

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 21, 2023
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 7:00PM at City Hall.

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

Fire Chief Patrick Bennett lead those in attendance in the invocation. Mr. Todd McGill 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 Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Catherine “Cathy” Anderson
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Matthews
Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Mayor Wayman A. Newton

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from the June 5, 2023, regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. Councilor Freeman stated she had a correction to make to the minutes. Councilor Freeman asked to correct that the bathroom bids were separate from the Brummitt Heights playground equipment. The resolution regarding the Brummitt Heights playground equipment bid and purchase was Resolution 8857, dated February 7, 2022, and a previous one, Resolution 8809, dated June 21, 2021. The resolution to purchase the playground equipment was tabled. Resolution 9014 was regarding the bathroom repair and bids introduced and passed at the June 5, 2023, regularly scheduled council meeting. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes with the above-stated correction. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a roll call vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Catherine “Cathy” Anderson
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Matthews
Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Mayor Wayman A. Newton

Nays:

None

The yeas being six (6) and the nays being zero (0), the motion to approve the minutes as amended was agreed to, and the minutes from the June 21, 2023, meeting approved.

In the interest of time, the Mayor would carry over the communications from his office.

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

A question arose regarding the Brummitt Heights bathroom repair estimates and removing the remaining part of the poles from the old basketball goals, After some discussion on this and a prior resolution approving the purchase of new playground equipment, it was announced the estimates were in the process of being obtained and the old poles from the basketball goals had been removed.

The Mayor then called for committee reports.

No reports were made by committees.

The council next considered old business.

Council Threadford read for a second time Ordinance No. 1155, An Ordinance Establishing Requirements for the Management and Retention of Security Surveillance Information Audio and Video Recordings. Following it being read, Mayor Newton moved to amend the Ordinance to add “mayor” to the list of individuals who may have access to the security surveillance audio and video recordings. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton then called for a vote on the amendment to Ordinance No. 1155.

Yeas:

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

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 amend Ordinance No. 1155 was agreed to, and Ordinance No. 1155 amended to add “mayor” to the lists throughout the ordinance of those who may have access to and are responsible for the management and retention of security surveillance audio and video recordings.

Next, Councilor Threadford moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1155, An Ordinance Establishing Requirements for the Management and Retention of Security Surveillance Information Audio and Video Recordings, as amended. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 adopt Ordinance No. 1155 as amended was agreed to, and Ordinance No. 1155 was adopted.

Then, the council considered new business to be brought before the City.

Councilor Threadford introduced and read Resolution 9021, A Resolution Awarding Bid and Authorizing the Negotiation and Execution of a Contract for the Right of Way Clearing Project

for the City of Tarrant Electric Department. After reading the resolution, Councilor Threadford moved to adopt Resolution 9021. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. After some discussion regarding the bid amounts, Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Yeas:

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

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 adopt Resolution No. 9021 was agreed to, and the Resolution adopted.

Mayor Newton then moved to table Resolution No. 9022, A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of an Invitation to Bid for the Repair of the Storm Water Drainage Culvert Off Enfield Drive. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. (Note: There was a great deal of discussion of this resolution in the work session prior to the council meeting with Ms. Sandra Matthews and Ms. Tiffanie Baker present.) Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

None

Abstain:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member abstaining, the motion to table Resolution 9022 was agreed to, and the resolution tabled.

Councilor Freeman introduced and read Resolution 9023, A Resolution Preapproving of and Authorizing Travel For Councilwoman Veronice Freeman to Attend the National League of Cities Conference “Unlocking Tourism Wealth.” After introducing the resolution, Councilor Freeman moved for its adoption. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. After some discussion, Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Catherine “Cathy” Anderson
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Matthews

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant

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 adopt Resolution 9023 was agreed to, and the resolution approved.

Councilor Freeman introduced and read Resolution 9024, A Resolution Proclaiming June 2023 National League of Cities Small Cities Month. After reading the resolution, Councilor Freeman moved to adopt Resolution 9024. Mayor Newton seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

None

The yeas being six (6) and the nays being zero (0), the motion to adopt Resolution 9024 was agreed to, and the resolution adopted.

Next, the Mayor presented to the other council members a copy of the six-month review of the City's finances and copies of the completed audits of the City's accounts and finances to date.

The council then considered the vouchers and expenses of the city and the electric department. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses of the city and the electric department as presented. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton then called for a roll call vote.

Yeas:

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

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 payment of the vouchers and expenses as presented was agreed to.

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 11, 2023
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a special called meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 6:00PM at City Hall.

Councilor Traci B. Threadford called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Police Chief Wendell Major gave the invocation and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Threadford moved to appoint David L. Glenn, the city attorney who was present, as the acting city clerk for the meeting. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All present voted in favor, and the motion was agreed to.

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

Mayor Wayman A. Newton
Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Traci B. Threadford
Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews

A quorum was determined to be present for the meeting.

The Council next considered items of new business.

Councilor Threadford next introduced Resolution 9025, A Resolution Approving Blankenship & Associates, LLC to Represent the City Manager, John Brown, in the Matter of State of Alabama, ex Rel. Deanna Ceasor v. John C. Brown and with Respect to Employment, Contract Terms and Conditions Related to the Performance of Duties As City Manager.

After concluding her reading and presentation of the Resolution, Councilor Threadford called for a discussion of Resolution 9025. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion.

After the conclusion of the presentation of the Resolution, along with some additional discussion with Mayor Newton, the city council, and the city council's attorney, Councilor Freeman moved to call for a vote on Resolution 9025. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Traci B. Threadford
Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews

Nays:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being one (1), the motion to adopt Resolution 9025 was agreed to, and the Resolution adopted.

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

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

First, Ms. Sandra Matthews, of 1711 Enfield Street, addressed the council regarding the drainage ditch in the rear of her property needing to be maintained and fixed. [Note: Ms. Matthews and Ms. Baker spoke at length regarding this matter in the council work session.]

Second, Mr. Allen spoke regarding the reconstitution of the Tarrant Parks and Recreation Board. The deadline for the applications was June 5, but he was unable to apply having not been able to locate an application. Mayor Newton stated a copy of the application packet could be picked up at city hall during business hours. Mr. Allen stated he would come by and get one and asked to still be considered. Councilor Bryant stated with the application deadline having just expired, there would be a review and interview of applications in the future and moving forward with board appointments in short order.

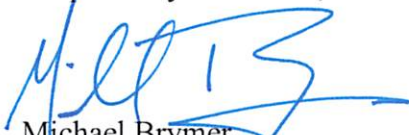
This concluded comments from the public.

Finally, Councilor Matthews asked that all department heads begin returning to council work sessions and meetings. Councilor Matthews also inquired about the intersection of Jefferson Avenue and Fulton Avenue being turned into a four-way stop due to the speed everyone travels through there along with the pedestrian traffic. Councilor Matthews also asked the same question of Jefferson Avenue and Elm Avenue. Next, Councilor Matthews inquired about the current speed breakers that were recently installed in various areas throughout the City. The concern was that these speed breakers would cause damage to emergency vehicles during emergency responses. There were additional questions regarding the type and costs of speed breakers that could be placed in these areas throughout the City. Councilor Matthews also raised issues regarding E911 communications and dispatch as calls were still being routed through Jefferson County and then to Tarrant for response as opposed to directly to Tarrant.

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

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

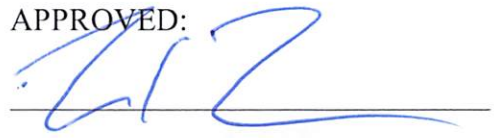


Michael Brymer
Acting City Clerk for the June 21, 2023, City Council Meeting

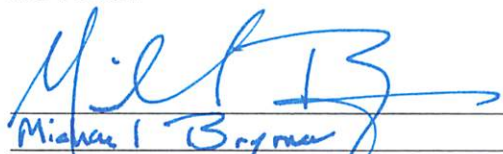
READ AND APPROVED this the 17th day of July 2023.



APPROVED:



ATTEST:



Michael Brymer
Acting City Clerk

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Glenn
Acting City Clerk for the July 11, 2023, City Council Meeting

READ AND APPROVED this the 17th day of July 2023.



APPROVED: [Signature]

ATTEST:

[Signature]

Michael T. Symon
Acting City Clerk

