

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 1, 2024
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday April 1, 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 6:02PM to discuss items on the agenda and other matters.

Reverend Blanchard lead those in attendance in the invocation. Fire Chief Patrick Bennett 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 Catherine "Cathy" Anderson
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews
Mayor Wayman A. Newton

All were present.

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from the March 18, 2024 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. After review, Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes from March 1, 2024. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
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 five (5) 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 18, 2024, council meeting were approved.

First, the Mayor announced that the 2024 Easter Egg Hunt that was held from 2:00PM to 4:00PM on March 30, 2024 was a success. A thank you was extended to the Council for their approval and the public for their participation.

Next, the Mayor announced that the Gladiator Sports Camp held between March 23 and March 31, 2024 was also a success. The Mayor acknowledged and thanked the hosts; 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 Camp was held at Tarrant Recreation Center from 9am to 4pm. The primary objective of the camp was to promote critical thinking skills and conflict resolution using basketball, football and soccer. The Mayor recognized and acknowledged the importance of

keeping young children and teens in a busy form of mode to prevent boredom, and decrease juvenile delinquency. A similar program will be proposed for the summer.

Finally, the Mayor informed all in attendance of an upcoming cleanup day at a local and historic cemetery behind the Rushing Spring Baptist Church. The Mayor provided a brief history of the cemetery located on District 5 and owned by the Rushing Spring Baptist Church by informing all those in attendance of the Buffalo Soldiers and former slaves being buried at the site. The last known burial was in 1965 of the estimated 150 to 160 year old cemetery. Over 150 hours was spent in cutting brush to access the cemetery to the estimated 200 graves. A catalog of all graves will be taken, and more information will be provided. There was discussion on the exact location of the cemetery that sits on a hill. The set scheduled date for cleaning to begin will be on Saturday April 13, 2024 for the worthwhile event.

This ended communications from the Mayors Office.

Next, Committee Reports were presented.

Councilor Anderson informed all in attendance that there was a finance committee held for the purpose of discussing the police fleet of vehicles. Notes on the meeting will be forwarded to the City Clerk.

There was no Old Business.

The City of Tarrant then moved on to New Business.

Councilor Threadford read and introduced Resolution No. 9130, A Resolution Awarding Bid and Authorizing the Negotiation and Execution of a Contract for the Right of Way Clearing Project for the City of Tarrant Electric Department. Councilor Bryant 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" Matthews

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution 9130 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Threadford read and introduced Resolution No. 9131, A Resolution Reinstating Police Chief Wendell Majors, Police Chief for the City of Tarant, Alabama with backpay and emoluments. Councilor Anderson expressed unreadiness on why the Resolution was not on the Agenda. Discussion and explanations were presented on why the Resolution was not on the Agenda. 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

Abstain:

Councilor “Cathy” Anderson

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being four (4), abstains being (1) one, and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution 9131 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Next, the City Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department for April 1, 2024. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant and Tarrant Electric Department for April, 2024. 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

Abstain:

Councilor “Cathy” Anderson

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being four (4), abstains being (1) one, and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve the vouchers and expenses for April 1, 2024 was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

Public Comments was next on the Agenda.

First, Ms. Linda Lowry approached the podium. Councilor Bryant proceeded to mediate Ms. Lowry’s request by use of illustrations using the Council chambers tv monitor. The monitor indicated a ravine or ditch recently constructed by the public works department on the front edge of Ms. Lowry’s front yard. Councilor Bryant provided different scenarios as to how the newly constructed ravines could be more problematic than beneficial for the City of Tarrant homeowners. There was discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of the newly constructed ravines issue on certain homes due to the landscaping of the homes.

Second, Chuck Winborn asked the Council for more information on Detective Morrows hearing and the details involved, more specifically on the termination procedures. Mr. Winborn also reviewed and presented issues regarding the Chief of Police and the Mayor in reference to conducts and duties.

Third, Waynette Bonham verbally presented the Alabama State Criminal Code and its validities. Ms. Bonham encouraged the Mayor and Council to be familiarized with the code, more specifically with rules and procedures in appointing officials.

Fourth, Ms. Bonita Valdez strongly expressed failed communications with Tarrant City Hall via phone call in service requests. After debate on whether the issue was a private landlord issue or a City of Tarrant public service issue it was agreed that the Fire Chief Bennett would visit the residence of Ms. Bonita Valdez to determine the level and validity of the structural hazard.

Councilor Theadford made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52PM. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

None

Nays:

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to adjourn the meeting for April 1, 2024 was approved and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



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

READ AND APPROVED this the 17st day of April, 2024.



The City of Tarrant, Alabama

APPROVED: _____


WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Dr. Laverne Knight