

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 6, 2024
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday May 6, 2024, at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

Mayor Wayman A. Newton called the meeting to order at 7:06PM following the council work session that began at 6:00PM to discuss items on the agenda and other matters.

City of Tarrant citizen Reverand Webb lead those in attendance in the invocation. 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 Catherine "Cathy" Anderson
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews
Mayor Wayman A. Newton

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from the April 17, 2024 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. After review, Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes from April 17, 2024. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 were adopted, and the minutes for April 17, 2024, council meeting were approved.

The Mayor informed those in attendance of a city wide cleanup day scheduled to be on June 22, 2024. There will be 5 roll out dumpsters for each District and flyers will be sent out providing more detail on the city wide clean up day.

Next, the Mayor asked Seargeant Williamson forward to provide a brief update on the City of Tarrant public cameras. Currently, an estimated 50 cameras with several lacking power. Mayor Newton asked Councilor Threadford if a meeting can be coordinated between the City of Tarrant Electric Department, the Police Department and the Mayors Office. Councilor Threadford elaborated that the Electric Department is currently under negotiations with TVA and TSA, and that the Electric Department will ensure the said cameras will be with power in the near future. Councilor Threadford recommended the Mayor meet with Chief Major in representation of the City of Tarrant Police Department.

There were no Committee Reports.

Moving on to old business Councilor Threadford asked for an update on Police Vehicles. Councilor Bryant questioned the validity of the markings of the police vehicles and questioned unmarked police vehicles in the City of Tarrant. Mayor Newman informed the public on the age of the vehicles and their prior existence to his incumbency. Discussion arose on the peeling and fading's of markings and prior requests for updated markings. Mayor Newman concluded that the issue would be resolved.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9139, A Resolution Removing Police Chief Wendell Majors from the Office of the Chief of Police for the City of Tarrant, Alabama. Mayor Newton moved to approve Resolution No. 9139. Councilor Anderson questioned the term 'removing' and recommended the term 'terminating.' Mayor Newton agreed the term 'removing' to be changed to 'terminating.' The Mayor asked each Councilor if they would second the motion. There was no seconder. Motion failed.

Next, Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9140, A Resolution Approving and Naming the Storm Shelter Being Constructed on Faye Drive Within the City of Tarrant the Loxil Tuck Storm Shelter. After discussion and history of naming and proposition of possibly including other names, Councilor Anderson requested the Resolution to be tabled due to the additional name request on the agenda. Councilor Bryant moved to table Resolution No. 9140 until the next meeting. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 9140 was agreed to, and the Resolution was tabled.

Councilor Threadford introduced and read Resolution No. 9141, A Resolution Approving Morrow Law Center, LLC to Represent the City of Tarrant, City Manager John Brown and in the Matter of State of Alabama, Rel. Deanna Ceasor, as Informant V. John C. Brown and With Respect to Employment, Contract Terms and Conditions Related to the Performance and Duties as City Manager. Councilor Threadford made a motion to amend Resolution 9141 to delete 4 b) in the said Resolution 9141. There was readiness by Mayor Newton. Mayor Newton questioned the last payment and asked for an invoice from the last previous Retainer. Councilor Threadford reassured that an invoice will be submitted from the previous Retainer. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote on the amendment.

Yeas:

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

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 Resolution 9141 was agreed to, and the Resolution was amended.

Next, Councilor Threadford made a motion to approve Resolution No 9141 as amended, A Resolution Approving Morrow Law Center, LLC to Represent the City of Tarrant, City Manager John Brown and the Matter of State of Alabama Rel. Deanna Ceasor, as Informant V. John C. Brown and with Respect to Employment, Contract Terms and Conditions Related to the Performance and Duties as City Manager. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton asked for readiness. Councilor Bryant requested the motion be tabled until next meeting due to more questions regarding the Resolution. Mayor Newton asked Councilor Threadford if she is prepared to withdraw the motion. Councilor Threadford motioned to withdraw the motion in favor of table until the next meeting. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 9141 was agreed to, and the Resolution was tabled.

Councilor Threadford introduced and read Resolution No. 9142, A Resolution Appointing Mr. Jesse Mendez to the Tarrant City Board of Education. Mayor Newton expressed readiness by recommending the Resolution be tabled and that applications be publicly opened to other interested candidates. Mayor Newton moved to table Resolution No. 9142. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Abstain:

Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews

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 9142 was agreed to, and the Resolution was tabled.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9143, A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of an Asphalt Hot Box for Public Works Department. There was discussion on the specifications of the Asphalt. A temporary hold off voting on the resolution was recommended. Mayor Newton moved on to the next Resolution on the agenda.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9144, A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Signage Inventory for the City of Tarrant Public Works Department. There was readiness by Councilor Freeman in regards to past signage and adding 'Children at Play' signage. Recommendation was made to increase the price to \$40k. Mayor Newton moved to approve to amend Resolution No. 9144. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 Resolution 9144 with amendments was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved to be amended.

Next, Mayor Newton moved to approve Resolution No. 9144 with the amendment, A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Signage Inventory for the City of Tarrant Public Works Department. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 Resolution 9144 with amendments was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved with the amendment.

Councilor Bryant recommended to table Resolution No, 9145, A resolution Naming the Storm Shelter Being Constructed on Faye Drive Within the City of Tarrant the Edna Marie Johnson Storm Shelter. Councilor Bryant motioned to table Resolution No. 9145. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 9145 was agreed to, and the Resolution was tabled.

Councilor Freeman introduced and read Resolution No. 9146, A Resolution PreApproving of and Authorizing Travel for Councilwoman Veronica Freeman to Attend the national League of Cities Summer Board and Leadership Meeting. Councilor Freeman moved to approve and adopt Resolution No. 9146. Councilor Matthews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton asked if there is any readiness. There was discussion on the agenda conference. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Abstain:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant

Yeas:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being two (2) and the nays being three (3) with zero (0) member not voting, and one (1) abstain. Motion failed. Councilor Freeman requested Mayor Newton to vote and for the record requested the 'no' vote to be recorded. Motion for Resolution No. 9146 failed.

Resolution No. 9143 was brought back to the Council meeting from its temporary halt, A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase an Asphalt Hot Box for Public Works Department. There was continued discussion on the specifications of the Asphalt. Mayor Newton moved to motion to amend the Resolution by increasing the price to \$9,000.00 to include all necessary accessories. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor

Yeas:

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

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 Resolution 9143 with amendments was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Next, Mayor Newton moved to approve Resolution 9143 as amended. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 Resolution 9143 as amended was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved as amended.

There were no Presentations of Petitions and other communications.

Next, the City Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant for May 6, 2024 and Tarrant Electric Department for May 6, 2024. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant for May 6, 2024, and the Tarrant Electric Department for May 6, 2024. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being four (4) and the nays being one (1) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant for May 6, 2024 and the Tarrant Electric Department for May 6, 2024 was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

Next, the Council moved to Public Comments.

First, Chuck Winborn provided update on Crime Commission appropriate conducts during meetings and its racial diversity. Invited public to Crime Commission informational meetings that are held every Saturday before the City Council meeting. Mr. Winborn reviewed and outlined some of the job duties and oaths of the City of Tarrant Crime Commission.

Second, Tommy Bryant addressed City of Tarrant police vehicles . Further, in District one the following needs to be attended: Speed bump in District one needs to be removed and another needs to be added. Street signs needed to be added for identification. Private property lots being cut by the City of Tarrant. The said properties addresses was added by Mr. Bryant for each concern.

Third, Charles Johnson commended the Mayor, Council, Chief of Police and all in attendance. Mr. Johnson bought forward individuals in the City of Tarrant abuses on the right to bear arms, that citizens are being held at gun point. A suggestion by Mr. Johnson was to increase and mandate public camera surveillance within the City of Tarrant. The City of Tarrant Council agreed to a work session set for Monday May 13, 2024 @ 5pm in the City of Tarrant Courthouse as a public meeting place.

Fourth, Ms. Boyken presented a copy of an email sent by Mayor Newton. The email was confirmed to be misunderstood and misinterpreted as a communication sent out by the City of Tarrant Police Seargeant rather than the Mayor. The email was in regards to the City of Tarrants inability of addressing dispatch calls outside City of Tarrant jurisdiction.

Councilor Threadford excused herself from the meeting.

Councilor Freeman excused herself from the meeting.

Fifth, Pastor Chris informed all who were present of past break and enters in his property. Councilor Freeman excused herself from the meeting. Pastor Chris elaborated on other negative experiences with the City of Tarrant.

Councilor Bryant excused himself from the meeting.

Sixth Pastor Gwen Webb communicated brief historical and moral story of past City of Tarrant resident and current Mayor.

Seventh Jackie Beltaine asked about neighborhood associations other than the one that exists with Brummitt Heights. Ms Beltaine presented the Council in attendance with finance committee and budget questions. City of Tarrant leadership and City of Tarrant citizen relationships was acknowledged by Ms. Beltaine. Ms. Beltaine also revealed Facebook Tarrant Tattler identification.

There being no further comments Mayor Newton suggested an end to the meeting since there was no quorum. Meeting ended at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Dr. Laverne Knight
City Clerk May 20, 2024
City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama




Dr. Laverne Knight

READ AND APPROVED this the 20th day of May, 2024.

The City of Tarrant, Alabama
APPROVED: 
WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR