

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 4, 2023
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday December 4, 2023, at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

Prior to convening the regular meeting, an executive session was held for the purposes of discussing the good name and character of an individual and employee(s), who is / are not required to file a statement of economic interest, performance relating to Resolution 9061 was convened. Following discussion with Chief Major regarding the stated reason for the executive session, the City Attorney, Michael Brymer, offered an opinion that grounds existed as stated for an executive session to occur. A motion to enter into the executive session was made by Counselor Bryant. 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 Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being six (6) and the nays being zero (0) with zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to adopt enter into executive session at the end of the council work session before the was agreed to and the motion approved. The work session was adjourned at the conclusion of the executive session. Mayor and Council completed Executive Session at 7:05 PM.

Mayor Wayman A. Newton called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 7:06 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. Recreation Director Scott Evans 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
Mayor Wayman A. Newton
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews

The following officials were absent:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford was absent due to an unforeseen circumstance.

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from the November 20, 2023 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. After review, Councilor Anderson moved to approve the minutes from November 20, 2023 meeting. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Next, the Mayor updated all who were in attendance on the official City of Tarrant Christmas lighting to be on Friday December 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

This ended communications from the Mayors Office.

The Mayor then called for Committee Reports.

Councilor Anderson reminded everyone that the City of Tarrant Christmas Extravaganza could be moved a few hours earlier from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM due to the possible storms, rather than 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Saturday December 9, 2023.

Councilor Freeman expressed her gratitude of learning and being a participant of the National League of Cities (NLC). Being a part of the NLC enables leaders to be more connected to their communities.

Councilor Freeman also informed all who were present that Birmingham Director of Transportation James Fowler informed her that the traffic light in the intersection of Tarrant Huffman Road and Treadwell Road will be fixed in less than six months for the safety concerns. Councilor Freeman thanked all who made the traffic light intersection initiative a success in its fixation, including Mayor Woodfin of the City of Birmingham.

Councilor Freeman informed all who were present that a 'Neighborhood Watch' for District 1 is currently being coordinated. The Councilor thanked the City of Tarrants Crime Commission for its efforts in aiding this safety endeavor. Cameras ill be installed with objectives of the current initiative to extend to all areas within the City of Tarrant.

Councilor Freeman also introduced former Ms. Senior Alabama Dana Self who will be the Grand Marshal for the upcoming City of Tarrant parade. Ms. Dana Self introduced herself and extended her thanks to the Mayor and Council for the honored opportunity, and that current Ms Senior Alabama and Ms. Super Senior Alabama will be a part of the upcoming Christmas Extravaganza.

The Council next considered old business.

In considering items under old business, 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 was not introduced. No motion was made adopting Resolution No. 9060. The Mayor moved on to the next agenda item.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9061, A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the City of Tarrant Police Department to Enter into Agreement with Lexipol, LLP., A Service Contractor in Reviewing the City of Tarrant Police Department Annual Law Enforcement Policy Manual, Daily Training Bulletins and Law Enforcement Tier III Implementation. There was discussion on the details of the Agreement with Lexipol, LLP.

Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution 9061. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Cathy Anderson
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
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 9061 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Next, the City Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department for November 6, 2023. Councilor Anderson moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department for November 6, 2023. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Cathy Anderson
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
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 for November 6, 2023 was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were adopted.

The Council next considered items for new business.

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. 1001 of the City of Tarrant. Mayor Newton therefore individually opened a public hearing for the following properties:

Resolution No. 9090 – A Resolution of the City of Tarrant Pursuant to Ordinance No. 1001 of the City of Tarrant Declaring Certain Properties a Public Nuisance at 1224 Waverly Street, Birmingham, AL 35217.

Resolution No. 9091 – A Resolution of the City of Tarrant Pursuant to Ordinance No. 1001 of the City of Tarrant Declaring Certain Properties a Public Nuisance at 1025 Overton Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35217.

Resolution No. 9092 – A Resolution of the City of Tarrant Pursuant to Ordinance No. 1001 of the City of Tarrant Declaring Certain Properties a Public Nuisance at 2139 Weatherly Avenue, Tarrant, AL 35217.

Resolution No. 9093 – A Resolution of the City of Tarrant Pursuant to Ordinance No. 1001 of the City of Tarrant Declaring Certain Properties a Public Nuisance at 1804 Springfield Street, Birmingham, AL 35217.

Resolution No. 9094 – A Resolution of the City of Tarrant Pursuant to Ordinance No. 1001 of the City of Tarrant Declaring Certain Properties a Public Nuisance at 1216 Waverly Street, Birmingham, AL 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 of the public hearing for each property, Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution 9090, Resolution 9091, Resolution 9092, Resolution 9093 and Resolution 9094. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Cathy Anderson
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
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 9090, Resolution 9091, Resolution 9092, Resolution 9093 and Resolution 9094 was agreed to, and each of the Resolutions were adopted.

Mayor Newton introduced Resolution No. 9095, A Resolution Setting Forth the Official Holidays for Employees of the City of Tarrant for the Year 2024. After introducing the Resolution, the Mayor explained that the Official Holidays for the proposed Calander year of 2024 was the same as year 2023. Councilor Anderson moved to approve Resolution 9094. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Cathy Anderson
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
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 9095 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Councilor Anderson introduced and read Resolution No. 9096, A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase and Replacement of a Heater Unit for the City of Tarrant Recreation Center. Councilor Anderson moved to approve Resolution 9096. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Cathy Anderson
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
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 9096 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Next, the Mayor and Council moved to presentations of petitions and other communications.

First, Councilor Bryant asked for Mr. Beck to step to the podium. Mr. Beck, Board Member for Parks and Recreation requested basketballs be financially allocated in the near future.

Councilor Bryant asked for how much was recently received from Congress for the recovery plan. Deputy Mayor Lisa Baker confirmed the purchase of the City of Tarrant Fire Truck, and additional money for the rescue vehicle that recently was recently claimed for insurance. Deputy Lisa Baker will provide the exact total to Councilor Bryant in near future.

Next, the City Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department for December 4, 2023. Councilor Anderson moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department for December 4, 2023. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Cathy Anderson
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
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 for December 4, 2023 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.

Mayor Newton left the meeting due to an unforeseen circumstance.

First, Charles Johnson. Charles Johnson informed the Mayor and Council of the paved problems on Toles Street at Brummitt Heights. He requested the Mayor and Council take a drive on the street to understand and identify the road problems at Toles Street.

Second, Chuck Winborn. Chuck Winborn expressed concerns regarding Public Works in the City of Tarrant.

Third, Council Attorney Charlie D. Waldrep provided recommendation on the litigation between Mayor Newton and Police Chief Major.

Councilor Bryant motioned to suspend the rules for this meeting to add City Council Attorney Charlie D. Waldrep recommendations to the agenda. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Councilor Bryant called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Cathy Anderson
Councilor Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

None

The yeas being four (4) and the nays being zero (0) with zero (0) member not voting, the motion authorizing the suspension of the rules to add Council Attorney recommendation for this meeting was agreed to, and the motion was adopted.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9097, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor Pro Tem Councilor Tracie Threadford to Authorize Expenditures for Chief Major's Legal Counsel Subject to Certain Condition. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution 9097. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Councilor Bryant called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Cathy Anderson
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

None

The yeas being four (4) and the nays being zero (0) with zero (0) member not voting, the motion to adopt Resolution 9097 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

This concluded public comments.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, Councilor Bryant moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with all present being in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Laverne Knight
City Clerk September December 18, 2023
City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama

READ AND APPROVED this the 18thth day of December, 2023.



The City of Tarrant, Alabama

APPROVED: 
WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Dr. Laverne Knight