

**CITY OF TARRANT, ALABAMA
CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING
APPLICATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BROWNFIELD CLEANUP GRANT
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015**

The **Honorable City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama** held a Public Meeting on the 16th day of November, 2015 at 5:30 p.m., in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mayor Loxcil B. Tuck called the meeting to order.

The following people were in attendance:

Catherine "Cathy" Anderson	Councilmember
John T. "Tommy" Bryant	Councilmember
Laura Horton	Mayor Pro Tem
Debra M. Matthews	Councilmember
Betty S. Middlebrooks	Councilmember
Loxcil B. Tuck	Mayor
Jymalyn Redmond	Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood
Stewart Blackwell	Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood
Cole Robertson	Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood
Attorney Benjamin Goldman	City of Tarrant
Joe Schmitt	City of Tarrant
Ken Jones	City of Tarrant
Chief Dennis Reno	City of Tarrant
Lillian Keith	City of Tarrant

Mayor Tuck recognized Jymalyn Redmond of Goodwyn, Cawood and Mills. Ms. Redmond explained that the purpose of the public meeting this evening would be to explain the proposed application for the Environmental Protection Brownfield Grant, to answer any questions and to allow the opportunity for public input. Ms. Redmond stated that public involvement has been an important component of the revitalization effort in Tarrant and will continue to be a critical element in the successful award of the proposed grant application. Ms. Redmond stated that Notice of the meeting this evening had been placed in the Birmingham Newspaper; posted at City Hall, the Tarrant Library, Tarrant Parks and Recreation Center and the Tarrant Board of Education; as well as announced locally. Ms. Redmond stated that this meeting will inform the public concerning the proposed future activity at the proposed site, located on Commerce Circle. Ms. Redmond stated that more specifically the sites involve the general locations of the Tarrant Electric Department and Tarrant Public Works Department. Ms. Redmond explained that there is concern that the property needs enhancements to upgrade the site in order to bring it up to code, versus the prior 1980 code standards. Ms. Redmond stated that these funds are good in utilization toward this purpose. Attorney Goldman stated that the site is currently being evaluated by the today's rules, which have become more and more streamlined. Ms. Redmond explained that there are complication due to the perceived presence of hazard substances, pollutants or contaminants. Ms. Redmond stated that there is also great concern from EPA and ADEM regarding two ponds located on the property, during a previous time period. Ms. Redmond stated that information concerning the proposed anticipated activities will be shared, this evening. Ms. Redmond stated that a copy of relevant documents will be placed at the City of Tarrant City Hall and the Tarrant Public Library, for public viewing.

Ms. Redmond stated that the City of Tarrant will utilize input from the initial public meeting, to identify what the community would like to see included in the grant application. Ms. Redmond explained that the public will be provided the opportunity to make suggestions, as they have in previous planning opportunities on community development.

Ms. Redmond explained that the EPA's Brownfields Grant Program provides funding to communities to aid in the cleanup of Brownfields properties. Ms. Redmond

stated that the program is designed to empower communities to work together and safely clean up and provide for the sustainable reuse of properties. Ms. Redmond stated that the Brownfields Cleanup Grant Program provides \$200,000 in funding, to advance community efforts in cleanup for eventual safe reuse or redevelopment of properties contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, or petroleum. Ms. Redmond stated that the program also provides technical assistance, to participating communities. Ms. Redmond explained that should the grant be awarded, the City would be required to make a 20% match. Ms. Redmond stated that the 20% match can be made by in-kind work, such as work completed by the City Employees, materials such as mulch, etc. Ms. Redmond stated that it is hoped that the citizens and businesses of the City of Tarrant will be in support of this enhancement effort. Ms. Redmond explained that this would safely clean up and enhance the area; give protection regarding possible insurance liabilities and provide tax relief. Mayor Pro Tem Horton asked if the City has applied for the grant. Ms. Redmond explained that the City is currently working on the application. Mayor Pro Tem Horton asked if the total cost of the project could be estimated at an amount slightly above \$186,000. Ms. Redmond stated that if everything is successful, this would be an accurate estimated figure.

Ms. Redmond stated that the point of contacts regarding this proposed grant are: Jymalyn Redmond of Goodwyn, Cawood and Mills; Gail Hill, Administrative Assistant to Mayor Tuck; and Lillian Keith, City Clerk, City of Tarrant. General discussion followed.

Councilmember Middlebrooks stated that someone had asked a question, regarding what a remediation plan is. Ms. Redmond explained that EPA encourages innovated ideas and better ways to remediate. Ms. Redmond stated that an example regarding remediation would be by capping with the utilization of compacted clay, at a depth of two feet. Ms. Redmond stated that in combination with the capping; tree planting can be effectively used, for remediation. Ms. Redmond stated that this is a very simple and cost effective approach. Ms. Redmond stated that mulch also assists, with tree growth. General discussion followed.

Ms. Redmond stated that the City's application must be submitted by December 17, 2015. Ms. Redmond explained that in the mean time, the application process would be ongoing. Ms. Redmond stated that letters of support would be needed, to include with the application. Attorney Goldman stated that as President of the Tarrant Pinson Valley Chamber of Commerce, he felt certain that the organization would provide a letter of support.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. The Public Meeting ended at 6:05 p.m.

READ AND APPROVED THIS THE 7TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2015.

APPROVED: *Loxcil B Tuck*
LOXCIL B. TUCK, MAYOR

ATTEST: *Lillian A Keith*
Lillian A. Keith, City Clerk