

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 15, 2023
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 7:00PM at City Hall.

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

Mr. Chuck Winborn led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. Rcv. Caldwell gave the invocation.

Mayor Newton asked for a roll call. The following officials were present during the roll call:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews
Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Mayor Wayman A. Newton

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from the May 1, 2023, regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. Councilor Freeman asked the minutes from the May 1, 2023, meeting to include the following statement:

I want to go on record once concerning point of order. Once a point of order has been called, it should be immediately recognized. At the council meeting on May 1, 2023, a point of order was called six times by myself, and it was never recognized by you, Mayor Newton. It is written in the Robert's Rules of Order pages 35 – 37 under incidental motion. It is your job mayor, in my opinion, you was being biased to me by failing to recognize me as a council member for district 1.

Mayor Newton then asked if there were any more additions or corrections. Then, Councilor Anderson moved to approve the minutes with the above-stated addition to the May 1, 2023, minutes be included. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a roll call vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member voting present, the motion to approve the minutes from the May 1, 2023, meeting was agreed to, and the minutes approved with the above-stated addition.

Next, the minutes from the May 3, 2023, called meeting were presented for review and approval. Following review, Councilor Threadford moved the minutes from the May 3, 2023, called council meeting be approved as presented. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton then called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member voting present, the motion to approve the minutes from the May 3, 2023, called meeting was agreed to, and the minutes approved.

The following items were communicated from the Mayor's office to those in attendance:

Magic City Detailing, located at 1224 Pinson Street is having a grand reopening celebration on May 20, 2023, at 9:00AM. All were encouraged to attend and stop by.

Next, the Mayor announced that Rushing Springs Baptist Church, located at 550 Rushing Springs Drive, was having a community cookout on May 20, 2023.

Then, the Mayor congratulated the 2023 graduates of Tarrant High School wishing them the best on behalf of the City. Tarrant High School graduation is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 6:00PM, at the Church of the Highlands- Fultondale Campus.

Mayor Newton recognized Deputy Mayor Ms. Lisa Baker and First Lt. Bennett for updates on certain projects involving the City.

Ms. Baker and Lt. Bennett announced at the end of last week, the City received the ladder truck that it had previously purchased along with the skid steer from Thompson Tractor for dam maintenance and other city maintenance and public works needs.

Lt. Bennett then announced that the ladder truck would be designated as Engine 33 and was in the process of getting stickered and striped along with being cleaned up to be put into service. Because it is a ladder truck, all firefighters would be required to receive aerial operator training. An aerial operator class had been scheduled for June 5 – 9. CAFTA was providing the instructor(s) for the class at no charge to the City because several other municipalities from around the area were going to attend also.

This ended the communications from the Mayor's office.

The Mayor next asked for any communications from the city councilors present.

Councilor Freeman announced that, following a meeting with the Brummitt Heights Neighborhood Association, that Jefferson County was working toward reinstalling a flashing yellow (caution) light at Etowah Street that had been damaged in a prior vehicle accident.

Councilor Anderson next raised concerns about the speeding along Birmingham Street. Ms. Gail Darden, who has resided on Birmingham Street for 23 years, has observed that traffic has significantly increased over the last 5 years. Ms. Darden noted that UPS trucks were some of the

main offenders. Upon being asked to confirm the speed limit along Birmingham Street, Chief Major stated the speed limit is 25 miles per hours. A pole had been struck in front of Ms. Darden's residence due to a speeder. It was also noted that children often use Birmingham Street to walk along the sidewalk. With summer break approaching, this could pose a safety issue and increased enforcement was requested.

Councilor Matthews then noted that speeding was also an issue along Keyton Road, Pine ~~Hall~~ ~~Street~~, and Springdale Road. A discussion on the use of speed breakers or rumble strips was had briefly.

Mr. Jimmy Underwood, of 1117 Forest Street, spoke up and raised similar concerns of speeding along Forest Street. Mr. Underwood also stated there was an abandoned vehicle along the street that needed to be moved or towed. Additionally, Mr. Underwood indicated the field across the street had become overgrown and needed to be mowed.

The Mayor then called for committee reports.

No reports were made by the Committees.

There was no old business for the City Council to consider, so the council proceeded to agenda items of new business.

Councilor Freeman introduced and read Resolution 9014, A Resolution Requesting Quotes for Repair of Bathrooms at Brummitt Heights Park and Directing Immediate Repair of Item at Park. After reading the resolution, the Mayor opened a public hearing on the matter. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member voting present, the motion to approve Resolution 9014 was agreed to, and the resolution approved.

Councilor Threadford introduced and read Resolution 9015, A Resolution Reappointing Ms. Sheaka Collins to the Tarrant City Schools Board of Education. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Councilor Threadford read a letter from Dr. McDonald, TCS Superintendent, in support of the reappointment of Ms. Collins. Mayor Newton stated it was a disservice to the citizens not to consider the other applicants. Mayor Newton noted that the schools were failing and the reappointment was continuing the same old, same old. There being no further debate, Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

Abstained:

Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews

The yeas being four (4) and the nays being one (1) with one (1) member abstaining. The motion to approve Resolution 9015 was agreed to, and the resolution approved.

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

First, Ms. Sandra Matthews and her daughter addressed the council regarding the drainage ditch in the rear of her property needing to be maintained and fixed. Ms. Matthews indicated the problem is affecting 6 surrounding houses and the proposed solution sent by her daughter would correct all of the problems. There has not, however, been an engineer report detailing the corrective plan of action other than the one submitted by Sain & Associates.

Second, Mr. Frank Adams of 1128 Jackson Blvd, discussed Hall's Alley and the need for maintaining and mowing grass along the alley way. He also noted that a manhole cover has come uncovered and causing issues with him and the surrounding neighbors. The manhole appears to be a Jefferson County maintained drainage system. Mr. Adams also mentioned a ditch on the south end of the property where water was flowing constantly.

This concluded comments from the public.

Finally, the council considered the vouchers and expenses of the city and the electric department. Mayor Newton questioned why his personal power bill had been delivered to his office at city hall versus mailed to his home address. Councilor Threadford stated she was unaware of the issue, but that the electric department's bills are sent from CSA and not handled within the electric department. Mayor Newton asked for clarification regarding a voided check made payable to Councilor Bryant. After some discussion regarding these items, the approval of the vouchers and expenses were carried over to the June 5, 2023, regular meeting.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, Councilor Threadford 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 8:09PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Brymer

Acting City Clerk for the May 15, 2023, City Council Meeting

READ AND APPROVED this the 5th day of June 2023.



APPROVED:


Wayman Newton, Mayor



Acting City Clerk, Michael Brymer