

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday September 6, 2023, at 7:00PM at City Hall.

Mayor Wayman A. Newton called the meeting to order at 7:03PM following the council work session that began at 6:00PM to discuss items on the agenda and other matters.

Tarrant City Elder Johnson from Messiah's House lead those in attendance in the invocation. Fire Chief Patrick Bennett lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Newton asked for a roll call. The following officials were present during the roll call:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The following officials were absent:
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from the August 21, 2023 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. After review, Councilor Bryant moved to approve the minutes from August 21, 2023, meeting as presented. Councilor Mathews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a roll call vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being zero (0), with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2023 as presented were approved.

The Mayor informed those in attendance that Deputy Mayor, Lisa Baker, had a few things to present. The following items were presented from the Mayor's office to those in attendance:

Deputy Mayor Lisa Baker informed all who were present that the storm shelter, its location and its initial drawings have finally been approved by the Engineer of Special Architect of Jefferson County. Concrete pad already formed near the Recreation Center. Possible that construction will begin within the next few months.

Mayor and Council were provided with a hard copy spreadsheet list of houses that will tentatively be demolished. Deputy Mayor Lisa Baker also provided overall summary on some houses that will be demolished via grant assistance. Title work search done and needed on some of the homes with results not yet returned for some of the homes.

Deputy Mayor Lisa Baker informed all who were present that a request for Qualifications for the City Engineer for the City of Tarrant is needed. Several Federal Grants are approaching that need to be applied for. Any federal grant requires one to procure an engineer. They won't take a city hired engineer. In past pre-engineering had to be complete and paid for. Though front costs are still needed some of the new infrastructure money will be eligible for reimbursement. Request for qualifications for the engineer also lowers the rate of what an engineer charges and the engineer will only get paid for what is being done. Also will be helpful to have the engineer for some of the projects (ex. Roads, flood litigation etc.).

Stop signs for some of the intersections in Tarrant approved and already installed. Will get with the Chief to develop more planning on more stop signs to regulate and monitor traffic in the City of Tarrant.

Mayor Newton also asked Allen Pilkington to provide update on City of Tarrant 1st Football home game of 2023 Tail gate event. Mr. Pilkington informed all who were present that the a community tailgate event will occur an hour before kick off to show support on September 8, 2023.

Mayor Newton informed all who were present that there will be a 'Fourth Friday on Ford' event held on September 22, 2023 to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month. Everyone is invited to attend this Fiesta event from 6:00PM to 9:00PM.

This ended the communications from the Mayor's office.

The Mayor next asked for any communications from the city councilors present.

Council Freeman informed all who were present of a traffic light concern in the intersection of Tarrant Huffman Road and Treadwell Road. Though the intersection is not located in the City of Tarrant, Councilor Freeman asked the Mayor to communicate with Jefferson County and City of Birmingham Authorities for the purpose of addressing the need for a traffic light in the said intersection. Councilor Freeman agreed on a proposed Resolution to be drafted authorizing the Mayor to communicate and possibly split costs with Jefferson County Commission and the City of Birmingham for installation of traffic lights at the said intersection, with Attorney involvement after informal agreement made between the three official parties.

Council Freeman informed all who were present that she is still blocked from the City of Tarrant Facebook page since June 6, 2023.

The Mayor then called for committee reports.

No reports were made.

The Council next considered old business.

Councilor Bryant read and introduced Resolution No. 9039. A Resolution Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of a 2023 Ford F150 Supercrew 4x4 Pickup Truck for Use by the Tarrant Electric Department. Councilor Bryant motioned to approve and adopt Resolution No. 9039. Councilor Mathews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve and adopt Resolution No. 9039 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved and adopted.

The Council next considered items of new business.

Mayor Newton read and introduced Resolution No. 9043, A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Bleachers for the City of Tarrant Recreation Center. Mayor Newton motioned to approve and adopt Resolution No. 9043. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve and adopt Resolution No. 9043 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved and adopted.

Mayor Newton read and introduced Resolution No. 9044, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Tax Revenue Enhancement Agreement Between the City of Tarrant and Avenu Insights & Analytics, LLC for the Renewal of Business License and Administration Services. Mayor Newton Councilor motioned to approve and adopt Resolution No. 9044. Councilor Mathews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to authorize and adopt Resolution No. 9044 was agreed to, and the Resolution was authorized and adopted.

Councilor Mathews read and introduced Resolution No. 9045, A Resolution Approving the City of Tarrant 2023 Neighborhood Cleanup Initiative. Councilor Mathews motioned to authorize and approve Resolution No. 9045. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve and adopt Resolution No. 9045 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved and adopted.

Councilor Bryant read and introduced Resolution No. 9046, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Issue a Request for Qualifications for the City Engineer for the City of Tarrant. Councilor Bryant motioned to authorize Resolution No. 9046. Councilor Mathews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to authorize Resolution No. 9046. was agreed to, and the Resolution was authorized and adopted.

Councilor Bryant read and introduced Resolution No. 9047, A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of IT and Security Related Equipment Needed to Replace Damaged Equipment at City Hall. Discussion arose on the reason, with the reason arising from a storm occurrence that damaged IT systems. Councilor Bryant motioned to authorize Resolution No. 9047. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to authorize Resolution No. 9047 was agreed to, and the Resolution was authorized.

Mayor Newton made a verbal motion to amend Resolution 9048 to add a section 3a that allows the organizers of the event to hire two off duty officers to work the event due to the sale of alcohol. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to amend Resolution No. 9048 was agreed to, and the Resolution was amended.

Mayor Newton read and introduced Resolution No. 9048, A Resolution Recognizing September 15 to October 15, 2023 as Hispanic Heritage Month and Supporting a Hispanic Heritage Celebration On September 22, 2023. Mayor Newton motioned to authorize No. 9048. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Mayor Wayman Newton
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant

The yeas being three (3), the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to amend Resolution No. 9048 was agreed to, and the Resolution was amended.

Next, the City Council reviewed the Vouchers and Expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department for September 6, 2023. Councilor Bryant moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department for September 6, 2023. Councilor Mathews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department for September 6, 2023 were approved, and the motion was adopted

Next, the City Council heard from members of the public who had signed up to speak prior to the meeting.

First, Mr. Smith expressed concerns regarding restroom at City of Tarrant Park. Councilor Freeman responded that President Johnson will be opening and closing the restrooms at Brummitt Heights Parks when requested. Mayor Newton reminded all those present that there will be a ribbon cutting at Franklin park at 8am on September 7, 2023.

Second, Mr. Pilkington. Declined, already expressed his comments earlier.

Third, Ms. Dill. Requested information on the public intersection of Tarrant Huffman Road and Treadwell Road. Mayor Newton responded by informing Ms. Dill that Councilor Freeman will draft up a Resolution regarding the issue of lights at this intersection.

Fourth, Mr. Threat. Mr. Threat expressed concerns regarding meeting between City of Council and property owners of Flats at Colebridge located at 851 Bell Avenue Tarrant, Alabama.
Fifth, Reverand Johnson. Reverand Johnson introduced himself. Invited everyone to his new 10:00AM service at 1389 Park Avenue Tarrant, Alabama.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Laverne Knight
City Clerk August 21, 2023
City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama

READ AND APPROVED this the 6th day of September 2023.

The City of Tarrant, Alabama

APPROVED: _____

WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



Dr. Laverne Knight

