



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD,
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 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
Cris Blackburn
Pat Shelbourne
Lovie Downey
Andrew Neal
Malissa Minucci
Mark Taylor
Jan Hill

Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem Place 3
Council Member Place 1
Council Member Place 3
Council Member Place 4
Council Member Place 5 Absent w/notice
Council Member Place 6
Council Member Place 7

and

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

City Manager
City Secretary
City Attorney
Director of Parks and Community Services
Interim Finance Director
Fire Chief
Police Chief
Director of Human Resources
Director of Public Work
Library Director

Alan Thomas
Randy Richards

Assistant Fire Chief
Assistant Director of Public Works

INVOCATION

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Miner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Neal announced that Watauga Fest will take place on May 15, featuring live bands, food, and various activities. The Splash Pad will open on May 3. A Citizen Satisfaction Survey is currently available on the city's website, and residents are encouraged to participate as the feedback is important to staff and council. Additionally, residents are encouraged to visit the animal shelter and consider adopting a pet.

Mayor Miner reported that the Chamber's Denim and Diamonds event was held the previous evening, was well attended, and successfully raised funds for the Chamber. He served as a food judge and sampled dishes from participating restaurants and dessert vendors. He reminded residents that Tax Day is tomorrow and noted that notices for the Citizen Satisfaction Survey are being mailed, with the option to complete it online. To date, 250 responses have been received, and increased participation is encouraged. He also noted that Watauga Fest is expected to be a great time for all.

PRESENTATIONS

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

Sandra Gibson, City Manager, presented the milestone awards to Cherie Lawson for 15 years of service.

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

Sandra Gibson, City Manager, presented the Employee of the Month Award to Bradley Freley.

3. Presentation to recognize the public safety professionals whose extraordinary actions during a residential structure fire on January 7, 2025, directly contributed to the successful rescue of a trapped occupant.

4. Fire Chief Barkley presented a Letter of Commendation and a Certificate of Recognition to the following dispatchers, police officers, and firefighters for their quick response, coordination with law enforcement, and decisive fireground operations,

which resulted in the successful rescue of a trapped occupant from a dangerous, smoke-filled environment: Dispatchers Lisa Clark, Jenna Watkins, Heather Lowe, Emily Bales, and Jordan Morgan; Sergeants Thomas Williams and Kacee Honardar; Officers Dalton Warren and Jeremiah Penny; Lieutenant Robert Boettcher; Engineer Justin Morris; and Firefighters Taylor Johnson, Timothy Messer, Clayton Miller, Jacob Owens, and Stephen Saniel.

5. Police Chief Lewis will provide an update on a chronic nuisance property in Watauga and recognize the efforts of the police department, city staff and other agencies involved in resolving the nuisance.

Assistant Chief Mead provided an update on the property located at 5900 Dunson Drive. The demolition of the structure has been completed, concluding a process that began after years of code enforcement and criminal complaints related to narcotics activity dating back to 2017. Multiple enforcement actions, including abatements and liens, were unsuccessful in bringing the property into compliance, and it fell into severe disrepair. The structure was deemed a public nuisance, unfit for human occupancy, and was condemned on June 4, 2024.

In September 2024, a city ordinance was amended to allow the Watauga Board of Appeals to serve as the Building Standards Commission, with authority to issue repair or demolition orders for substandard structures. The code enforcement team conducted a thorough investigation, documented violations, and presented the case to the Building Standards Commission and City Council, both of which granted unanimous approval for demolition. The project was completed on March 26, 2025.

Assistant Chief Mead recognized the contributions of Code Enforcement personnel, Streets and Signs staff, and individuals including Jeannette Garcia, Linda Proskey, Neil DeSpain, and Aaron Alvarado, along with the support of Mayor Miner, City Manager Sandra Gibson, Chief Parker, Chief Lewis, City Attorney David Berman, and the Watauga City Council. Chief Lewis, though unable to attend, sent a statement commending the code enforcement team and Sergeant Bannick for exceeding expectations and exemplifying the mission of maintaining safe, clean, and well-maintained properties.

Several council members echoed their appreciation, noting the significance of resolving a long-standing issue and commending the professionalism and persistence of the staff involved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Crile 11325 Gale Ridge Terrace, Haslet, addressed the Council regarding House Bill 1952, which would change the appraisal district board composition from five appointed and three elected members to three appointed and five elected. He noted that

several Independent School Districts have requested property reappraisals and reported that the appraisal district's withdrawal from the Texas Association of Appraisal Districts will increase county training costs by \$14,000.

Wes Charles 6428 Ridgeway Drive, Watauga addressed the Council regarding code enforcement and the Visibility Triangle ordinance. He expressed both concerns and appreciation, noting the importance of enforcing visibility and parking regulations to ensure traffic safety. He commended Chief Lewis for his responsiveness and efforts to find proactive solutions.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

There was no request for public testimony

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF WATAUGA, TEXAS; REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2024-024 IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ADOPTING A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE COMMERCIAL RECORDER AS THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY OF WATAUGA; PROVIDING REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Item pulled from consent is now action item #3)**
- 2. Consideration of approval of the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2025.**
- 3. Consider action to ratify an expenditure for emergency repairs for two separate emergency water main breaks on Hightower Drive.**
- 4. Consider action to approve the February 10, 2025, City Council Workshop minutes.**

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

Councilmember Taylor pulled this item off consent. Consent Item #1 is now Action Item #3

Councilmember Neal made a motion to accept the consent agenda as amended. Councilmember Hill seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion passed 6-0-0-1.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Minucci,

ACTION ITEMS

1. Discuss and consider nomination(s) for the Northeast Tarrant County Hometown Hero

Mayor Miner reported that three public nominations were received for the Hometown Hero Award: Steve Welch, Councilmember Chris Blackburn, and Brandon Board. Councilmember Hill expressed strong support for Steve Welch, citing his dedication to volunteering with the Police Department and other city projects, as well as his willingness to serve on city boards despite personal challenges.

Mayor Miner noted that Councilmember Blackburn's nomination, submitted by Lindsey Neal, highlighted her volunteer work, involvement with animal rescues, delivery of rescue animals out of state, 16 years of service with Meals on Wheels, and participation on several city boards and committees.

Mayor Miner also shared that Brandon Board's nomination, submitted by Stacy Cook, recognized his leadership with the nonprofit Tree of North Texas, his efforts to support community and student needs, and his reputation for honesty and reliability in securing resources.

Councilmember Hill made a motion to accept all three nominees for Hometown Hero. Councilmember Downey seconded the motion.

With no further discussion Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion passed 4-2-0-1.

Ayes, Shelbourne, Downey, Neal, Hill

Nays: Blackburn, Taylor

Abstain: None

Absent: Minucci

2. Consider action to approve Weaver and Tidwell, LLP as the vendor for Professional Audit Services

Freda Buck, Purchasing Coordinator, presented the item, stating that on an annual basis, the City of Watauga is required to engage an independent accounting firm to audit the financial statements of all funds and transactions completed throughout the fiscal year. The results of the audit are presented to the Council and made available to the public. Proposals for financial audit services were received on March 19, 2025; four proposals were submitted. A committee was established to evaluate the proposals based on a number of criteria. After reviewing the four proposals, it is recommended to

approve Weaver and Tidwell L.L.P, as the Financial Audit Service provider.

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Hill made a motion to approve Weaver and Tidwell L.L.P. as the vendor for professional audit services. Councilmember Neal seconded the motion.

Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion passed 6-0-0-1.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Minucci

- 3. A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF WATAUGA, TEXAS; REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2024-024 IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ADOPTING A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE COMMERCIAL RECORDER AS THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY OF WATAUGA; PROVIDING REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Was consent item 1)**

Councilmember Taylor stated that he was unfamiliar with the Commercial Recorder and felt that any change affecting how citizens and businesses access public information should be communicated openly. He noted that his concern was not with the reasoning behind the recommendation, which he understood to be primarily due to rising costs, but wished to bring the matter to public attention.

Councilmember Taylor made a motion to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Shelbourne seconded the motion.

Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion passed 6-0-0-1.

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

Nays:

Abstain: None

Absent: Minucci

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mayor Miner asked that the visibility triangle be discussed. H also, mentioned the outstanding job the Police, Fire and Code departments are doing every day.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Approved: this 25 day of August, 2025

Signed: this 26 day of August, 2025

APPROVED:

/s/ Arthur L. Miner

Arthur L. Miner, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Linda Proskey

Linda Proskey, City Secretary

