



**MINUTES
WATAUGA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER,
7105 WHITLEY ROAD,
MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026
6:45 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
Mark Taylor
Pat Shelbourne
Lovie Downey
Andrew Neal
Stephen Welch
Jan Hill

and

Sandra Gibson
Linda Proskey
Paul Hackelman
Kevin Mead
Jennifer Calvert
Timothy Hamilton
Julie Rodriguez
Ben Davis

Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem Place 6 (Absent w/notice)
Council Member Place 1
Council Member Place 3
Council Member Place 4
Council Member Place 5
Council Member Place 6
Council Member Place 7

City Manager
City Secretary
Asst. City Manager/Public Works Director
Asst. Police Chief
Finance Director
Parks Director
Human Resources/Civil Service Director
Grants and Recognition Program Manager

INVOCATION

Pastor Lynn Nichols of the Northside Nazarene Church gave the invocation

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE United States and Texas Flags

Mayor Miner led and was joined by the Attendees of the Fire Kids Camp for the Pledge of Allegiance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Chris Blackburn warned dog owners about hot concrete, stating: "If you can't walk on the concrete barefooted, neither can your dog," to prevent paw pad burns

Councilmember Neal announced upcoming Independence Day activities, noting the celebration of the United States' 250th anniversary. He encouraged residents to attend the July 1 Independence Day event at the BISD Plaza, which will feature fireworks and a drone show from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Councilmember Neal also highlighted upcoming programs at the Watauga Public Library, including a Mad Science youth program, coloring activities, dinosaur exploration, and a Three Musketeers-themed class for adults and families. He concluded by encouraging residents interested in adopting a pet to visit the Watauga Animal Shelter.

Councilmember Hill reminded residents that the splash pad is open and encouraged everyone to visit and enjoy it during the hot weather.

Mayor Miner Mayor Miner expanded on the upcoming Independence Day celebration, explaining that the Chamber of Commerce scheduled the event for July 1 due to resource demands associated with the FIFA World Cup. He noted that the celebration will feature a drone show with 2,500 drones commemorating the nation's 250th anniversary, including what is expected to be one of the largest U.S. flag formations created by drones. Mayor Miner encouraged residents to attend the event at the BISD Plaza off Highway 26.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Watauga Fire Department Kids Fire Camp 2026 Presentation and Recognition

Fire Chief Randy Barkley recognized the graduates of the 2026 Fire Camp, congratulating the 29 young men and women who participated in this year's program. He explained that the camp's theme, "Impact," focused on the message, "Leave everything better than you found it. Your legacy starts now," emphasizing leadership, service, and making a positive difference in the community.

Chief Barkley thanked the camp coordinators, Watauga Fire Department personnel, the Watauga Police Department, and the Information Technology and Communications Department for their dedication and contributions to the camp's success. He also expressed appreciation to the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager for supporting programs that invest in the community and develop future leaders.

A video highlighting the 2026 Fire Camp was presented. Chief Barkley noted that several campers returned this year to serve as mentors for new participants and expressed hope that many campers would continue their involvement in future programs. He also announced the upcoming Citizen Public Safety Academy, expected to begin in late September, and invited residents to watch the City's website and social media for registration information. In addition, he announced the Fire Department's first annual Open House on October 3, which will feature demonstrations and opportunities for the community to learn more about the department's services.

Chief Barkley concluded by encouraging the graduates to continue demonstrating leadership, service, and character by leaving every place better than they found it. He invited the graduates to come forward to be recognized by the Mayor and City Council for their hard work, growth, and positive impact on the community.

2. City of Watauga American Rescue Plan Act - progress report

Grants Program Manager Ben Davis presented the final report on the City's use of funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He explained that the federal legislation, enacted in 2021, provided the City with approximately \$6 million to support operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, fund infrastructure improvements, assist with employee hiring and retention, and purchase essential equipment.

Mr. Davis reviewed the projects funded through ARPA, including the Summertime Lane water and wastewater improvements, Park Vista stormwater rehabilitation, lead service line identification, restoration of staff positions, employee leave bank liability reduction, employee appreciation pay, the creation of grant management and human resources positions, police special event equipment, recruitment and retention incentives, installation of a backup generator, fire department personal protective equipment, remote access devices, cybersecurity enhancements, grant compliance software, municipal court software improvements, and hand sanitizer stations. He noted that several projects were completed under budget, while others used less than the allocated funding because ongoing subscription and membership costs extended beyond the grant's allowable expenditure period.

Mr. Davis reported that the funded projects enhanced infrastructure, strengthened public safety, improved operational efficiency, supported employee retention, and modernized technology throughout the organization.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no request to speak for public comment

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

There was no request to speak for public testimony

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider action to approve a purchase of Watauga Police Department vehicles with bullet-resistant vehicle components in an amount not to exceed \$74,116.56 pursuant to the Texas Office of the Governor (OOG) funded grant # (5639901) and City of Watauga resolution 2025-033.
2. Consider action on approval of the May 11, 2026 Regular City Council meeting minutes

Mayor Miner called for a Motion. Councilmember Downey made a motion to accept as presented. Councilmember Neal seconded the motion

With no further discussion Mayor Miner called for a vote.
Motion passed 6-0-0-1.

Ayes: Shelbourne, Blackburn, Downey, Neal, Welch, Hill

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Taylor

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Approved: this 10 day of Aug, 2026

Signed: this 10 day of Aug, 2026

APPROVED:

/s/ Arthur L. Miner

Arthur L. Miner, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Linda Proskey

Linda Proskey, City Secretary

