

**CITY OF TARRANT**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 4, 2024**  
**TARRANT CITY HALL**

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

Mayor Wayman A. Newton called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM immediately following the council work session that began at 6:00PM to discuss items on the agenda and other matters.

City of Tarrant Fire Chief, Patrick Bennet, 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

Absent:

Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from the August 19, 2024 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. Council Threadford noted correction on page 3 of 5 in reference to motion Resolution No. 9202 that the word 'Appointing' be substituted to 'Re-Appointing' and that the word 'New' be removed. Mayor Newton also requested that addition of 'individual charged the council dais' during public comments speaker number one. Council Threadford also requested at bottom of page 4 and top of page 5 that 'the individual was being provoked' also for public comments speaker number one. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes with the amendments for September 4, 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

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 August 19, 2024 council meeting were approved with the amendments.

The Mayor stated that the Storm Water Management Plan Draft link will be posted on the City of Tarrant webpage for 7 days to retrieve public comments input. The Mayor encouraged the public and the City Council to provide comments and suggestions when the link is posted. If there are no public comments or suggestions then the Draft will be submitted to the County for adoption. The Mayor also acknowledged and publicly thanked the Sheriff Pettway for coordinating the

arrests and confiscations of two shootings at Brummitt Heights that occurred within the past two to three weeks.

Councilor Freeman requested to go on record and informed that the City Hall needs to inform Blue Print Properties that trash bins are needed at their Apartment Complex, more specifically Apartment Complex 1113 on Elm Avenue, and 2221 and 2215 of Evergreen Street need street lights, cameras are needed in this area as well. Speed bumps needed at 2323 Treadwell, 3004 Grove Avenue, and 1738 Enfield Street. Councilor Freeman verbally provided Blue Print Properties business phone number. Councilor Freeman ended by reading a letter of complaint to the City of Tarrant delivered to her and provided by an anonymous individual. September 14, 2024 Traffic Light Celebration to be held at Brummit Heights. Councilor Freeman thanked and acknowledged City of Birmingham Councilmember JT Moore and Mayor Woodfin for the help in ensuring the traffic lights were installed.

Councilor Threadford informed all those in attendance that the City of Tarrant Electric Department will be accepting applications. Application intakes will be prioritized in accordance with City of Tarrant Residence and Business Proprietors. Reshonda McNeal will be coordinating and providing the application process for the City of Tarrant Electric.

Councilor Freeman also informed all those in attendance that the Coca Cola company are currently taking in applications for drivers.

There were no committee reports.

The Mayor and Council moved on to Old Business.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9188, A Resolution Authorizing the Contract Renewal of CivicPlus for the services of the City of Tarrant Webpage and Municode Design. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution No. 9188. 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 Newton

The yeas being four (4) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9188 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9191. A Resolution Removing Chief Wendell Major from the Office of Chief of Police for the City of Tarrant. Mayor Newton moved to approve the Resolution No. 9191. There was no seconder. Motion to adopt did not receive a second.

Next, the Council moved on to New Business.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9204, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Declare 5 Police Vehicles as Surplus and Authorizing the Mayor to Sell in Accordance with Resolutions and Ordinances Pertaining to Surplus Property; Resolution No. 9205, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Declare Tarrant Fire Engine 32 (2007 American LaFrance) to be Surplus and Authorizing the Mayor to Sell, Convey or Otherwise Dispose of the Same in Accordance With Resolutions and Ordinances Pertaining to Surplus Property; and Resolution No. 9206, A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of invoice from Alabama League of Municipalities.

Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution No. 9204, Resolution No. 9205, and Resolution No. 9206. 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 Newton

The yeas being four (4) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9204, Resolution No. 9205 and Resolution No. 9206 was agreed to, and the Resolutions were approved.

Next, Councilor Threadford introduced and read Resolution No. 9207, A Resolution Authorizing the Personnel Board of Jefferson County to Create a Classification System and Pay Schedule for All Tarrant Electric Department Employees. Councilor Threadford moved to approve Resolution No. 9207. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton requested to go on record that if there is a surplus and items are purchased with increased wages that City of Tarrant citizens are financially strained with power bills, and that this must be taken into consideration. Councilor Threadford advised the Mayor to meet with Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in response to negotiating and reaching an agreement in lowering the Electricity bills in the City of Tarrant. Mayor Newton agreed to call TVA. 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:

Mayor Wayman Newton

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being four (4) and the nays being one (1) with zero (0) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9207 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9208, A Resolution Approving the Use Agreement by and Between the City of Tarrant, Alabama, and the Tarrant City Schools Board of Education for Use of the Tarrant Recreation Center Gym and the Tarrant Baseball/Softball Complex. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution No. 9208. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton requested to go on record that the City has no guaranties the board of education will give the City credit for the almost \$100k expended by the City to bring the old high school football field ready for use. The mayor emphasized his concern with taking action to approve any agreement with the board of education without some written guarantee from the board of education to give the city credit for the amount expended to get the field ready for play. Councilor Threadford responded that the City Council had already approved the football field letter use agreement at a prior meeting. The matter before the council is the Use Agreement for the Tarrant City Bord of Education to use the City's rec center gym and the City's baseball / softball

fields. The City Attorney Michael Brymer was questioned regarding the Use Agreement and the matter currently pending before the council. Mayor Newton referenced section 2 of Resolution No. 9208, and number 5 of the User Agreement. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

**Yeas:**

**Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant  
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford  
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman**

**Nays:**

**None**

**Abstain:**

**Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews**

**Not voting:**

**Mayor Wayman Newton**

The yeas being three (3), the nays being zero (0), the abstentions being one (1) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9208 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Next, the City Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant for August 19, 2024. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant week ending August 19, 2024. Councilor Bryant 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 one (1) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant for August 19, 2024 was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

The Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant Electric Department ending August 28, 2024. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant Electric week ending August 28, 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**

The yeas being four (4) and the nays zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant Electric week ending August 28, 2024 was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

Next, the Council moved to Public Comments.

First, Chuck Winborn. Chuck Winborn provided an account of City of Tarrant business proprietor who was provided the wrong business license by the City Hall at Tarrant. In providing the account, Mr. Winborn informed all those in attendance that the business license was later revoked due to a zoning error for the original business application license. Mr. Winborn asked the Council to reinstate and find a way for the business proprietor to resume his business without conflict in the City of Tarrant. Mr. Winborn also reminded all those in attendance of the numerous vacant businesses in downtown Tarrant.

Second, Scott Tidwell introduced himself as a new Proprietor in the City of Tarrant. Mr. Tidwell provided a brief account of his most recent positive and negative experiences in developing and building his rental business with the City of Tarrant.

Next, Councilor Threadford asked the Chief of Police to approach the podium in response to the recent Sheriffs co-ordinations with the City of Tarrant. The Chief of Police expressed his views on an Tarrant Police Department employee who could not perform service duties due to lack of payment from the City of Tarrant. There was debate and conflict on the hiring and terminating processes and court outcomes.

There being no further comments from the public, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilor Threadford made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken. Meeting ended at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Laverne Knight  
City Clerk September 4, 2024

City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama

READ AND APPROVED this the 16th day of September, 2024.

The City of Tarrant, Alabama

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayman Newton, Mayor



\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Laverne Knight