

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2023
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday December 18, 2023, at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

Mayor Wayman A. Newton called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 7:01 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. Deputy Mayor Lisa Baker 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
Mayor Wayman A. Newton
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Matthews

The following officials were absent:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant was absent.

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from the December 4, 2023 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. After review, Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes with amendments for December 4, 2023 meeting. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
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 December 4, 2023, council meeting were approved.

Next, the Mayor extended his greetings to all who were in attendance by words of encouragement to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And, that this is the last Mayor and Council meeting of the year.

Councilor Threadford publicly thanked the City of Tarrant Police and the Fire Department in their efforts of helping make the 2023 Christmas Parade a success. A thank you was also extended out to the general public for their attendance at the 2023 Christmas Parade.

Councilor Threadford introduced a guest speaker, Heather Lebischak, President and CEO of North Jefferson Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Heather Lebeschak introduced herself and provided information on the newly founded office of North Jefferson Chamber of Commerce that just opened on Monday December 11, 2023 at 2980 Hawkins Lane. Ms. Lebeschak also confirmed that there are other offices throughout, and that she grew up in the City of Tarrant. The North Jefferson Chamber of Commerce is a business that focuses on advocating, connecting, educating, and fighting for businesses in the north Jefferson community.

Next, Councilor Freeman introduced a book by James C. Hunt titled *The Amazing City* that outlines 7 steps to creating an amazing city. Mr. James C. Hunt was one of the past Presidents of the National League of Cities. Councilor Freeman asked the public to read the book and provide her with recommendations on how to improve the City of Tarrant.

For the record, Councilor Freeman also stated that on November 21, 2023 she had requested Public Works to clean property at 2505 Etowah Street in response to a ladies call and concern. The lady called again and its still not done. Also on 2400 block of Etowah there are several vehicles possibly belonging to a mechanic shop that appear to be blocking the roadway. The lady stated she hasn't been able to watch the Council meetings on Facebook, and Councilor Freeman reminded everyone that she still cannot access Facebook Council meetings as of June 6, 2023. Speedbump on 2700 block is noisy. The old speedbump was better and would like a new one. A few other citizens would like speedbumps in front of their house.

Councilor Freeman continued by informing the Council and public that a lady in the district Mrs Stanley who had been living in Tarrant for over 50 years had passed. Her funeral will be this Thursday, 11:00 AM at Treadwell 2247, Lily Baptist. A proclamation is requested.

This ended communications from the Mayors Office.

The Mayor then called for Committee Reports.

No Committee Reports were made.

The Council next considered old business.

There was no items on the agenda for old business.

The Council next considered items for new business.

Councilor Freeman introduced and read Resolution No. 9098, A Resolution Authorizing the City of Tarrant to Renew Its Membership in the National League of Cities. Councilor Freeman moved to approve Resolution 9098. Councilor Mathews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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 four (4) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to adopt Resolution 9098 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton requested that the next item on the agenda would be Ordinance No. 1157 due to the availability of time regarding the Corporate partners. Mayor Newton requested a waiver of the 1st reading of the Ordinance. A vote was taken but cancelled due to the omittance of motion in cancelling the rules. As a result, a change in order of acknowledge Ordinance No. 1157 was taken as follows:

Mayor Newton requested to suspend the agenda rules to acknowledge Ordinance No. 1157. Mayor Newton moved to adopt the motion to suspend the rules for Ordinance No. 1157. Councilor Mathews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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 four (4) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to suspend the rules to acknowledge Ordinance No. 1157 was agreed to, and the motion was adopted.

Next, Mayor Newton requested the first reading of Ordinance No. 1157 to be waved. Mayor Newton moved to adopt the motion to wave the first reading of Ordinance No. 1157. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Cathy Anderson
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

Councilor Freeman passed on the first round and provided a yea after all had voted. The yeas being four (4) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to wave the first reading of Ordinance No. 1157 was agreed to, and the motion was adopted.

Mayor Newton introduced Ordinance No. 1157. After introducing Ordinance No. 1157 there was discussion on the annexation. After discussion, Mayor Newton moved to approve Ordinance No. 1157. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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 four (4) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Ordinance No. 1157 was agreed to, and the motion was approved.

Next, Mayor Newton moved to reinstate the rules for the regular council meeting. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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 four (4) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to reinstate the rules for the regular council meeting was agreed to, and the motion was adopted.

Councilor Freeman introduced and Resolution No. 9099, A Resolution preapproving of and authorizing Travel for Councilor Veronica Freeman to attend the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference. After discussion, Councilor Anderson requested the total payment for the Resolution No. 9099 not to exceed \$2,500.00. Councilor Freeman moved to approve Resolution No. 9099 with amendments to include payment not to exceed \$2,500.00. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Cathy Anderson
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

Councilor Threadford

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

Councilor Threadford passed on the first round and provided a nay after all had voted. The yeas being three (3) and the nays being one (1) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to adopt Resolution 9099 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Freeman introduced and Resolution No. 9100, A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Neighborhood Watch Signs for Neighborhood Watch Groups Established Within Tarrant. After discussion, the Council concluded the Neighborhood Watch Signes should be for all of the Districts of Tarrant, and recommendation was made to table the Resolution. Councilor Freeman

moved to Table Resolution 9100. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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 four (4) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to Table Resolution 9100 was agreed to, and the Resolution was tabled.

Next, Councilor Freeman read and introduced and read Resolution No. 9101, A Resolution Approving the Terms of the Purchase and Sale Agreement Between the City of Tarrant, Alabama, and Elgin Studios, for the Purchase and Sale of Certain Real Property located at 1120 and 1124 Ford Avenue. After discussion, the Council agreed that a feasibility study will need to be completed prior to Council the sale of any property within the City of Tarrant. Councilor Freeman moved to Table Resolution 9101. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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 four (4) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to Table Resolution 9101 was agreed to, and the Resolution was Tabled.

Councilor Threadford read and introduced Resolution No. 9102, A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase and Replacement of the HVAC System for the City of Tarrant Electric Department. Councilor Threadford moved to approve Resolution 9102. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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 four (4) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to adopt Resolution 9102 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Threadford read and introduced Resolution No. 9103, A Resolution Approving the Use of the Remainder of Funds Donated for the Christmas Extravaganza. Councilor Threadford moved to approve Resolution 9103. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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 four (4) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to adopt Resolution 9103 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Freeman stepped out of the Council meeting.

Mayor Newton read and introduced Resolution No. 9104, A Resolution Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of a Walk-Through Metal Detector for the City of Tarrant Municipal Court Room Entrance. After discussion, the Mayor and Council agreed to strike out Chapter 12, Article I Section 12-6, Discharging Firearms from the Resolution and include two Walk-Through Metal Detectors rather than one for purchase. Mayor Newton moved to approve Resolution 9104 with amendments. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Cathy Anderson
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton
Councilor Freeman

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being zero (0) with two (2) members not voting, the motion to adopt Resolution 9104 was agreed to with amendments, and the Resolution was approved.

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

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 December 18, 2023. Councilor Threadford 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 Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Cathy Anderson
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Mathews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being zero (0) with two (2) members not voting, the motion to adopt the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department for December 18, 2023 was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were adopted.

Councilor Freeman entered into the Council meeting.

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.

First, Chuck Winborn. Chuck Winborn expressed concern of the Mayors circumstances in stepping out of the meetings during public comments. Mr. Winborn also requested updates and information on the appointing authorities of the Chief of Police, the video requests of the previous meetings, and EEOC (equal employment opportunity commission) complaints.

Second, Winifred Dill thanked Councilor Freeman, the Mayor and Council for the demolitions at Brumitt Heights. Ms. Dill expressed concerns on time frame of completed Resolutions.

This concluded public comments.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, Mayor Pro Tempore 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 7:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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

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



The City of Tarrant, Alabama

APPROVED: 
WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Dr. Laverne Knight