



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD,
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Arthur Miner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The meeting was convened with the following members present:

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

Mayor
Council Member Place 1
Mayor Pro Tem Place 5
Council Member Place 2
Council Member Place 3
Council Member Place 4
Council Member Place 6
Council Member Place 7

and

Sandra Gibson
Linda Proskey
David Berman
Timothy Hamilton
Paul Hackleman
Deby Woodard
Julie Rodriguez
Randy Barkley

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

INVOCATION

Pastor and Police Chaplin Dennis Serratt and gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Miner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Neal spoke about the toy/food drive at the fire station, the don't forget to feed me pet food drive at the library. He and Councilmember Taylor asked people to go to animal shelter and adopt a pet.

Councilmember Minucci announced that the Hometown Christmas was moved to Tuesday the 10th due to inclement weather this past weekend.

PRESENTATIONS

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

Sandra Gibson, City Manager, and Mayor Miner presented the awards to Emily Cornell and April Taylor for five years of service.

2. Presentation of Employee of the Month Award for the month of December.

Sandra Gibson, City Manager, and Mayor Miner presented the Employee of the Month award to Alan Thomas.

3. Presentation of the 2024 City of Watauga Annual Award Recipients.

Sandra Gibson, City Manager, and Mayor Miner presented the Leadership Award to Danielle Bannick, the Employee of the Year Award to Dana Harper, the Above and Beyond Award to Brian Kasula, the Making a Difference Award to Kim Rupkaluis, and the Rising Star Award to Maribel Lopez

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no request for public comment

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

Eric Crile, of 11325 Gale Ridge Terrace, is a candidate for the Tarrant County Appraisal District (TAD). Acknowledging the night's vote on TAD board members, he emphasized his commitment to transparency and the best interests of the appraisal district. While he believes he is highly qualified, he did not seek votes for himself but instead recommended three candidates he trusts to serve effectively: Gloria Peña, Wendy Burgess, and Fred Campos. Having spoken with two of them, he noted their aligned philosophies and urged the council to consider them for the role.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider action to approve the purchase of (1) new Chevy Tahoe PPV from Holiday Chevrolet through the TIPS USA #210907 cooperative purchasing program.
2. Consider action to approve a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Watauga, Texas, authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute on

behalf of the City an Interlocal Agreement for vehicle maintenance services by and between the City of Watauga, Texas, and the City of Keller, Texas; providing for repeal; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

3. Consider action to approve the January 9, 2023, City Council Regular meeting minutes
4. Consider action to approve the February 9, 2023, Regular City Council meeting.
5. Consider action to approve the September 9, 2024 Workshop minutes.
6. Consider action to approve the September 9, 2024, Regular Council meeting minutes.
7. Consider action to approve the October 14, 2024, City Council Workshop minutes.
8. Consider action to approve the June 1, 2024, Council Special - Retreat meeting minutes.
9. Consider action to approve replacement playground equipment purchase and installation for Virgil Anthony Park with Playground Solutions of Texas in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.
10. Consider action to approve the purchase of four (4) Ford Hybrid Police Interceptor Utility Vehicles (Explorer) from Silsbee Ford through the TIPS Cooperative purchasing program - Contract #210907.
11. Consider action to approve an agreement for Collection Agency Services with McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen (MVBA) based on the Request for Proposal #24- 006.
12. Consider action to approve the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending October 31, 2024.
13. Consider action to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into the Kroger Texas Opioid Settlement and authorizing the submission of the Texas Settlement Subdivision Participation and Release Form regarding the Kroger Settlement Agreement and full release of all claims; and providing an effective date.
14. Consider action authorizing the renewal of an Interlocal Agreement for the Joint Crime Victim Assistance Program for the Cities of North Richland Hills, Haltom City, Richland Hills and Watauga, Texas
15. Consider action to approve the appointment of Brandi Dufoe to Place 1 on the Parks Advisory Board and Place 5 on the Board of Appeals.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public Hearing on proposed amendment to Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12-42, Water and Sewer Utility Fees

presented the item on proposed rate increases. She noted that a workshop was held on October 28 to discuss the reasons for the increases, including higher wastewater costs from Fort Worth and funding for the city's new automatic meter reading technology. The average utility bill is expected to rise by approximately \$6.12, based on a 6,000-gallon (802 cubic feet) usage.

Mayor Miner opened the public hearing at 6:51 p.m.

There were no requests to speak

Mayor Miner closed the public hearing at 6:51 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Consider action on approval of an ordinance amending Chapter 12-42, Water and Wastewater Fee Schedule.

City Manager Sandra Gibson presented the item, noting that the only change to the proposed rate increases was based on Council Member Neil's suggestion from the workshop. Instead of a flat \$2.50 increase for AMI, the change was made to a percentage-based approach. This adjustment had a minimal impact, as most customers are residential, not commercial.

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Hill made a motion to approve 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

2. Consider action on approval of a Resolution amending the ARPA Spending Plan and Budget.

Ben Davis Program Manager presented the item, highlighting the ongoing water, wastewater, and Park Vista Stormwater rehabilitation projects. The lead pipe identification project came in on budget, and any remaining funds will be redirected to the Summertime Lane project. He also discussed the Restoring Positions project, which funded positions in Public Works and Parks and Recreation through the beginning of the fiscal year, with small remainders for the grant manager and HR generalist positions.

The Police Special Unit program utilized over 90% of its funding, which contributed to two officers, Corporal Robert Griffin and Officer Daniel Aaron, becoming full-time SWAT team members. The recruitment and retention incentives, aimed at attracting licensed officers, did not fully meet expectations but resulted in one hire, who is currently in field training. The remaining funds were used for advertising, leading to 842 applicants and 18 hires since 2021.

Other projects, such as the Public Works generator, Fire Department personal protective equipment, and remote access devices, came in under budget with small remainders. Larger remainders were noted for cybersecurity enhancements and Municipal Court software, as IT faced challenges securing subscription-based software within the grant's time frame. Some software subscriptions extended beyond the allowed time, explaining the unspent funds.

Councilmember Taylor asked what the deadline for spending these funds.

Mr. Davis stated that the funds need to be encumbered by December 31, 2025, and spent by December 2026.

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Hill made a motion to accept the item as presented. Councilmember Neal 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. Discuss and consider action on a resolution to cast the City of Watauga's ballot for the Tarrant Appraisal District Board of Director positions.

The council discussed how to allocate the 11 votes the city has for the Tarrant Appraisal District Board of Directors. They considered candidates Gary Losada, Eric Crile, Fred Campos, Wendy Burgess, Gloria Pena, and Sayeda Syed. They appreciated Mr. Crile's honesty and his stance on opposing the every-other-year reappraisal.

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Hill made a motion to give all eleven votes to Eric Crile. Councilmember Taylor 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 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, Texas Government Code, Section 551.074: Personnel matters; to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the City Manager.

Mayor Miner recessed the meeting at 7:15 p.m. for executive session.

RECONVENE

Mayor Miner reconvened the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

ITEMS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION DELIBERATION

1. Pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, Texas Government Code, Section 551.074: Personnel matters; to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the City Manager.

No action was taken.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Approved: this 10 day of March, 2025

Signed: this 11 day of March, 2025

ATTEST: 
/s/ Linda Proskey

Linda Proskey, City Secretary

APPROVED:

/s/ Arthur L. Miner
Arthur L. Miner, Mayor

