

**City of Tarrant  
Council Meeting  
Monday, June 6, 2022  
Tarrant City Hall**

**The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama** met in a regular meeting on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00pm at City Hall.

Mayor Newton called the meeting to order. City Attorney Michael Brymer led the pledge and Reverend Gwendolyn Webb gave the invocation.

Mayor Newton made a motion to appoint Aislinn Riley as acting city clerk with a second from Councilmember Bryant. All present voted yes. Motion passed.

Yeas:

Councilmember Freeman  
Councilmember Threadford  
Councilmember Matthews  
Councilmember Bryant  
Mayor Newton

Nays:

None

Motion passed.

The following officials were present during roll call:

Veronica Bandy Freeman	Councilmember
Tracie B. Threadford	Councilmember
Deborah "Debbie" Matthews	Councilmember
John T. "Tommy" Bryant	Councilmember
Wayman A. Newton	Mayor

First the council considered the minutes from the May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Regular Meeting. Councilmember Threadford made a motion to approve with a second from Councilmember Bryant. Mayor Newton then called for a roll call vote.

Yeas:

Councilmember Freeman  
Councilmember Threadford  
Councilmember Matthews  
Councilmember Bryant  
Mayor Newton

Nays:

None

Motion passed.

Mayor Newton waived communications from the mayor.

Councilmember Bryant presented a committee report suggesting that a board made up of the city councilmembers be placed over the electric department while retaining the mayor's current position of superintendent. He suggested that this change would cost \$24,000 annually to pay the board members, but that this would be offset by removing the costs of Personnel Board of Jefferson County participation which he estimated at \$36,000 annually. Such a change would enable recruitment efforts without adherence to Personnel Board rules.

Councilmember Bryant made a motion to amend Resolution #8904 section two to reflect that "the purchase of said tech items shall be paid from the City of Tarrant's fiscal year 2022 general fund budget," with a second from Councilmember Threadford.

Yeas:

Councilmember Freeman  
Councilmember Threadford

Councilmember Matthews  
Councilmember Bryant

Motion passed.

The council considered Resolution #8904 – Approving Council Tech Purchases. Councilmember Threadford made a motion to approve the Resolution as amended with a second from Councilmember Bryant. Mayor Newton asked about the costs of this resolution. Councilmember Threadford stated that iPads would be around \$752 each. A roll call vote was held.

Yeas:

Councilmember Freeman  
Councilmember Threadford  
Councilmember Matthews  
Councilmember Bryant

Nays:

Mayor Newton

Motion passed.

The council then heard Resolution #8915 – COLA Increase and Public Safety Pay Increase 5/20. Mayor Newton made a motion to approve with a second from Councilmember Matthews.

Councilmember Bryant made a motion to table Resolution #8915 – COLA Increase and Public Safety Pay Increase 5/20 with a second from Councilmember Threadford. Councilmember Bryant discussed the desire to give an across the board 20% pay raise. Councilmember Threadford suggested voting on the Public Safety Raise and addressing the regular employee raise later, or voting on a 20% raise across the board. Mayor Newton suggested voting for additional raises for the regular employees later on.

Councilmember Bryant made a motion to amend Resolution #8915 – COLA Increase and Public Safety Pay Increase 5/20 to reflect a 20% pay increase across the board, with a second from Councilmember Threadford. Mayor Newton voiced his concern that this would put the city in a financial bind.

A roll call vote was held.

Yeas:

Councilmember Freeman  
Councilmember Threadford

Nays:

Councilmember Matthews  
Councilmember Bryant

Motion failed.

Councilmember Bryant made a motion to adjourn with a second from councilmember Threadford. Councilmember Bryant withdrew his motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Bryant withdrew his motion to table Resolution #8915 – COLA Increase and Public Safety Pay Increase 5/20.

Councilmember Bryant made a motion to give the Fire and Police a 20% COLA effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and that the Council reconsider a higher raise for the other employees of the City of Tarrant.

There was unreadiness about the ability to add an additional retroactive pay increase at a later date. Mr. M. Stephen Fancher clarified that retroactive pay was permissible under the Personnel Board of Jefferson County.

Councilmember Bryant withdrew his motion to amend Resolution #8915 – COLA Increase and Public Safety Pay Increase 5/20.

Mayor Newton called for a roll call vote on his earlier motion to approve Resolution #8915 – COLA Increase and Public Safety Pay Increase 5/20, which had earlier been seconded by Councilmember Matthews.

Yeas:

Councilmember Threadford  
Councilmember Matthews  
Councilmember Bryant  
Mayor Newton

Nays:

None

Pass:

Councilmember Freeman

Motion passed.

The council heard Resolution #8917 – TED Comprehensive Service Program Contract. Councilmember Matthews made a motion to approve with a second from Threadford.

No vote was held as the council did not have a copy of the relevant contract.

Councilmember Bryant made a motion to carryover Ordinance #1149 – Spire Franchise Agreement Renewal with a Second from Councilmember Threadford.

Yeas:

Councilmember Freeman  
Councilmember Threadford  
Councilmember Matthews  
Councilmember Bryant  
Mayor Newton

Nays:

None

Motion passed.

The council considered Resolution #8918 – Approving Travel for Council Member Veronica Freeman. Councilmember Bryant made a motion to approve with a second from Councilmember Matthews. Mayor Newton raised concerns about the use of city resources. A roll call vote was held.

Yeas:

Councilmember Freeman  
Councilmember Matthews  
Councilmember Bryant

Nays:

Councilmember Threadford  
Mayor Newton

Motion passed.

The council then heard Resolution #8919 – Litter/Crime Cameras. Mayor Newton made a motion to approve.

Councilmember Bryant made a motion to table Resolution #8919 – Litter/Crime Cameras until such time as a work session could be held with the Chief of Police. Motion failed.

Councilmember Bryant made a motion to table Resolution #8919 – Litter/Crime Cameras until such time as a work session could be held with the Chief of Police with a second from Councilmember Threadford.

Mayor Newton voiced his disapproval of tabling this resolution. Councilmember Freeman noted that her requests to amend her votes had been ignored twice. A roll call vote was held.

Yeas:

Councilmember Matthews  
Councilmember Bryant

Councilmember Freeman

Nays:

Councilmember Threadford

Mayor Newton

Motion passed.

Councilmember Bryant made a motion to reconsider Resolution #8918 – Approval Travel for Councilmember Veronica Freeman. Motion failed.

Councilmember Threadford made a motion to approve the Vouchers and Expenses for the City of Tarrant and the Tarrant Electric Department with a second from Councilmember Bryant.

Yeas:

Councilmember Freeman

Councilmember Threadford

Councilmember Matthews

Councilmember Bryant

Mayor Newton

Nays:

None

Motion passed.

Mayor Newton then opened the floor for public comment.

Chief Major, Mr. M. Stephen Fancher, and Dr. Riley thanked the council for voting on raises.

The council then considered the vouchers and expenses from the Tarrant Electric Department and City of Tarrant. Councilmember Threadford made a motion to approve with a second from Bryant. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was held.

Yeas:

Councilmember Threadford

Councilmember Matthews

Councilmember Bryant

Mayor Newton

Nays:

Councilmember Freeman

Motion passed.

Mayor Newton opened the floor for public comments

Councilmember Bryant made a motion to adjourn with a second from Anderson. All present voted yes.

A resident discussed a safety concern. Chief Major addressed the resident's concern and she left to speak with law enforcement.

City Attorney Michael Brymer suggested that the City Council enter executive session regarding a potential real estate contract and offer to purchase.

Mayor Newton made a motion to accept City Attorney Michael Brymer's recommendation to enter executive session with a second from Councilmember Bryant.

A roll call vote was held.

Yeas:

Councilmember Threadford

Councilmember Matthews

Councilmember Bryant

Mayor Newton


Nays:


Councilmember Freeman

Motion approved.

Executive session started at 8:02 and ended at 8:19 with the council planning to not reconvene.

READ AND APPROVED THIS THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2021.

APPROVED:   
Wayman A. Newton, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Aislinn Riley, Acting City Clerk

**CERTIFICATION OF CITY CLERK**

**STATE OF ALABAMA)  
JEFFERSON COUNTY)**

I, Aislinn Riley, Acting City Clerk of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly and legally adopted by the City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022 while in regular session on Monday, June 6, 2022, and the same appears of record in the minute book of said date of said City.

Witness my hand and seal of office this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022.

  
Aislinn Riley, Acting City Clerk

