

**CITY OF TARRANT**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**JUNE 5, 2023**  
**TARRANT CITY HALL**

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 5, 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.

Mr. Scott Evans led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. Fire Lt. Patrick Bennett gave the invocation.

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

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

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman was absent.

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from the May 15, 2023, regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. Councilor Bryant moved to change "Pine Hull Street" on page 3 (first full paragraph) to "Pine Hill Road." The motion was seconded. All were in favor of correcting the minutes.

Mayor Newton then asked if there were any more additions or corrections. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes with the above-stated correction. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a roll call vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

None

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0), the motion to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2023, meeting as amended was agreed to, and the minutes approved with amendment.

Next, the minutes from the May 31, 2023, called meeting were presented for review and approval. Following review, Councilor Threadford moved the minutes from the May 31, 2023, called council meeting be approved as presented. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton then called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

None

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0), the motion to approve the minutes from the May 31, 2023, called meeting was agreed to, and the minutes approved.

The following items were communicated from the Mayor's office to those in attendance:

The Mayor announced that earlier today the United Way of Central Alabama ("UWCA") held a ground breaking for the improvements at Franklin Park. Those improvements included a pavilion, walking track, and a U11 soccer field, among others. The UWCA provided the funding and the labor for the project as part of the UWCA's centennial celebration. All of this provided at no costs to the City. With a tentative completion date, the Mayor stated the City in conjunction with the Brummit Heights Neighborhood Association was looking to host a back to school celebration with a date and time to be determined once an exact completion date had been established.

Next, the Mayor announced that ABC Coke had moved forward with fixing the railroad tracks and grade along Cedar Street.

The Mayor then stated Sen. Coleman-Madison made a \$2,000.00 grant to the Tarrant Public Library, and thanked her for the grant award. Sen. Coleman-Madison will be at a future council meeting to officially present the check.

Mayor Newton recognized Deputy Mayor Ms. Lisa Baker and First Lt. Bennett for updates on certain projects involving the City.

The Mayor announced Jefferson County had awarded the City a \$90,000.00 grant from the community development block grant program to facilitate the identification and nuisance abatement of dilapidated / vacant structures throughout the City. This will require the City to walk through the identified properties with structures on them through the City's nuisance abatement process that will require council action. Additionally, the Mayor announced that Mr. Clint Harris of C.J.'s Ventures had agreed to demolish the structures in Brumitt Heights, once declared a nuisance, at no costs to the City. A question was posed about the presence of asbestosis in the structures and how the expense of that abatement would be assessed? Deputy Mayor Lisa Baker answered stating the Jefferson County Department of Public Health ("JCDPH" had been to review the structures and that while some minimum asbestosis abatement was necessary, most structures did not have that as a concern but JCDPH would be involved in the razing of those structures for monitoring purposes.

The Mayor then recognized Deputy Mayor Lisa Baker to provide an update on a fire apparatus as part of the agreement that was approved with Jefferson County for \$300,000.00 at the May 31, 2023, called council meeting.

This ended the communications from the Mayor's 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. Bathrooms bid and Brumitt Heights playground equipment are separate Resolutions.

The Mayor then called for committee reports.

No reports were made by the Committees.

There was no old business for the City Council to consider, so the council proceeded to agenda items of new business.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution 9017, A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of an Invitation to Bid for the Replacement of Gym Court Flooring At the Tarrant Recreation Center and Authorizing the Purchase of Portable Bleachers for the Tarrant Recreation Center. After reading the resolution, Mayor Newton moved to adopt Resolution 9017. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0), the motion to approve Resolution 9017 was agreed to, and the resolution approved.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution 9018, A Resolution Approving And Authorizing the Payment for Services Performed by Birmingham Freightliner (D/B/A Peach State Trucking). After reading the resolution, Councilor Bryant moved to adopt Resolution 9018. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0). The motion to approve Resolution 9018 was agreed to, and the resolution approved.

Councilor Threadford introduced and read Resolution 9019, A Resolution Appointing Mr. John Brown to the Position of City Manager. After reading the resolution, Councilor Threadford moved to adopt Resolution 9019. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. The Mayor then stated he did not believe the city council had authority to appoint a city manager because it changed the form of government without complying with state law. The Mayor then read Attorney General Opinion No. 1999-0254, An Opinion to state Rep. Johnny Forward regarding the City of Tuskegee. After reading the opinion, the Mayor again stated he did not agree the council had authority to enact this resolution or appoint the city manager in anyway. Councilor Threadford stated they were not changing the form of government or stripping the Mayor of his powers. After some debate, Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being four (4) and the nays being one (1). The motion to approve Resolution 9019 was agreed to, and the resolution approved.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution 9020, A Resolution Appointing Patrick Bennett to the Position of Fire Chief for the City of Tarrant, Alabama. After reading the resolution, Mayor town moved to adopt Resolution 9020. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0). The motion to approve Resolution 9020 was agreed to, and the resolution approved.

Councilor Threadford then introduced and read for the first time Ordinance No. 1155, An Ordinance Establishing Requirements for the Management and Retention of Security Surveillance Information Audio and Video Recordings. The first reading of Ordinance No. 1155 was conducted.

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 Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton then called for a roll call vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being four (4) and the nays being one (1), the motion to approve payment of the vouchers and expenses as presented was agreed to.

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. Ms. Matthews asked when the City would be back to cut the storm water drainage ditch in the rear of her property. The mayor and council engaged in some additional discussion with Ms. Matthews regarding same.

Second, Ms. Amber, who looks after an elderly relative on Forest Street, brought to the council's attention that there is a mobile home in the alley behind her house in addition to the mobile home on neighboring property. The property is not owned by those who have placed the mobile home on it. The individuals in both places, along with the conditions of those mobile homes, appear to be creating a nuisance situation without any power meter connection or running utilities, combined with the activities that are primarily going on between the hours of approximately 1:00AM and 4: AM, Ms. Amber has become increasingly concerned for the safety of her relative. The city will review the matter and take actions that it legally can in order to protect the health and safety of its citizens.

Third, Ms. Waynette Bonham, a Tarrant City Crime Commissioner, came before the council to provide an update on the commission. Ms. Bonham was wearing the Crime Commission shirts that the commissioners had recently been provided. This was to make them more recognizable in the community, so citizens can bring matters that need to be addressed to their attention. Additionally, Ms. Bonham stated the crime commission recently became active on social media with a facebook page. There would be additional social media sites that would become available.

Fourth, Mr. Church Winborn spoke about the hiring of the city manager and congratulated Chief Bennett on his promotion to Fire Chief along with various other comments.

Fifth, a gentlemen who resides at 2274 Treadwell Road, spoke that trucks coming in that area were frequently speeding and requested increased enforcement.

This concluded comments from the public.

Finally, Councilor Matthews asked that all department heads begin returning to council work sessions and meetings.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Brymer  
Acting City Clerk for the June 5, 2023, City Council Meeting

READ AND APPROVED this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of Jun \_\_\_\_\_ 2023.



APPROVED:

[Handwritten Signature]  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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ATTEST:

[Handwritten Signature]  
Michael Brymer  
Acting City Clerk