



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD,
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Arthur Miner called the meeting to order at 6:32 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 (Absent w/notice)
Council Member Place 3
Council Member Place 4 (Absent w/notice)
Council Member Place 5
Council Member Place 6 (Absent w/notice)
Council Member Place 7

and

Sandra Gibson
Linda Proskey
David Berman
Timothy Hamilton
Randy Barkley
James Lewis
Julie Rodriguez
Paul Hackleman
Jennifer Calvert
Alan Thomas

City Manager
City Secretary
City Attorney
Director of Parks and Community Services
Fire Chief
Police Chief
Director of Human Resources
Director of Public Work
Director of Finance
Assistant Fire Chief

Mayor Miner announced that a quorum was present for the meeting. The current vacancy reduces the number of members of council needed for a quorum to four.

INVOCATION

Pastor J.J. Stevens of the Victory Tabernacle Holiness Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Miner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Blackburn noted that October is Pit Bull Awareness Month, stating that many good dogs are misclassified due to their breed and emphasizing, "I don't believe in bad dogs, I believe in bad owners." She also mentioned that several bully mixes at the Watauga Animal Shelter are in need of homes.

Councilmember Downey, speaking on behalf of Councilmember Neal, announced several upcoming events at the parks and library, including Running Scared on October 18 and the Halloween Bash on October 25. She reminded residents that they can adopt a "trick-or-treater" from the animal shelter and congratulated the Mayor on his performance in the Mayor's Cup.

Mayor Miner acknowledged finishing second in the Mayor's Cup, losing by one stroke, and thanked Mayor Pro Tem Blackburn for attending the meeting following a recent medical procedure.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of Employee of the Month Award for the month of October 20, 2025

Sandra Gibson, City Manager, presented the Employee of the Month award to Derek Plunkett

2. Presentation of Service Awards for the City of Watauga Employees celebrating a Milestone Anniversary during the month of October

Sandra Gibson, City Manager, presented the milestone awards to Taylor Karkkainen for 5 years of service and to Robert Frith for 25 years of service

3. Proclamation for the US Navy's 250th Birthday

Mayor Miner read a proclamation recognizing the Navy's 250th Anniversary to honor active-duty sailors, veterans, and their families.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Hopkins, 7509 Meadowbrook Drive, spoke about Birdville ISD considering the sale of the property at 5700 Chapman, which the city has been using as the BISD Park since 1985.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

Paul Hopkins, 7509 Meadowbrook Drive, spoke about the Oncor rate change and believes they should be cutting them instead of increasing.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider action to adopt a resolution of the City Council of Watauga, Texas approving the City of Watauga 2026 Observed Holiday Calendar**
- 2. Consider the approval of a contract between the City of Watauga and Birdville Independent School District for School Resource Officers**
- 3. Consider the approval of a resolution designating the Commercial Recorder as the official newspaper for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026**
- 4. Consider the approval of the meeting minutes from the August 25, 2025, Council Workshop**
- 5. Consider the approval of the minutes for the August 25, 2025, Regular City Council meeting.**
- 6. Consider the approval of the minutes for the Aug. 4, 2025, Council Workshop meeting**
- 7. Consider action to declare the items shown on the October 2025 Surplus List as surplus personal property assets of the city approved for sale or disposition**
- 8. Consider action authorizing anticipated expenditures exceeding \$50,000 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 procured by cooperative purchasing, interlocal agreements or which are exempt by law from competitive procurement**
- 9. Consider action authorizing purchases pursuant to certain cooperative purchasing programs and interlocal agreements for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**
- 10. Consider action on approval of the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending August 31, 2025**
- 11. Consider action on a Resolution to deny Oncor Electric Company's application to change rates within the City of Watauga**

- 12. Consider action to approve the Capp Smith Food Truck Project expenditure funded by the WEDC and related Grant Agreement to provide funding for debt service payments**
- 13. Consider possible action on amending the bylaws of the Watauga Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to designate the duly elected Mayor, at the time of service, as the President of the WEDC**

Mayor Miner asked the council if they wish to pull any of the items. Mayor Pro Tem Blackburn pulled item number 13 (which is now Action Item # 4) and Councilmember Downey pulled item number 11 (which is now Action Item # 5)

Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Hill made a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda as amended. Councilmember Downey seconded the motion. Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion passed 3-0-0-3.

Ayes, Blackburn, Downey, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Shelbourne, Neal, Taylor

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Discuss and consider action on a resolution accepting the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant award for FY 2024 and authorizing the City Manager to act on behalf of the City to comply with all SAFER Grant requirements associated with the FY 2024 award**

Randy Barkley, Fire Chief, presented the item regarding the FY24 FEMA SAFER grant, which awards funding for three additional firefighters. The grant will increase staffing from eight to nine firefighters per shift, improving operational efficiency, safety, and response times. The total award is \$892,075, with \$606,000 provided by the federal government over a three-year period spanning four budget cycles. The grant will offset overtime costs, currently averaging \$280,000–\$340,000 annually, and is expected to enhance recruitment, retention, and employee work-life balance. Chief Barkley highlighted that the department currently staffs four-person engines only 18.2% of the time, and the grant would enable near 90% staffing, significantly improving safety and service outcomes. The grant supports the department's long-term strategic staffing plan and aligns with council goals to maintain financial strength, expand public safety, and enhance workforce satisfaction. Staff recommended acceptance of the grant.

There was a short pause due to quorum at 7:07 pm while Councilmember Downey stepped away for a few seconds meeting reconvened at 7:07 pm

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

With no further discussion Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion passed 3-0-0-3.

Ayes, Blackburn, Downey, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None Shelbourne, Neal, Taylor,

2. Discuss and consider the nomination of a candidate to serve as a member of the Tarrant County Appraisal District Board of Directors

Councilmember Downey nominated Sayeda Bilquees Syed, stating that she is very well-versed in the operations of the appraisal district and the various tasks they are responsible for, including the complex tax laws of Texas.

Mayor Miner nominated Eric Crile, stating that he has spoken with him several times and, like Ms. Syed, he is opposed to the two-year appraisal cycle.

With no further discussion Mayor Miner asked for a Motion. Councilmember Downey to nominate Sayeda Bilquees Syed and Eric Crile to the Tarrant County Appraisal District Board of Directors. Mayor Pro Tem Blackburn seconded the motion.

Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion passed 3-0-0-3.

Ayes, Blackburn, Downey, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Shelbourne, Neal, Taylor

3. Consider action on the purchase of an Auto-Load System, Cot, and Stair Chair for the Fire/EMS Department from Stryker Corporation.

Randy Barkley, Fire Chief, presented the item. He explained that the system includes the cot, the loading mechanism for placing the cot in and out of the back of the ambulance, and the staircase for the new ambulance approved in the FY 2025–26 capital budget. He noted that this item represents the next step in moving the project forward. Chief Barkley stated that there was a deadline to issue the purchase order by the 15th to avoid a 20% cost increase, which is why the item was brought forward separately on the agenda.

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

Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion passed 3-0-0-3.

Ayes, Blackburn, Downey, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Shelbourne, Neal, Taylor

- 4. Consider possible action on amending the bylaws of the Watauga Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to designate the duly elected Mayor, at the time of service, as the President of the WEDC. (This was action item #13)**

Mayor Pro Tem Blackburn asked for clarification that the change would apply to any duly elected mayor, not just Mayor Miner, and that it would not permanently place Mayor Miner on the board as president. She also inquired whether the language in the charter needed to be amended. Mayor Miner confirmed that the change designates the duly elected mayor as president. He further explained that the change is made through the Economic Development Corporation Bylaws which were approved its board.

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

Mayor Miner called for a vote.

Motion passed 3-0-0-3.

Ayes, Blackburn, Downey, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Shelbourne, Neal, Taylor

- 5. Consider action on a Resolution to deny Oncor Electric Company's application to change rates within the City of Watauga (This was action item #11)**

Councilmember Downey said she pulled the item, so concerns raised by Mr. Hopkins during Public Testimony could be discussed and asked City Manager Sandra Gibson to provide background and next steps regarding the Oncor rate increase request. Ms. Gibson explained that the review process, which lasted 90 days, began in June and was handled through the steering committee representing multiple Texas cities, including Watauga. The committee recommended denying Oncor's application to increase customer rates. If the denial is upheld by the participating cities, Oncor may file an appeal with the Public Utility Commission within 30 days, at which point the matter becomes an administrative proceeding. The issue will then go to the state, which will make the final decision.

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

Mayor Miner called for a vote.
Motion passed 3-0-0-3.
Ayes, Blackburn, Downey, Hill
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Shelbourne, Neal, Taylor

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mayor Pro Tem Blackburn requested that the ordinance on animal abandonment be revisited. Councilmember Downey seconded the request.

Mayor Miner reminded everyone that the final Town Hall on the bond propositions will be held on the 16th at the library at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Approved: this Nov. day of 10, 2025

Signed: this Nov day of 11, 2025

ATTEST:

/s/ Linda Proskey
Linda Proskey, City Secretary

APPROVED:

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

