



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD,
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025
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
Mayor Pro Tem 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

and

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

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

INVOCATION

Pastor J.J. Stevens of The Victory Tabernacle Church the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Miner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council members Blackburn, Neal, Minucci all asked that if you are able to please adopt a pet the shelters.

Mayor Miner congratulated the Parks Department on the job they did putting together a successful Family and Daddy Daughter dances.

PRESENTATIONS

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

Sandra Gibson and Mayor Miner presented service awards to: Henry Jack Baurer for 15 years of Service

- 2. Presentation of Employee of the Month Award for the month of February**

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

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 on approval of the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2024.**
- 2. Consider action on approval of the Quarterly Investment Report for the period ending December 31, 2024.**
- 3. Consider action on approval of the December 9, 2024, Workshop Minutes.**
- 4. Consider action on approval of a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Watauga, Texas amending Policy 4.05 Certification Pay, Policy 6.04 Classification and Compensation, Policy 6.05 On Call and Call Back, Policy 8.01 Holidays, and Policy 18.01 Inclement Weather of the Personnel, Administration and Financial Policies and Procedures Manual; providing for repeal; and providing an effective date.**

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

Motion passed 7-0-0-0.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

ACTION ITEMS

1. Consider action to confirm the City Manager's appointment of James Lewis as Chief of Police

City Manager Sandra Gibson presented the item, thanking the Council and noting that members had likely met with Mr. James Lewis earlier that day. She stated that Mr. Lewis brings a stellar career from the Dallas Police Department, along with the background, experience, energy, positive attitude, and leadership skills needed for the Chief of Police position. She recommended confirmation of his appointment, with a proposed start date of February 11, pending approval.

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

Motion passed 7-0-0-0.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Recess

Mayor Miner called for a short recess at 6:46 pm

Reconvene

Mayor Miner called reconvened the meeting at 6:57 pm.

2. Consider action to approve a trail lighting equipment purchase and installation for Virgil Anthony and Indian Springs Parks with Voss Lighting Inc. for an amount \$254,760, with a contingency amount of \$11,718, for a total cost not to exceed \$266,478.

Timothy Hamilton, Parks and Community Services Director, presented the item. He noted that it was pulled from the previous meeting because it also contained the BISD Park item, which the Council had requested further discussion on. The two items were separated, as the primary questions during the last meeting focused on BISD Park. Although now presented separately, the two items are similar in nature.

Hamilton explained that the trail lights at Cap Smith Park are all manufactured by First Light, the same manufacturer featured in the materials provided. The specifications are nearly identical. Since these are loop trails, they are heavily used, especially by residents in nearby communities. Hamilton frequently observes trail users near the recreation center at Indian Springs and at Virtually Anthony, where residents have also expressed interest in improved trail lighting. Trails were identified as one of the top priorities in the Parks Master Plan.

This project was originally presented last summer as part of the department's capital projects.

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

- 3. Consider action to approve a park lighting equipment purchase and installation for BISD Park with Voss Lighting Inc., for an amount of \$127,650, with a contingency amount of \$5,872, for a total cost not to exceed \$133,522.**

Parks and Recreation Director Timothy Hamilton presented an overview of the City's lease agreement with Birdville Independent School District (BISD) concerning the BISD park.

Mr. Hamilton noted that a lease agreement was initially executed in 1985 and reaffirmed in 1995. The agreement is perpetual unless both parties agree to terminate it. Should BISD wish to terminate or sell the property, they are required to provide the City with one year's notice or 180 days' written notice, respectively. In such a case, the City retains the right of first refusal, pending legal or eminent domain considerations, with property valuation to be determined by a mutually selected real estate appraiser.

BISD recently indicated it has no current development plans for the property. Mr. Hamilton also provided historical and financial context, noting that aerial imagery showed no park improvements before 1995. Between 1995 and 2001, enhancements included a parking lot, loop trail, playgrounds, picnic shelters, benches, fencing, backstops, and a basketball half-court. Shade structures were added in 2018 or 2019. The city currently spends about \$14,000 annually on mowing. If needed, lighting poles and heads could be removed for \$13,000, leaving concrete bases in place.

Council members voiced concerns about BISD potentially reclaiming the land for uses such as a bus barn. City Attorney Berman reminded the council that school districts are exempt from municipal zoning laws. Although the property is appraised at \$332,000, BISD has shared no plans to sell or develop it. Councilmember Taylor stressed the importance of a long-term vision to justify any acquisition.

Councilmember Blackburn and others warned against investing taxpayer funds in property the City does not own without a guarantee of recoupment. Councilmember Neil supported continued investment and collaboration with BISD, viewing the park as a valuable green space and advocating for eventual City ownership.

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Hill made a motion to table the item until the February 24 meeting. Councilmember Downey seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion carried 6-1-0-0.

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

Nays: Neal

Abstain: None

Absent: None

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mayor Miner wants an update on whether BISD is interested in selling the land and requests that the council receive this information either on an agenda or in the monthly report.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Approved: this 12 day of May, 2025

Signed: this 13 day of May, 2025

ATTEST:

/s/ Linda Proskey

Linda Proskey, City Secretary

APPROVED:

/s/ Arthur L. Miner

Arthur L. Miner, Mayor



