

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 20, 2024
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday May 20, 2024, at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

Mayor Wayman A. Newton called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM following the council work session that began at 6:00PM to discuss items on the agenda and other matters.

City of Tarrant Fire Chief Patrick Bennet lead those in attendance in the invocation. City of Tarrant City Clerk Laverne Knight 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 May 6, 2024 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. After review, Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes from May 6, 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 May 6, 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. The Mayor asked if the Electric Department can mail out the flyers, Reshonda McNeal from the Electric Department responded by confirming addresses can be provided by replacing the term ‘resident’ rather than the actual home owner or renters name of each private home. Councilor Threaded added other groups who would be participating in the clean up day.

There were no Committee Reports.

The Mayor and Council moved on to Old Business.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9139, A Resolution Terminating 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. The Mayor asked the Council if anyone would second the motion. There was no seconder. Motion to adopt did not receive a second.

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. Mayor Newton moved to adopt Resolution No. 9140. 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
Mayor Wayman Newton

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with zero (0) member not voting, the motion to approve and adopt Resolution 9140 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved and adopted.

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 moved to approve Resolution No. 9141. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Abstain:

Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson

Nays:

Mayor Wayman Newton

Not voting:

None

The yeas being four (4), the abstains being one (1), and the nays being one (1) with zero (0) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution 9141 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9142, A Resolution Appointing Mr. Jesse Mendez to the Tarrant City Board of Education. Mayor Newton expressed readiness by reading another candidate's application of interest and resume, Escott Jarvis, recommending that Mr. Jarvis be the candidate on the Tarrant City Board of Education. Mr. Jarvis could not meet the current Mayor and Council meeting for face-to-face questioning and interviewing. Mayor Newton made recommendation to table Resolution No. 9142 and asked for a seconder. There was no seconder.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9142, A Resolution Appointing Mr. Jesse Mendez to the Tarrant City Board of Education. Councilor Bryant moved to adopt Resolution No. 9142. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton expressed further readiness by asking for the Resolution to be tabled and for the current Tarrant City of Board Member to be replaced by Mr. Jarvis. Mayor Newton asked each Councilor for a second. There was no seconder. 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:

Mayor Wayman Newton

Not voting:

None

The yeas being four (4), the abstains being one (1), the nays being one (1) with zero (0) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution 9142 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton moved on to withdraw 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 Threadford read and made motion to withdraw Resolution No. 9145. Councilor Anderson made comment and noted that there will be a way found to commemorate the memory of Edna Marie Johnson. Mayor Newton 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 withdraw Resolution 9145 was agreed to, and the Resolution was withdrawn.

The City of Tarrant Mayor and Council moved on to New Business.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Ordinance No. 1162 FIRST READING, An Ordinance Establishing and Creating the City of Tarrant Alabama Police Department. Councilor Bryant made motion to table Ordinance No. 1162 until the second Mayor and Council meeting in June 2024. Councilor Anderson noted a work session for June 4, 2024. Mayor Newton recommended the Ordinance be tabled at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Mayor Newton stated that the next item on the agenda would be a public hearing, for consideration of declaring certain properties a public nuisance pursuant to Ordinance No. 1017 of the City of Tarrant. Mayor Newton opened a public hearing for each of the individual properties:

Resolution No. 9147 – A Resolution of the City of Tarrant Pursuant to Ordinance No. 1017 of the City of Tarrant Declaring Certain Properties a Public Nuisance 1212 Depot St., Birmingham, Alabama 35217.

Resolution No. 9148 - A Resolution of the City of Tarrant Pursuant to Ordinance No. 1017 of the City of Tarrant Declaring Certain Properties a Public Nuisance 1129 Forrest St., Birmingham, Alabama 35217.

Resolution No. 9149 - A Resolution of the City of Tarrant Pursuant to Ordinance No. 1017 of the City of Tarrant Declaring Certain Properties a Public Nuisance 1137 Linthicum St., Birmingham, Alabama 35217.

Resolution No. 9150 - A Resolution of the City of Tarrant Pursuant to Ordinance No. 1017 of the City of Tarrant Declaring Certain Properties a Public Nuisance 229 Springdale Rd., Birmingham, Alabama 35217.

Resolution No. 9151 - A Resolution of the City of Tarrant Pursuant to Ordinance No. 1017 of the City of Tarrant Declaring Certain Properties a Public Nuisance 313 Springdale Rd., Birmingham, Alabama 35217.

Resolution No. 9152 - A Resolution of the City of Tarrant Pursuant to Ordinance No. 1017 of the City of Tarrant Declaring Certain Properties a Public Nuisance 315 Springdale Rd., Birmingham, Alabama 35217.

Resolution No. 9153 - A Resolution of the City of Tarrant Pursuant to Ordinance No. 1017 of the City of Tarrant Declaring Certain Properties a Public Nuisance 1858 McDavid St., Birmingham, Alabama 35217.

Resolution No. 9154 - A Resolution of the City of Tarrant Pursuant to Ordinance No. 1017 of the City of Tarrant Declaring Certain Properties a Public Nuisance 1871 McDavid St., Birmingham, Alabama 35217.

After reading each property address, Mayor Newton repeatedly asked if there was anyone present to speak on behalf of each property. No one present spoke on each of the said properties. Upon closing the public hearing for each property, Councilor Threadford moved to approve Resolution No. 9147, Resolution No. 9148, Resolution No. 9149, Resolution No. 9150, Resolution No. 9151, Resolution No. 9152, Resolution No. 9153, and Resolution No. 9154. 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 Resolution No. 9147, Resolution No. 9148, Resolution No. 9149, Resolution No. 9150,

Resolution No. 9151, Resolution No. 9152, Resolution No. 9153, and Resolution No. 9154 were all agreed to, and the Resolutions were approved.

Next, Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9155, A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of an invitation to Bid for Residential Garbage Services. Mayor Newton moved to adopt Resolution No. 9155. 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
Mayor Wayman Newton

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with zero (0) member not voting, the motion to approve and adopt Resolution 9155 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved and adopted.

Next, Councilor Freeman introduced and read Resolution No. 9156, A Resolution Preapproving of and Authorizing Travel for Councilwoman Veronica Freeman to Attend the National League of Cities Women In Municipal Government Summer Conference. Councilor Freeman moved to approve Resolution No. 9156. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton suggested a short recess due to Councilor Freeman sudden illness. After the short recess and determination that Councilor Freeman would not be in attendance of the remainder of the meeting, Mayor Newton called the meeting back to order. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Mayor Wayman Newton

Nays:

Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews

Not voting:

None

The yeas being two (2) and the nays being three (3) with zero (0) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution 9156 failed.

Presentations of Petitions and other communications.

Councilor Anderson reminded those in attendance that the scheduled work session for May 13, 2024 was cancelled due to the absence of the interested advocate for the City of Tarrant video cameras.

Next, the City Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant for May 20, 2024 and Tarrant Electric Department for May 20, 2024. Councilor Threadford moved to approve

the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant for May 20, 2024, and the Tarrant Electric Department for May 20, 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 Deborah “Debbie” Matthews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being four (4) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant for May 20, 2024 and the Tarrant Electric Department for May 20, 2024 was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

Next, the Council moved to Public Comments.

Mayor Newton enforced a three minute time limit for each speaker.

First, Scott Morrow informed the Council and all who were present of an action filed on him by Sergeant Williamson. Mr. Morrow asked the Council to investigate the action, and that he is open to future questions or concerns from the Council.

Second, Billy Denton expressed concern over his business that was recently opened in the City of Tarrant. Though the City of Tarrant Business License was granted it was found that there was an error in zoning resulting in the cancellation of the Business License. Deputy Mayor Lisa Baker informed the Council on a clause at the bottom of all City of Tarrant Business License requiring compliance to proper zoning. The Council rejected Mr. Dentons appeal on the re-issuance of a City of Tarrant Business License.

Third, Mrs. Moore addressed the Council regarding City of Tarant Police services and their jurisdiction. Mrs. Moore provided details on a recent occurrence regarding her property, a neighbor and Police. A misunderstanding and conflict occurred according to Mrs. Moore. Mayor Newton referred Mrs. Moore to Detective Crosby who would investigate the conflicting incident. After more discussion, Mayor Newton concluded by informing Mrs. Moore that he would personally look into the incident.

Fourth, Waynette Bonham defined freedom of speech and informed all who were present of Sergeant Williamsons recent court filings with City of Tarrant Crime Commission.

Fifth, Winifred Dill provided her professional background as a member of the Lifetime Birmingham Black Nurses Association and provided an update on the mentorship program at the Intermediate School. Twenty-three children just graduated in knowledge pertaining to medical services including blood pressure monitoring. Ms. Dill elaborated on the importance of parenting and its origins.


There being no further comments Mayor Newton entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilor Threadford moved to make motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Newton seconded the motion. A verbal vote was conducting with all in favor. Meeting ended at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Laverne Knight
City Clerk June 3, 2024
City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama

READ AND APPROVED this the 3rd day of June, 2024.

ATTEST:



L Knight

Dr. Laverne Knight

The City of Tarrant, Alabama

APPROVED: 
WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR