

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2023
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday November 20, 2023, at 7:00PM at City Hall.

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

Tarrant City Fire Chief Patrick Bennett lead those in attendance in the invocation. City Attorney Michael Brymer 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 Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson
Mayor Wayman A. Newton
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews

The following officials were absent:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman was absent.

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from the November 6, 2023 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. After review, Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes from November 6, 2023 meeting as amended. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson
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 minutes was adopted, and the minutes for November 20, 2023, council meeting were approved.

To explain why the Mayor placed the Chief of Police on Administrative Leave on November 13, 2023, the Mayor reviewed the purposes and necessities of National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database. NCIC, a major database allowing law enforcement agencies to search for information including missing persons, stolen property, warrants, individuals on probation, U.S Secret Service protection list etc. was reviewed. There was conflict on the weekend of November 10, 2023 due to the inability of Tarrant Police Department access to NCIC, resulting in the Mayor's disciplinary action to the Chief of Police.

The Chief of Police was asked to come forward and explain why the Tarrant Police Department did not have access to NCIC.

The Chief of Police explained that removal of dispatcher from Tarrant Police Department roster eliminated their access. The dispatchers that had initial access to NCIC were no longer able to access the database due to their reassignments.

This ended the communications from the Mayor's Office.

After the Mayor spoke, Councilor Tracie Threadford provided a list of the turkey winners to all those in attendance. The winners from each of the five districts that were present and claimed their winnings. List is as follows: District 1, Debbie Dumais and Nia-Imani Carwell. District 2, Nanet Baker and Tarra Reed. District 3, Paulette Doss and Ronald Arbitelle (picked up by wife Toushi). District 4, Barry Sides (picked up by wife Marilyn) and Bonita Valdez. District 5, Allen Pilkington and Mildred Cocker (delivered by Mr. Bryant).

This ended the communications from the City Councilors.

The Mayor then called for committee reports.

Councilor Threadford reminded all those in attendance of the Christmas Extravaganza which consists of a Parade on December 9, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. There will be contests for the different Floats and the Council is asking all Departments to participate.

The Council next considered old business.

Mayor Newton brought forth Resolution No. 9060, A Resolution Approving and Adopting the City of Tarrant General Fund Budget for the Period Beginning October 1, 2023 and Ending September 30, 2024. Councilor Bryant reminded those in attendance that Resolution 9060 was tabled to the December 4, 2023 regularly scheduled Council meeting. The City of Tarrant, City Clerk confirmed the table and apologized for the error made on her part. The Mayor moved on to the next agenda item.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9054, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Service Request Form Between the City of Tarrant and the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority. After a brief discussion, Councilor Bryant motioned to adopt Resolution 9054. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton then called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 adopt Resolution 9054 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9054, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Service Request Form Between the City of Tarrant and the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority. After a brief discussion, Councilor Bryant motioned to adopt Resolution 9054. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton then called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 adopt Resolution 9054 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9067, A Resolution Ordering the Emergency Demolition of Building or Structure Located at 412 Fannie Avenue, Tarrant, AL. 35217. After discussion on the Resolution, Mayor Newton opened a public hearing on the Resolution and asked if there was anyone present who wish to speak for or against the Resolution. The City's Building Inspector was present and spoke regarding the current condition of the property and stated the structure's current condition constituted an imminent hazard. No one else was present to speak for or against the Resolution. The Mayor then closed the public hearing. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution No. 9067. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 adopt Resolution 9067 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9080, A Resolution Ordering the Emergency Demolition of Building or Structure Located at 1321 Prosch Avenue, Tarrant, AL. 35217. After discussion on the Resolution, Mayor Newton opened a public hearing on the Resolution and asked if there was anyone present who wish to speak for or against the Resolution. The City's Building Inspector was present and spoke regarding the current condition of the property and stated the structure's current condition constituted an imminent hazard. No one else was present to speak for or against the Resolution. The Mayor then closed the public hearing. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution No. 9080. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 adopt Resolution 9080 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9081, A Resolution Ordering the Emergency Demolition of Building or Structure Located at 1152 Thomason Avenue, Tarrant, AL. 35217. After discussion on the Resolution, Mayor Newton opened a public hearing on the Resolution and asked if there was anyone present who wish to speak for or against the Resolution. The City's Building Inspector was present and spoke regarding the current condition of the property and stated the structure's current condition constituted an imminent hazard. No one else was present to speak for or against the Resolution. The Mayor then closed the public hearing. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution No. 9081. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 adopt Resolution 9081 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

The Council next considered items for new business.

Mayor Newton introduced Resolution No. 9065, A Resolution Ordering the Emergency Demolition of Building or Structure Located at 1068 Bristol Street, Tarrant, AL. 35217. After discussion on the Resolution, Mayor Newton opened a public hearing on the Resolution and asked if there was anyone present who wish to speak for or against the Resolution. The City's Building Inspector was present and spoke regarding the current condition of the property and stated the structure's current condition constituted an imminent hazard. No one else was present to speak for or against the Resolution. The Mayor then closed the public hearing. Mayor Newton moved to table the Resolution No. 9065 to November December 4, 2023 Tarrant City Council Regular Meeting. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 table Resolution 9065 was agreed to, and the Resolution was tabled.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9085, A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the City of Tarrant Police Department to Enter into Contract and Payment of Leads Online Power Plus Investigation System Service Package. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution 9085. Councilor Matthews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 adopt Resolution 9085 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9086, A Resolution Renewing the Contract and Payment of Finder Software Solutions for Tarrant Police Department. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution 9086. Councilor Matthews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 adopt Resolution 9086 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Councilor Anderson introduced and read Resolution No. 9087, A Resolution Appointing SAIN Associates, Inc. as the Duly Qualified City Engineer for the Provision of General Engineering Services for the City of Tarrant. Councilor Anderson moved to approve Resolution 9087. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Cathy Anderson

Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

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 adopt Resolution 9087 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9088, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Expend Funds Associated with the City of Tarrant Residential Demolition Project. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution 9088. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 adopt Resolution 9088 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9089, A Resolution Overturning and Repealing the Suspension and Placement of the Chief of Police on Administrative Leave. After discussion Councilor Bryant requested that the police chief be paid his automobile allowance for the time he was on administrative leave be added to the Resolution. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution 9089 with amendments. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 adopt Resolution 9089 with amendments was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

There were no presentations of petitions and other communications.

Next, the City Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department for November 20, 2023. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department for November 20, 2023. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

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 adopt the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were adopted.

Next, the City Council heard from members of the public who had signed up to speak prior to the meeting.

First, Chuck Winborn. Chuck Winborn expressed his concern for the City of Tarrant and his role as a Crime Commission Member.

Second, Will Smith. Will Smith thanked everyone for their participation at the Brummitt Heights Park hosted by Councilor Freeman on November 11, 2023 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There were about two hundred guests in attendance for the games and activities community get together.

This concluded public comments.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, Mayor Pro Tem Tracie Threadford moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with all present being in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Laverne Knight
City Clerk September November 20, 2023
City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama

READ AND APPROVED this the 20th day of November, 2023.



The City of Tarrant, Alabama



ATTEST:



Dr. Laverne Knight

APPROVED: 

WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR