



**MINUTES  
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
7105 WHITLEY ROAD,  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 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 Barley  
Timothy Hamilton  
Kevin Mead

City Manager  
City Secretary  
Asst. City Manager/Director of Public Works  
Asst. City Manager/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. Animal Shelter Flood Study Report Impacts and Wastewater Service Cost**

Paul Hackleman, Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager, presented the findings from an engineering flood study related to potential expansion opportunities for the animal shelter, as outlined in the strategic plan. The presentation included existing and updated FEMA floodplain exhibits, noting that the official FEMA map adopted in 2019 shows the floodway extending more than halfway through the current shelter building. Updated survey work and flood modeling conducted by Burgess and Niple indicate the floodway no longer passes through the building, placing it instead within the 100-year floodplain. Staff recommended submitting the updated data to FEMA at a cost of approximately \$4,500, to remove the structure from the floodway and update the flood permit accordingly. An alternative option involving excavation and tree removal on the side of the property, estimated at \$380,000, would remove the building from the 100-year floodplain but would still require floodplain permitting for eastward expansion. Discussion emphasized that significant site constraints, floodplain limitations, sewer costs estimated at up to \$900,000, and overall expansion costs approaching \$1.3 million make major investment at the current location impractical. Members expressed support for submitting the FEMA update while continuing to pursue relocation options, noting the current facility's operational deficiencies and the need for a new animal shelter that better supports staff, animal care, and public interaction. A strategic meeting is planned later in the month to further evaluate alternative locations and long-term plans.

## **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

There were no items for future agendas

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 5:57 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

