

**City of Tarrant
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 17th, 2021
Tarrant City Hall**

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama met for regular work session on Monday, May 17th, 2021 at 7:00pm at City Hall. Mayor Newton called the meeting to order. Bishop John Retman Sr. gave the invocation and Building Inspector Donald Ferris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Threadford made a motion to appoint Kim Stone as acting clerk with a second from Freeman. There was no discussion. All present voted yes. Motion passed.

The following officials were present during roll call:

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

First the council considered the minutes from the May 3rd, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Council member Bryant made a motion to table the minutes until the next meeting with a second from Anderson. Council member Bryant stated that his issue with the minutes was with the public comment, not words. Mayor Newton then called for a roll call vote

Yeas:

Council member Freeman
Council member Threadford
Council member Anderson
Council member Matthews
Council member Bryant

Nays:

Mayor Newton

Motion passed.

The Mayor then asked council members Threadford and Freeman to give some comments on their trip to the Alabama League of Municipalities annual convention. Mayor Newton then read and gave out a proclamation to the Maxine Johnson family. Mayor Newton then recognized and awarded \$1000 scholarships to the Tarrant High Valedictorian and Salutatorian Yarecli Luna Padilla and Alex Arroyo, respectively. He also spoke to the council about an internship opportunity the city would be offering to Tarrant High School students over the Summer.

There were no committee reports.

There was no old business.

Mayor Newton then opened the grass and weeds public hearing. The owner of 2124 East Lake Boulevard told the council that his address was not called out but it had been recently cut. Mayor Newton then closed the grass and weeds public hearing.

The council then considered Resolution #8791 – Grass and Weeds. Council member Anderson made a motion approve the resolution with a second from Freeman. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was held.

Yeas:

Council member Freeman
Council member Threadford
Council member Anderson
Council member Matthews

Council member Bryant
Mayor Newton

Nays:
None

Motion passed.

Next the council considered Resolution #8792 – Surplus TPD Property. Council member Threadford made a motion to approve with a second from Bryant. There was no discussion. Mayor Newton called for a roll call vote.

Yeas:
Council member Freeman
Council member Threadford
Council member Anderson
Council member Matthews
Council member Bryant
Mayor Newton

Nays:
None
Motion passed.

Council member Threadford made a motion to approve Resolution #8793 – Contract with RAD Communications. Council member Anderson gave a second. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was held.

Yeas:
Council member Threadford
Mayor Newton

Nays:
Council member Freeman
Council member Anderson
Council member Matthews
Council member Bryant

Motion failed.

Next, the council considered Resolution #8794 – Board of Education Appointment. Bruce Grant, the member up for reappointment, spoke to the council about why he should be reappointed. The council and the Board of Education members present agreed to have a joint work session on June 10th, 2021 at 6pm at the Tarrant High School gymnasium. Mayor Newton asked for nominations for the Board of Education. Council member Threadford nominated Bruce Grant and council member Freeman nominated Crystal Abernathy. Council member Freeman made a motion to table Resolution #8794 and Threadford gave a second. Mayor Newton called for a roll-call vote.

Yeas:
Council member Freeman
Council member Threadford
Mayor Newton

Nays:
Council member Anderson
Council member Matthews
Council member Bryant

Motion failed.

Council member Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution #8794 reappointing Bruce Grant at Board of Education member with a second from Anderson. Mayor Newton called for a roll-call vote.

Yeas:

Council member Anderson
Council member Matthews
Council member Bryant

Nays:

Council member Freeman
Mayor Newton

Pass:

Council member Threadford

Council member Bryant declared the motion passed but Attorney Rubio spoke to the council about whether or not council member Threadford could pass on her vote and vote later. Rubio stated that he would research the matter to find a solution on whether Resolution #8794 passed or failed

Mayor Newton asked for other business. Council member Bryant then asked the mayor on who's authority did he have to retain Absolute Strategies to aid in the hiring process of a police chief. The mayor then stated that he would pay Absolute Strategies out of his own pocket if the council had an issue with their hiring. Much discussion ensued.

Council member Bryant then made a motion to adjourn. Motion died for lack of second.

Council member Threadford then made a motion to approve payments of payroll and expense vouchers by the City and Electrical Department with a second from Freeman. Threadford then asked about a payment made to 2 police officers. Matthews then asked the mayor about the drive thru window at the electric department. More discussion ensued. Council member Anderson made a motion to adjourn with a second from Bryant. Council member Freeman spoke about the divisions in the council. A roll call vote was held.

Yeas:

Council member Freeman
Council member Threadford
Council member Anderson
Council member Matthews
Council member Bryant

Nays:

Mayor Newton

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.


READ AND APPROVED THIS THE 21ST DAY OF JUNE, 2021.

APPROVED: _____



Wayman A. Newton, Mayor

ATTEST: _____


Kim Stone, Acting City Clerk