



**MINUTES
WATAUGA LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, January 13, 2026
WATAUGA CITY HALL**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Neal called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

The meeting convened with the following members present:

Lindsey Neal
Kristen Chapman
Samantha Ostendorp
Sian Brannon
Vacant
Charlie Trotter
Jessica Salyers

Vice-Chairperson/Place 1
Secretary/Place 6
Place 2 (Absent w/o notice)
Place 3 (Absent w/o notice)
Place 4
Place 5
Place 7

and

Arthur Miner
Mark Taylor
Lisa Benavidez
Lana Ewell
Jan Hill

Mayor
City Council Liaison
Assistant to the City Secretary
Director of Library Services
Councilmember, Place 7

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests for public comment were received.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

No requests for public testimony were received.

REPORTS

1. Library Director's Report

Director Ewell reports that the first fiscal year report statistics are pretty
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comparable to last year, as expected. The differences usually show up in the spring and summer. The library programs are going well, including the Halloween Bash and Costume Swap in October, which were well attended. Indie Author Day in November had 50 in attendance and was a highlight of the month.

Councilman Neal asked about the 20% increase in digital circulation and asked about the most popular categories. Director Ewell said that it depended on the time of year, but often its mysteries and fiction. Councilman Neal suggested that the next report could include a breakout category in digital circ to follow.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider action on November 11, 2025, Library Board Meeting Minutes

Secretary Chapman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Member Salyers seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0-0.

Ayes: Neal, Chapman, Salyers, Trotter

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Ostendorp and Brannon

ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion and select the following officials

Secretary Chapman made a motion nominating Lindsey Neal for Chairperson

Member Trotter seconded the motion

Yes - Neal, Chapman, Salyers, Trotter

No - 0

Abstain - 0

Absent - Brannon, Ostendorp

Motion carried.

Chairperson Neal made a motion nominating Kristen Chapman for Vice-Chairperson

Member Trotter seconded the motion

Yes - Neal, Chapman, Salyers, Trotter

No - 0

Abstain - 0

Absent - Brannon, Ostendorp

Motion carried.

Member Salyers made a motion nominating herself for Secretary

Vice-Chairperson Chapman seconded

Yes - Neal, Chapman, Salyers, Trotter
No - 0
Abstain - 0
Absent - Brannon, Ostendorp
Motion carried.

2. Consideration and action on amendments to the Study Room Policy

Secretary Salyers asked for clarification to be in the policy regarding the locking of doors.

Vice-Chairperson Chapman made a motion to approve the Study Room Policy with noted clarifications included. Secretary Salyers seconded the motion

Yes - Neal, Chapman, Salyers, Trotter
No - 0
Abstain - 0
Absent - Brannon, Ostendorp
Motion carried.

3. Consideration and action on amendments to the Patron Behavior Policy

Secretary Salyers requested clarification on the policy regarding breastfeeding. Director Ewell explained that the policy selection was intended to allow all breastfeeding patrons to have a place with privacy if they desired, not to limit where they can breastfeed. Vice-Chairperson Chapman restated the policy to clarify. Secretary Salyers requested that position be clarified in the policy - that breastfeeding patrons are not required to use the offered rooms and that the rooms are only an additional option for the comfort of the breastfeeding patron.

Secretary Salyers made a motion to clarify the terms regarding breastfeeding in the Patron Behavior Policy
Member Trotter seconded the motion

Yes - Neal, Chapman, Salyers, Trotter
No - 0
Abstain - 0
Absent - Brannon, Ostendorp
Motion carried.

Secretary Salyers asked for a clarification on the hygiene portion of the Patron Behavior Policy. Councilman Neal stated the concern that this portion of the policy could have a negative impact on some of the patrons. Director Ewell assured us that was not the case. Secretary Salyers stated that all patrons feel welcome. Director Ewell agreed with that intent.

Secretary Salyers made a motion to approve the Patron Behavior Policy with agreed upon changes Vice-Chairperson Chapman seconded the motion

Yes - Neal, Chapman, Salyers, Trotter
No - 0
Abstain - 0
Absent - Brannon, Ostendorp
Motion carried

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS


There were no items for future agendas

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chairperson Neal adjourned the meeting at 6:24 pm.

Approved: this 10th day of March, 2026

Signed: this 10th day of March, 2026

APPROVED: 

/s/ L. Neal

Lindsey Neal, Vice Chairperson

ATTEST: 

/s/ Kristen Chapman

Kristen Chapman, Secretary