

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 18, 2024
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday March 18, 2024, at 7:00PM at City Hall.

Mayor Wayman A. Newton called the meeting to order at 7:05PM following the council work session that began at 6:00PM to discuss items on the agenda and other matters. The Mayor called for a moment of silence for the recent passing of City of Tarrant Public Works employee Amiri Barham.

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

Councilor Catherine “Cathy” Anderson was absent.

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from the March 4, 2024 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. Councilor Freeman requested that the minutes record that she is blocked from the City of Tarrant Facebook page. Further, that Ms. Bailey and other citizens are also blocked. Councilor Freeman encouraged anyone who cannot see the City of Tarrant Facebook page to notify the Mayor or the Councilor. After review, Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes from March 4, 2024 with the amendment. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
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 were adopted, and the minutes for March 4, 2024, council meeting were approved with the amendment.

First, the Mayor announced that the 2024 Easter Egg Hunt date has moved from Saturday, March 23, 2024 to March 30, 2024 from 2:00PM to 4:00PM due to staff employees attendance of the City of Tarrant employee funeral.

Next, the Mayor informed those in attendance of an upcoming Gladiator Sports Camp hosted by the City of Tarrant Mayor’s Office, Tarrant Recreational Center, City of Tarrant Library and Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office, STRAP Organization and 98.7 KISS radio with Scott Evans

and Patrick Coleman as planners. The sports camp is for students between 4th and 12th grades. Registration begins on March 6, 2024 and it will be held between March 23 and March 31, 2024 at Tarrant Recreation Center from 9am to 4pm. The primary objective of the camp will be to promote critical thinking skills and conflict resolution using basketball, football and soccer. The Mayor listed the organizations and individuals to which the online applications can be forwarded to.

Councilor Threadford presented an award to the City of Tarrant from the Beautification Board for the 2023 City of Tarrant Christmas decorations. The Mayor accepted the award on behalf of the City of Tarrant Public Works Department who was responsible for decorating the City of Tarrant 2023 Christmas.

This ended communications from the Mayors Office.

There were no Committee Reports.

The Mayor introduced Old Business.

Councilor Bryant read and introduced Resolution No. 9123, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor on Behalf of the City of Tarrant to Enter into a Lease Management Agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management with option one. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews

Nays:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being one (1) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9123 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

The City of Tarrant then moved on to New Business.

Councilor Freeman read and introduced Resolution No. 9125, A Resolution Rescheduling Certain Regularly Scheduled City Council Meetings in Order to Allow the Tarrant City Hall Council Chambers to Be Set Up as a Polling Place by County Elections Officials. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution No. 9125. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
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 Resolution 9125 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9126, A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Legal Defense Cost of Detective Chante Crosby and Sergeant Derick Williamson in the Legal Action Brought Against the Said City of Tarrant Police Department Employees. After conflicting discussion on the Resolution, a request for a seconder to the motion was made. There was no seconder. Motion failed.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9127, A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Four Handheld Radios for the Tarrant Fire Department. Mayor Newton moved to approve Resolution No. 9127. Councilor Matthews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews

Nays:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being one (1) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution 9127 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Threadford introduced Resolution No. 9128, A Resolution Designating Dr. Sideny Shah and Tarrant Medical as an Approved Vendor for the City of Tarrant, Alabama, to Provide Certain Occupational Health Services Which May Be Required by the City of Tarrant. Councilor Threadford explained Dr. Shah's past experiences on working as pro bono in her field with citizens of the City of Tarrant. Councilor Threadford moved to approved Resolution No. 9128. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
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 Resolution 9128 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Threadford introduced and read Resolution No. 9129, A Resolution The Execution of the Attached Letter of Credit for Posting to Perfect the Appeal in the Matter of State of Alabama, Ex Rel. Deanna Ceasor V. John C. Brown, 01-CV-2023-901937/SC-2024-0066. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Before a vote was called Mayor Newton explained the Resolution to all in attendance and re-read the Resolution, for the record. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
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 Resolution 9129 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Next, the meeting moved on to Presentations of Petitions and other communications.

Councilor Threadford brought up a City of Tarrant citizen concern, Ms. Horton, who has a tree that’s damaging private property. There was discussion on the location of the tree whether it was on private or City of Tarrant property. The Mayor reassured Ms. Horton that it would be looked into.

Councilor Freeman reminded the Mayor of Ms. Matthews concern regarding a fence that the City of Tarrant Public Works previously tore down. The Mayor also reassured Councilor Freeman that this would also be resolved.

Next, the City Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant ending March 18, 2024 and Tarrant Electric Department for vouchers and expenses ending March 18, 2024. After review of both vouchers there was question on the City of Tarrant vouchers and expenses ending March 18, 2024. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the Tarrant Electric Department for weeks ending March 18, 2024. Councilor Threadford noted the motion is specifically for the Electric Department vouchers and expenses. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
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 vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant Electric Department for weeks ending March 18, 2024 was agreed and were approved. After the vote, the Mayor asked when the City of Tarrant vouchers and expenses will be approved, Councilor Threadford affirmed that after the \$5k is taken out then the City of Tarrant vouchers and expenses ending March 18, 2024 will be re - evaluated.

Councilor Bryant adjourned the meeting. Mayor Newton seconded the motion. There was discussion and debate on the adjournment due to the omission of public comments. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

None

Nays:

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

The yeas being zero (0) and the nays being four (4) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to adjourn the meeting for March 18, 2024 failed.

Next the council moved on to Public Comments.

First, Chuck Winborn brought up concerns of an employee being terminated and insurance involvement. Mr. Winborn and other members in the meeting chambers continued to review and summarize past arguments.

Second, Will Smith asked when the Chief of Police will get his salary. Mayor Newton responded by informing Will Smith and the Public that the salary will be reinstated when the law suits are settled. There continued to be discussion and debate on the lawsuit.

Third, Ms. Boyken reviewed and summarized past arguments and attempted to resolve the past conflicts. Ms. Boyken also brought up concerns of the Chief of Police's salary. Councilor Threadford affirmed that she will get together with the City Attorney Michael Brymer, Police Chief and his Attorney to draft up a Resolution.

Fourth, Ms. Dill also reviewed and summarized past conflicts and incidents.

Fifth, Mr. Chris Patterson was not present.

Sixth, Chief Wendel Major thanked Council and Community for their support. Chief Major explained why he was maintaining his role as Police Chief and stated he would obediently relieve himself from his role if asked by the Council or the Community.

Mayor Newton began to explain why Chief Major was suspended from his role by describing said abuse of responsibilities and roles of the Police Chief and the City of Tarrant Police database system. Mayor Newton asked Seargeant Williamson to approach the podium and explain the City of Tarrant Police Department and its crime cases of the past few years. The Council and a portion of the public proceeded to leave. Seargeant Williamson approached the podium and proceeded to explain the City of Tarrant Police Department crime cases of the past few years. The City Attorney, the Mayor and a few of the public participants remained in the meeting. A City of Tarrant citizen questioned Seargeant Williamson and the Mayor in regards to the crime data presented. The City of Tarrant citizen also asked for speedbumps to be placed near her place of residence which is located on a hill that blinds traffic control, mainly public transportation including the local school bus. The Mayor assured the resident that there will be follow up on the traffic and road issue.

There being no further comments there was no adjournment. All present left the Meeting Chambers at approximately 8:19PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Laverne Knight
City Clerk April 1, 2024
City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama


READ AND APPROVED this the 1st day of April, 2024.

The City of Tarrant, Alabama



APPROVED: 
WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Dr. Laverne Knight