



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD,
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 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 2
Council Member Place 1
Council Member Place 3
Council Member Place 4
Council Member Place 5
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
Alan Thomas
Randy Richards

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
Assistant Fire Chief
Assistant Director of Public Works

INVOCATION

Pastor Lynn Nichols of the Northside Nazarene Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Miner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Blackburn Councilmember Blackburn announced that animal control agencies from across the state are participating in a mega-adoption event at the Amon Carter Jr. Exhibit Hall on Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. On Saturday, adoptions will be available from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with fees of \$25 or less. She stated that this joint effort aims to find homes for thousands of animals. Admission is free, although parking fees apply, and early-access passes are available for approximately \$50, allowing entry prior to opening to view adoptable animals. She noted that several of the City's larger dogs will be participating in the event, and she will be volunteering both days assisting with walking and cleanup. She encouraged the public to consider adopting a pet, stating that local shelters are currently at a crisis level.

Councilmember Neal reported that there are several upcoming events and activities in the City. He noted that concerts will be held in the park in the coming weeks and encouraged residents to attend. He added that the library will also be offering meditation sessions. He also announced the mega-adoption event taking place at the Amon Carter Center in Fort Worth over the weekend and encouraged the public to consider attending and adopting a new pet.

Councilmember Hill announced that the library will soon host another of its interactive murder mystery events. She stated that participants are assigned a character, may dress up if they choose, and then move throughout the library interacting with others to determine the identity of the "murderer." She encouraged anyone interested to contact Dana or library staff for details of the upcoming event.

Mayor Miner commented that the past weekend was the annual tax-free weekend and expressed hope that residents were able to shop locally to contribute to local sales tax revenue. He also noted that Whataburger celebrated its 75th anniversary on Friday and reported that the local restaurant served between 1,500 and 1,600 hamburgers and cheeseburgers that day. He stated that the lines were extremely long during both of his visits and offered congratulations to the business on its anniversary.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Presentation of Employee of the Month Award for the month of August.**

Sandra Gibson, City Manager, presented the Employee of the Month Award to Barbara Goss.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Crile, 11325 Gale Ridge Terrace, Haslet. Spoke about Tarrant County Appraisal District and residential values.

Sondee Jackson, 1637 Hillcrest Drive, Watauga. A visually impaired resident noted that transportation services for medical appointments and other needs are not available within Watauga. She highlighted challenges using paid services like Uber and Lyft due to her visual impairment and reported that not all city crosswalks have required ADA-compliant signals. She requested improved local transportation and accessibility options.

Mayor Miner commented Mayor Miner stated that, to his knowledge, no transportation providers are prohibited from operating within the city. Since 2019, the city has engaged with several regional charities to provide transportation, though some require significant funding. He encouraged residents to report any entities claiming they are not allowed in the city so the issue can be addressed. Mayor Miner also noted that the city will review the crosswalk accessibility concerns.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

There was no request for public testimony

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider action on approval of the Watauga Public Library "Unattended or Disruptive Child Policy**
- 2. Consider action on approval of the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2025**
- 3. Consider action on approval of the Quarterly Investment Report for the period ending June 30, 2025.**
- 4. Consider action on approval of the June 9, 2025 City Council Workshop Meeting**
- 5. Consider action on approval of the July 28, 2025, City Council Workshop**

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 Hill 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

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearing on the FY2025-2026 Proposed Budget

Jennifer Calvert, Finance Director respectfully asked the Mayor to open the public hearing. Stating that nothing had changed from the last presentation.

Mayor Miner opened the public hearing at 6:51 pm.

There were no requests to speak

Mayor Miner closed the public hearing at 6:51 pm.

2. Public Hearing on the Watauga Crime Control and Prevention District Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Jennifer Calvert, Finance Director presented the item

Mayor Miner opened the public hearing at 6:52 pm.

There were no requests to speak

Mayor Miner closed the public hearing at 6:52 pm.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Consider action to approve the Watauga Crime Control and Prevention District Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Jennifer Calvert, Finance Director presented the item. She stated that nothing had changed since it was previously presented back in June.

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Mayor Pro Tem Blackburn made a motion to accept the item as presented. Councilmember Downey seconded the motion.

With no further discussion Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion passed 7-0-0-0.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

2. Consider action on the FY2025-2026 Proposed Budget after the Public Hearing as required by Chapter 102.007(a) of the Local Government Code.

Jennifer Calvert, Finance Director, presented the item. She stated that nothing had changed but noted that she has the presentation available if the council would like to review it again or has questions on any specific points. She explained that, by law, the council is required to take some type of action, either table the item until the next meeting or vote to adopt it. The recommendation is to wait until the next meeting on August 25.

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Neal made a motion to delay the adoption of the budget until August 25, 2025. 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

3. **Consideration and approval of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of “City of Watauga, Texas Combination Tax and Limited Pledge Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2025” providing for the payment of said certificates by the levy of an ad valorem tax upon all taxable property within the City and further securing said certificates by a lien on and pledge of the pledged revenues of the system; authorizing the execution of any necessary engagement agreement with the City's Financial Advisors and/or Bond Counsel; and providing an effective date.**

Ryan Cunningham from Samco Capital Markets, the city's financial advisor, presented the bid results. He reported that Standard & Poor's affirmed the city's AA credit rating and upgraded the outlook from stable to positive, citing continued positive budgetary performance, with the outlook to be reviewed again in approximately two years. Six bids were received, with Robert W. Baird submitting the lowest bid at a true interest cost of 4.29%, reflecting the city's strong credit rating and a recent bond market rally; prior estimates had projected rates between 4.65% and 4.75%. The project fund will total \$10,340,000, allocated across utility, EDC, and general fund portions amortized over 20 years, as well as vehicle purchases amortized over seven years. Cunningham noted that these projects, structured through the certificates of obligation, will not result in a tax increase. He described the 4.29% interest rate as an excellent outcome for the city, particularly in a crowded bond market.

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Downey made a motion to adopt an ordinance authorizing the city of Watauga, Texas combination tax and limited pledge revenue certificates of obligation series 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Blackburn 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

- 4. Consideration and action on approval of an ordinance calling for a bond election to be held in the City of Watauga, Texas; making provision for the conduct of a joint election; and resolving other matters incident and related to such election.**

The council discussed an ordinance calling for a bond election in Watauga, Texas, including two propositions: Proposition A for \$49 million for public safety and the animal shelter, and Proposition B for \$32 million for the library, both to appear separately on the November ballot with cost and purpose information. Councilmembers noted that the projects were citizen-requested, essential for the community, and delaying them would increase costs. The police station has moisture issues and is underutilized, and the animal control facility is inadequate for city needs. The library provides strong services and attracts residents. The bond would be a 30-year issue, with a nine-year call option to mitigate tax impacts, and would not result in an immediate tax increase. Several council members emphasized the importance of putting the decision before the voters, encouraging attendance at town halls where staff will present building conditions, scope of work, and cost information. Concerns were raised about potential tax increases, the timing of future bond elections if propositions fail, and legislative limitations on city debt issuance. Councilmembers highlighted the need to address critical infrastructure, provide quality services, and allow citizens to decide the city's future while noting that waiting could further escalate project costs.

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Downey made a motion to adopt an ordinance calling for a bond election. Councilmember Minucci 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

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Councilmember Minucci asked for staff to investigate crosswalk signals that were raised by the citizen in public comment.

Mayor Miner asked that the City Secretary ensures council is signed in prior to the start of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Approved: this 8 day of Dec, 2025

Signed: this 8 day of Dec, 2025

ATTEST:

/s/ Linda Proskey
Linda Proskey, City Secretary

APPROVED:

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



