

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

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday February 19, 2024, 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.

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 Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Matthews
Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The following officials were absent:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Catherine “Cathy” Anderson

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from the February 5, 2024 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. Councilor Freeman recommended the minutes to be exact word for word rather than summarization. After review, Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes from February 5, 2024. Mayor Newton seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Matthews

Nays:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being two (2) and the nays being one (1), with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve the minutes was not adopted, and the minutes for February 5, 2024, council meeting failed for adoption.

The Mayor informed those in attendance that for the City of Tarrant Black History month program celebration, a partnership has been formed with the Birmingham Civil Rights Activist Committee. The partnership will be hosting a showing and talk with the Foot Soldiers of the Childrens Crusade for when the Youth Marched for Justice. A panel will also be present during the event set for February 24, 2024 at 11 am at the Tarrant City Public Library. The Mayor extended his invitation to the public.

The Mayor also informed that there is currently a 14 day pot hole challenge with the City of Tarrant Public Works Department. With just a few days left several holes have been filled. Individuals may contact City Hall or respond on Facebook to identify potholes within the City of Tarrant.

Next, Councilor Freeman informed the Mayor that on behalf of some residents from District 1 there is a 3 year evaluation being performed. The evaluation is performed on the Mayor and Council Freeman. Councilor Freeman asked the Mayor if he was aware of the evaluation currently being informed. The Mayor had no response. Further Councilor Freeman read Mayor Newtons past campaign card for year 2020. Councilor Freeman asked for comments from the Mayor on her reading. The Mayor responded by elaborating on the read campaign card for year 2020. Councilor Freeman further questioned a previous block grant. America Rescue and Care Act funding was also questioned by Councilor Freeman on behalf of some residents of District 1. Councilor Freeman also had concerns on inaccessibility to the City of Tarrant Facebook page.

This ended the communications from the Mayor’s office.

The Mayor then called for committee reports.

No reports were made.

The Council next considered old business.

No old business was pending before the city council, the council next moved to consider new business on the agenda.

The Council next considered items of new business.

Councilor Matthews read and introduced Resolution No. 9115, A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Replacement Parts for the Scutt Kiln in the City of Tarrant Recreation Center. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
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 authorize and approve Resolution 9115 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Threadford read and introduced Resolution No. 9116, A Resolution Approving the Application for Incorporation of the Electric Board of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, and Authorizing the Incorporation Thereof. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
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 authorize and approve Resolution 9116 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton read and introduced Resolution No. 9117, A Resolution Preapproving of and Authorizing Travel for Councilwoman Tracie B. Threadford, Councilwoman Catherine Anderson and Councilwoman Deborah Matthews to Attend the Alamba League of Municipalities 2024 Annual Convention. Mayor Newton made a motion to amend the Resolution by adding the Mayor, Councilor Bryant and Councilwoman Freeman. Councilor Matthews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
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 amend Resolution 9117 was agreed to, and the Resolution was amended.

Councilor Matthews read and introduced Resolution No. 9117 to adopt as amended, A Resolution Preapproving of and Authorizing Travel for Councilwoman Tracie B. Threadford, Councilwoman Catherine Anderson, Councilwoman Deborah Matthews, Councilwoman Veronica Bandy Freeman, Councilor John T. Bryant and Mayor Wayman Newton to Attend the Alabama League of Municipalities 2024 Annual Convention. Councilor Threadford intercepted by specifying the types of non-reimbursements in accordance to the City of Tarrant Ordinances. After readiness Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
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 adopt Resolution 9117 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Councilor Matthews read and introduced Resolution No. 9118 for adoption, A Resolution Requiring the Placement of Storz Connection Fire Hydrants Within the City of Tarrant. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
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 adopt Resolution 9118 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

Mayor Newton read and introduced Resolution No. 9119, A Resolution Requiring the Placement of Storz Connection Fire Hydrants at 2660 Pinson Valley Parkway, Tarrant, Alabama. Councilor Matthews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
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 authorize and approve Resolution 9119 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton introduced Resolution No. 9120, A Resolution Ordering the Demolition of 218 Jefferson Blvd., Tarrant, AL 35217. Mayor Newton moved to table Resolution No. 9120 for 45 days. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
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 table Resolution 9120 was agreed to, and the Resolution was tabled.

Mayor Newton read and introduced Resolution No. 9121, A Resolution Ordering the Demotion of 704 Jefferson Blvd., Tarrant, AL 35217. After discussion on the Resolution, Mayor Newton opened a public hearing on the Resolution and asked if there was anyone present to speak regarding the demolition of 704 Jefferson Blvd., Tarrant, Alabama 35217. No one else was present to speak for or against the Resolution. The Mayor closed the public hearing. After closing the public hearing, Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9121. Mayor Newton moved to approve Resolution No. 9121. Councilor Matthews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Matthews
Mayor Wayman Newton

Nays:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Not voting:

None

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being zero (1) with zero (0) member not voting, the motion to authorize and approve Resolution 9121 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton introduced Resolution No. 9122, A Resolution Ordering the Demolition of 2109 Lane Ave., Tarrant, AL 35217. Mayor Newton moved to table Resolution No. 9122 for 45 days to give the heir of the property owner the necessary time to file the paperwork with the Judge of Probate. Councilor Matthews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
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 table Resolution 9122 was agreed to, and the Resolution was tabled.

There were no Presentations of Petitions and other communications.

Next, the City Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant for February 19, 2024. Tarrant Electric Department for February 19, 2024 was not available but would be available for next meeting. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant for February 19, 2024. Mayor Newton seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
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 vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant for February 19, 2024 was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

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

Councilor Matthews asked for reassurance from the Mayor that proper protocol was thoroughly followed for the demolitions. The Mayor reassured Councilor Matthews and the public that proper protocol was thoroughly followed. Councilor Matthews thanked the Mayor.

First, Chuck Winborn was called for public speaking. Mr. Winborn commented on questions regarding the concept and definition of homicide. There was discussion and debate on definition of homicide and its relevancy to the City of Tarrant's statistics. For the record, Councilor Freeman asked Council City Attorney Charlie Waldrep who has direct hiring and termination authority over the City Police Department in the City of Tarrant. There was question and debate on the hierarchy of Police Staff, their direct accountability, and hiring/termination authority.

Second, Kevin Slaughter reminded the Mayor of a past occurrence regarding his building. Mr. Slaughter also asked the Mayor if he is familiar with Title XIII. After the Mayor provided a 'no' response. Mr. Slaughter displayed a deed and referenced it to Title XIII of the Alabama Criminal Code accompanied by accusations and allegations toward the Mayor. The Mayor and Council examined the document.

This concluded public comments.

There being no further comments Councilor Threadford adjourned the meeting. Councilor Matthews seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Laverne Knight
City Clerk March 4, 2024
City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama

READ AND APPROVED this the 4th day of March, 2024.

The City of Tarrant, Alabama

APPROVED: _____
WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Dr. Laverne Knight