



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD,
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025
5:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Arthur Miner called the meeting to order at 5:30 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/Council Member Place 2
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
James Lewis
Jennifer Calvert
Timothy Hamilton
Christi Garcia

City Manager
City Secretary
City Attorney
Chief of Police
Director of Finance
Director of Parks and Community Services
Crisis Response Coordinator

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements made

Public Comments/Public Testimony

There were no requests to speak

PRESENTATIONS

- 1. Police Crisis Response Coordinator Christi Garcia will be presenting a PowerPoint overview of Watauga PD's Mental Health/Crisis Response Program. Presentation is 10 minutes, followed by a 10-minute Q/A.**

Christy Garcia, Crisis Response Coordinator, presented an overview of the Mental Health Crisis Response Unit. She explained that her role supports individuals experiencing mental health or trauma-related crises by coordinating with law enforcement, mental health providers, and community resources. Since March, she has managed 36 cases, providing follow-up care, connecting individuals to services, and promoting officer wellness.

Ms. Garcia has collaborated with the Fire Department, Library, and Animal Services to address compassion fatigue and mental health awareness among staff. She represents the City on the United Way Northeast Steering Committee and continues to expand partnerships with community and faith-based organizations. Her goals include developing a Crisis Response Unit webpage and QR code for resources, creating a volunteer internship program, enhancing training in trauma resiliency, and establishing a family orientation for new police recruits. She emphasized the program's focus on strengthening collaboration, employee wellness, and community support throughout the City.

Mayor Arthur Miner commended Ms. Garcia for her work and encouraged Council to tour the JPS mental health facilities, noting the growing need for mental health services.

Councilmember Downey thanked Ms. Garcia for her presentation and discussed the benefits of expanding mental health resources through QR codes, website links, and outreach to businesses and seniors. She suggested collaboration with Meals on Wheels, the Senior Center, and schools to promote community awareness.

Ms. Garcia responded that she continues partnerships with MHMR, Hands of Hope, and Serving Our Seniors, focusing on follow-ups, resource connections, and outreach for homebound residents. She noted ongoing coordination with schools, community organizations, and mental health agencies.

Councilmember Neal expressed support for expanding mental health resources and recommended continued partnerships with organizations assisting the unhoused population.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackburn thanked Ms. Garcia for her dedication and suggested exploring partnerships with animal rescue organizations to support individuals in crisis who have pets.

2. CivicPlus Training

Due to time constraints, Mayor Miner moved the training to a workshop at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Approved: this Nov day of 10, 2025

Signed: this Nov day of 11, 2025

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST: [Signature]
/s/ Linda Proskey
Linda Proskey, City Secretary

