



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD,
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026
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
Vacant
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
Paul Hackleman
Randy Richards
Randy Barley
Timothy Hamilton
Kevin Mead

City Manager
City Secretary
Director of Public Works
Assistant Director of Public Works
Fire Chief
Director of Parks and Community Services
Assistant Police Chief

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no request for public comment

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

There was no request for public testimony

ACTION ITEMS

1. City participation for Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

Paul Hackleman presented the item and introduced Robert Paquin Project Manager for the comprehensive safety action plan. Burgess and Niple has been developing a comprehensive Safety Action Plan for the City of Watauga for several months, with Robert Paquin serving as project manager. Mr. Paquin presented an overview of the plan, which is funded through the Federal Highway Administration's Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant program. Watauga was awarded the grant in 2023, signed the agreement in November 2024, and received notice to proceed in October/November 2025 for a 24-month period.

The project is currently in the safety analysis phase, with a draft report expected in mid-August and final plan adoption targeted for late September or October. The plan is intended to be an actionable document focused on reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Analysis is based on crash data, TxDOT roadway inventory, and ADA transition plan data. Of 970 crashes identified between 2019 and 2024, 40% occurred on US 377 and were excluded from the primary analysis, leaving 583 crashes for review. These included four fatalities and 26 serious injuries, with an average of five severe crashes per year. While total crashes show a slight upward trend, severe crashes are trending slightly downward.

Crash analysis uses both proactive and reactive approaches, including systemic risk analysis, a high injury network, and a separate corridor analysis for US 377. Most crashes were intersection-related and speed-related, which emerged as the top emphasis areas, along with lane departure and distracted driving. Council discussion focused heavily on speeding, aggressive driving, intersection safety, and concerns along US 377, particularly a 2.8-mile segment accounting for a high concentration of crashes. Red light camera impacts and enforcement limitations were also discussed.

The Safe System Approach was presented as the guiding framework, emphasizing shared responsibility, safer speeds, safer roads, and designing systems that account for human error. Watauga safety statistics showed extended periods with zero fatalities and serious injuries, reinforcing that a zero-fatality goal is achievable. A long-term goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2055 was discussed, with interim reduction targets.

Next steps include finalizing a vision statement, launching a short community engagement survey and interactive comment map, completing safety analyses, and conducting outreach through Watauga Fest.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Approved: this 9 day of March, 2026

Signed: this 9 day of March, 2026

APPROVED:

/s/ Arthur L. Miner

Arthur L. Miner, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Linda Proskey

Linda Proskey, City Secretary

