

Motion carried 6-0-0-0.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Downey

- 3. Consider action to approve the construction of the Fleet Shop Expansion with Zenith Roofing and Waterproofing, LLC through the TIPS USA #210205 cooperative purchasing program, an additional \$50,000 in contingency funding and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to the contract.**

Paul Hackleman presented the item, explaining that the construction project, awarded through a TIPS contract, will expand the shop's capacity with two new fleet bays for servicing emergency and public works vehicles. The \$948,000 contract, with a \$50,000 contingency fund, will also support interlocal agreements with five neighboring cities. The expansion will improve efficiency, particularly for fire engine repairs, by allowing vehicles to remain indoors while awaiting parts. Although a third mechanic position remains unfilled, the project is expected to enhance workflow once fully staffed.

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

Motion carried 6-0-0-0.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Downey

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 7:11 pm

Approved: this 27 day of Jan., 2025

Signed: this 27 day of Jan., 2025

APPROVED:

Arthur L. Miner /s/
Mayor

ATTEST:

Linda Proskey /s/

Linda Proskey, City Secretary

