

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 19, 2024
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday August 19, 2024, at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

Mayor Wayman A. Newton called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM immediately 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 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 Tracie B. Threadford
- Councilor Catherine “Cathy” Anderson
- Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Matthews
- Mayor Wayman A. Newton

Absent:

- Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
- Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from the August 5, 2024 regularly scheduled council meeting and the August 8 special called meeting were presented for review and approval. After review, Mayor Newton requested that for the August 5, 2024 minutes, that the 2015 facebook post of Chuck Winborn in the public comments section be added and as indicated in a copy of the post that will be provided to the City Clerk. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes with the latter said amendment for August 5, 2024 and the special called meeting for August 8, 2024 as is. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

- Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
- Councilor Catherine “Cathy” Anderson
- Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Matthews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being zero (0), with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve the minutes were adopted, and the minutes for August 5, 2024 council meeting were approved with the amendment and the August 8th minutes approved as is.

The Mayor commended Councilor Freeman for her previously held Saturday, August 17, 2024 event themed ‘Prayer Changes Walk.’ The Mayor informed all in attendance that he had participated in the event, and he also reminded all those in attendance that Councilor Freeman coordinated and hosted the event as a private citizen. Mayor Newton continued communications by announcing a plaque of appreciation presented to the Mayor and the City for their efforts in cleaning the historical cemetery this past spring 2024, that is comprised of several runaway slaves and buffalo soldier with the oldest grave being estimated to be in the 1850s. The Russian Springs Baptist Church celebrated their 133rd Anniversary last Sunday August 12, 2024. The Mayor read

the plaque of appreciation to the public. The Mayor also acknowledged the first day of 'back to school' and that representatives from the Council that were present included Councilor Threadford and Councilor Freeman.

Councilor Threadford acknowledged coordinating and planning the 'back to school day' for the City of Tarrant as previously mentioned by the Mayor. Councilor Threadford also announced that on the second Saturday of September 14, 2024 there will be a food give away from 9am to 11am. The Food Hub is related to the Community Care Development Care Network which originated from the 'Whats Happening' group. For food to be delivered to senior citizen homes Councilor Threadford stated she will need to be contacted. On October 11th there will also be a job fair 9am to 12pm hosted by the City of Tarrant Council for the City of Tarrant citizens. Several businesses in and outside of Tarrant will be in attendance and are invited to attend. Resume writing for anyone in need of employment will be provided and a fashion show will be used as a demonstration for official business dress. The events will be held at the City of Tarrant Recreation Center.

There were no committee reports.

The Mayor and Council moved on to Old Business.

Councilor Threadford introduced and read Resolution No. 9186, A Resolution Authorizing the Use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds by the City of Tarrant, Alabama, Received Under the Standard Allowance Provision for Lost Revenue Pursuant to 31 C.F.R. § 35. Councilor Threadford moved to approve Resolution No. 9186. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9186 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Threadford introduced Resolution No. 9187. A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of the Salary of the City Manager, Reinstatement of All Benefits Previously Provided to the City Manager, and Directing Back Pay of Any Salary and Benefits to the City Manager. Councilor Threadford moved to table Resolution No. 9187. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to table Resolution No. 9187 was agreed to, and the Resolution was tabled.

The Mayor read Resolution No. 9191. The Mayor requested a motion to approve the said Resolution. Councilor Threadford affirmed Resolution No. 9191 was not on the agenda. The Mayor requested the city clerk to ensure Resolution No. 9191 be on all future agendas. The Tarrant Chief of Police requested to approach the podium in response to Resolution No. 9191. The Chief of Police read a letter from the Alabama Ethics Commission confirming all complaints towards the Police Chief are dismissed and that no violations were found. The Police Chief also reminded the Council that the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) also confirmed all complaints towards him were cleared.

Next, Mayor Newton requested a motion that Resolution No. 9198 be removed from the agenda since it is resolved. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to remove Resolution No. 9198 from the Agenda was agreed to, and the Resolution was removed.

Next the Council moved on to New Business.

Councilor Threadford introduced Resolution No. 9202, A Resolution Appointing the New Municipal Court Judge to Preside Over the City of Tarrant's Municipal Court for a Two-Year Term. Councilor Threadford made a motion to amend Resolution 9202 to a one-year term rather than a two-year term. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to amend Resolution No. 9202 was agreed to, and the Resolution was amended.

Councilor Threadford introduced and read Resolution No. 9202, A Resolution *Appointing* the New Municipal Court Judge to Preside Over the City of Tarrant's Municipal Court for a one-year Term. Councilor Threadford made a motion to approve Resolution No. 9202. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9202 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Threadford introduced and read Resolution No. 9203, A Resolution Authorizing the City Council of the City of Tarrant City Council to Separately Approve of the City of Tarrant Electric Department's Vouchers Separately from the City of Tarrant Vouchers. Councilor Threadford made a motion to approve Resolution No. 9203. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9203 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Next, the City Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant for August 16, 2024 and Tarrant Electric Department for August 16, 2024. There was question on the exclusion of the City of Tarrant vouchers. The city clerk stated that the City Hall vouchers were not provided to her. The Mayor affirmed an email sent on Friday August 15, 2024 to the city clerk. Councilor Anderson recommended the City Hall vouchers be presented at the next regular scheduled council meeting. Mayor Newton questioned some expenses in the City of Tarrant Electric Vouchers. Mr. Todd McGill approached the podium and answered City of Tarrant Electric vouchers expenses. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant Electric for week ending August 16, 2024. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant Electric Department for August 16, 2024 was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

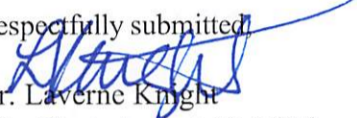
Next, the Council moved to Public Comments.

First, Chuck Winborn. Chuck Winborn declined and forwarded his public comments time to Waynette Bonham. Waynette Bonham asked for progress update on streetlights and questioned why employees fear for their jobs in the City of Tarrant. There was back and forth between Ms.

Bonham and the Mayor. Ms. Bonham also asked why the City Clerk cannot have access to City Hall records. There was more back and forth. *The individual charged the council dais. The individual was provoked by the Mayor.*

Next, Linda Lowry. Ms. Lowry expressed concern over her front yard ditch that was brought up a few months prior. Mayor Newton relayed a message from her neighbor stating that there was flooding issues stemming from her yard to the neighbors yard. The Mayor assured Ms. Lowry that he would talk with the Public Works Director, Andrea Stallworth and invited Ms. Lowry back to the next regularly scheduled meeting. The Mayor also stated that the neighbor will also be invited to the next meeting. Councilor Threadford and Councilor Anderson commented that neighbor disputes cannot be settled by Council; however, pictures were recommended. Councilor Matthews requested Ms. Lowry address.

There being no further comments from the public, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilor Threadford made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Andeson seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken. Meeting ended at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Laverne Knight
City Clerk August 19, 2024

City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama

READ AND APPROVED this the 19thth day of August, 2024.

The City of Tarrant, Alabama

APPROVED: _____
WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR


OFFICIAL SEAL
CITY OF TARRANT
ALABAMA
ATTEST:

Dr. Laverne Knight