

CITY OF TARRANT  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 2, 2023  
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday October 2, 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.

Reverend Gwen Webb lead those in attendance in the invocation. Tarrant City 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 Tracie B. Threadford  
Councilor Catherine “Cathy” Anderson  
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman  
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Mathews  
Mayor Wayman A. Newton

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from the September 18, 2023 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. Councilor Freeman acknowledged the minutes to request and add that more recommendations and concerns were verbally referenced in ownest. After review, Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes from September 18, 2023 meeting as amended. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant  
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford  
Councilor Catherine “Cathy” Anderson  
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman  
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0), with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve the minutes as amended was adopted, and the minutes for September 18, 2023, council meeting were approved as amended.

The Mayor informed those in attendance that there will be a National Night Out on Wednesday October 4, 2023 from 5:30PM to 7:00PM. This will be hosted by the City of Tarrant Police Department and Fire Department.

The Mayor also thanked the Community and the Council for their input on the last 4<sup>th</sup> Friday on Ford held on September 20<sup>th</sup> by updating the compliments received on the appearance of Ford Avenue, the food trucks, face painting, petting zoo etc., and the vocation of coming together as a community. The Mayor continued by reminding all those in attendance of the next 4<sup>th</sup> Friday on Ford that will be a ‘Halloween Trunk or Treat’ on Ford Avenue set for October 27, 6:00PM to 9:00PM. Everyone is invited to bring their vehicles and distribute candy from the trunks of their vehicle for this event.

This ended the communications from the Mayor's office.

After the Mayor spoke Tracey elaborated more on the National Night Out for Wednesday October 4, 2023 by informing all in attendance that the event is sponsored by the City of Tarrant Crime Commission alongside the City of Tarrant Police and Fire Departments. Face Painting, Tuscaloosa Barnyard Hotdogs, chips and drinks for the first 300 people, and the longest table in the history of the City of Tarrant at Ford Avenue will be at this event.

This ended the communications from the City Councilors.

The Mayor then called for committee reports.

No reports were made.

The Council next considered old business.

Mayor Newton introduced Ordinance No. 1156, Fire Mitigation on its second reading. There was short discussion that the Fire Mitigation Ordinance needed to be thoroughly analyzed, and that a work session would be needed. Councilor Bryant moved to table Ordinance No. 1156. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton then called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant  
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford  
Councilor Cathy Anderson  
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman  
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to table Ordinance No. 1156 was agreed to, and the Ordinance was tabled.

The Council next considered items of new business.

Mayor Newton introduced Resolution No. 9054, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Service Request Form Between The City of Tarrant and the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority. There was update on the need to pass the City of Tarrant General Budget for year 2024 before Resolution No. 9054 can be acknowledged. Councilor Threadford moved to table Resolution No. 9054. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant  
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford  
Councilor Cathy Anderson  
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman  
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to table Resolution No. 9054 was agreed to, and the Resolution was tabled.

Mayor introduced Resolution No. 9055, A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase and Installation of an Irrigation System for the Soccer Field at Franklin Park. There was discussion and question on Vulcan Park annual financial contribution to Franklin Park. After discussion Councilor Freeman motioned to table Resolution No. 9055. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant  
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford  
Councilor Cathy Anderson  
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman  
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to table Resolution No. 9055 was agreed to, and the Resolution was authorized and approved.

Councilor Threadford introduced and read Resolution No. 9056, A Resolution Declaring and Recognizing Wednesday, October 4, 2023, as National Night Out Within the City of Tarrant and Authorizing the Temporary Closure of Ford Avenue for the National Night Out Event. Councilor Threadford motioned to adopt Resolution No. 9056. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant  
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford  
Councilor Cathy Anderson  
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman  
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to table Resolution No. 9056 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Councilor Bryant introduced Resolution No. 9057, A Resolution Authorizing and Approving the City of Tarrant to Enter into a Textile Rental Agreement with ALSCO Linen Services. Councilor Bryant motioned to adopt Resolution No. 9057. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant  
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford  
Councilor Cathy Anderson  
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman  
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to authorize Resolution No. 9057 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Councilor Bryant introduced Resolution No. 9058, A Resolution Approving Payment of Public Works Purchases Associated with Econo Signs LLC. Councilor Bryant motioned to adopt Resolution No. 9057. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant  
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford  
Councilor Anderson  
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman  
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to authorize Resolution No. 9058 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Mayor Newton made a motion to amend Resolution No. 9059 for the sum not to exceed \$35k for the purpose of including the City of Tarrant Police Department on to the Resolution regarding the installation of Ballistic glass at City of Tarrant City Hall and the Municipal Court front desk windows. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

None

Not voting:

None

The yeas being six (6) and the nays being zero (0) with one (0) member not voting, the motion to amend Resolution No. 9059 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Mayor Newton introduced Resolution No. 9059 as amended, A Resolution Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of Ballistic Glass for the City of Tarrant City Hall, Municipal Court and Police Department Front Desk Customer Service Windows not to exceed \$35k. Mayor Newton motioned to authorize and approve Resolution No. 9059 as amended. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

None

Not voting:

None

The yeas being six (6) and the nays being zero (0) with one (0) member not voting, the motion to authorize Resolution No. 9059 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Mayor Newton introduced Resolution No. 9060, A Resolution Approving and Adopting the City of Tarrant General Fund Budget for the Period Beginning October 1, 2023 and Ending in September 30, 2024. Mayor Newton motioned Resolution No. 9060 to be tabled pending work session scheduled on October 30, 2023 at 6:00PM. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant  
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford  
Councilor Anderson  
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman  
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to table Resolution No. 9060 was agreed to, and the Resolution was tabled.

Next, the City Council reviewed the Vouchers and Expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department for October 2, 2023. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department for October 2, 2023. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant  
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford  
Councilor Cathy Anderson  
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman  
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0), the motion to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department for October 2, 2023 was 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, Ms. Williams. Ms. Williams asked the City of Tarrant Mayor and Council about the house demolition and when the demolitions will begin. The Mayor responded by informing Ms. Williams that the process will begin with letters and that the owners will be given a time frame to respond followed by other legal steps. Ms. Williams responded on the need of immediate demolishing and expressed concern on the time frame it has taken in demolishing the abandoned and condemned homes in the City of Tarrant.

Second, Mr. Threat. Mr. Threat asked the City of Tarrant Mayor and Council about a possible abandoned building that is next to the Flats at Colebridge located at 851 Bell Avenue Tarrant, Alabama. Further, that unknown individuals are entering and leaving the building without consent or authorization. The Mayor informed Mr. Threat that the building is under the School Board and that a request will be made for Mr. Threat to appear at their future meeting.

Third, Reverend Webbs. Reverend Webbs advised and reminded the City of Tarrant Mayor and Council of patience that is needed in re-building the city.

Fourth, Mr. Miller. Mr. Miller publicly declared his respect for the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. The speaker informed the City of Tarrant Mayor and Council about gunshots heard from outside his home on the Waverly neighborhood during the late Friday and Sunday nights of the previous days. Mr. Miller encouraged the Mayor and Council to address the gun shots heard by brainstorming future solutions to lessen possible 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment abuse within the City of Tarrant.

This concluded public comments.

The City of Tarrant discussed concerns on the Public Works Department and the lack of City of Tarrant Police Officers. It was determined that a culture of outsiders come into the City of Tarrant to dump their trash. Council asked Chief Major to resubmit Camera request for problem locations in the City of Tarrant.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, Councilor Threadford moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with all present being in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Laverne Knight  
City Clerk September October 2, 2023  
City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama

READ AND APPROVED this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2023.



The City of Tarrant, Alabama

APPROVED:   
WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Laverne Knight