

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2024
TARRANT CITY HALL

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

Mayor Pro Tem Tracie Threadford called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Clerk Laverne Knight lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem Threadford asked for a roll call. The following officials were present during the roll call:

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

Absent:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

Mayor Wayman A. Newton entered the council meeting chambers at approximately 7:02 pm.

The minutes from the September 16, 2024 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2024 meeting. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
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 September 16, 2024 council meeting were approved.

The Mayor apologized for the 'Helping Hands Giveaway' cancellation on Saturday, September 28, 2024 from 11am to 2pm at Ford Avenue. The event is rescheduled for October 19, 2024 from 3pm to 6pm at Ford Ave., and it will be in conjunction with another organization of recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. The Mayor invited the community to attend the public event. The Mayor also reminded all those in attendance of the annual 'Trunk or Treat.' The 2024 'Trunk or Treat' will be scheduled for Thursday October 31st from 6:00 pm to 8:00* pm, asterisk referring to pending on the availability of candy. In addition, the Mayor invited all businesses entities,

individuals and asked for volunteers to participate by providing candy from their open trunks at the City of Tarrant Ford Avenue. The City Hall phone number 205 849 2800 was provided as a means of contact for the business entities, individuals and volunteers. Volunteers to be present at 5:30 to help set up. The Mayor introduced Sheriff Pettway and publicly provided him with a proclamation from the City of Tarrant Mayors Office in recognition of his support for the City of Tarrant in aiding with recent criminal cases.

Councilor Threadford informed all those in attendance that she will be hosting a job fair at the Tarrant Recreation Center on 1232 Faye Drive on Friday, October 11, 2024 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Recruiters will be present with possible on the spot hiring. Companies in attendance will include Walden Security, Kemper Insurance Life Changing Kids, Tarrant Board of Education, Drummond Company, Staff Zone and many more. Councilor Threadford called Chief Major forward to the podium. Councilor Threadford thanked Chief Major and all the Tarrant Police force including Officer George for their work as Tarrant Police officers in response to keeping everyone safe and their professionalism in attendance at various City of Tarrant events from alumni gatherings to sports games. Councilor Threadford also thanked and congratulated Councilor Freeman for coordinating the installation of the recent traffic light that's been in need for the past 50 years.

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman announced that there is a domestic violence training at 309 23rd St North in Birmingham this Thursday October 10, 2024 from 9am to 11am. Phone number of 205 322 9922 extension 328 for interested individuals was provided.

Councilor Threadford acknowledged breast cancer awareness by attending the Destined for Greatness Ministry conference and congratulated its First Lady Tracy Wright. Councilor Threadford also confirmed her attendance of Pastor Everson of New Faith Ministries for their dedication service in the City of Tarrant. Councilor Threadford extended a welcome to the New Faith Ministries.

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman also announced that she has been entered into the final list on the National League of Cities Board of Directors for the United States of America. The results will be confirmed in November 2024, and that membership will highlight the City of Tarrant.

Councilor Matthews acknowledged the Tarrant Fire Department and thanked in attendance Chief Bennett on behalf of a citizen who was deeply appreciative of a particular fire fighter in Tarrant who went above and beyond in ensuring her husband was treated properly the day before. The anonymous Tarrant citizen also affirmed that other Fire Departments in other States do not extend their services as much as the City of Tarrant Fire Department had performed. The respect and the kindness that the Tarrant fire fighter also upheld was also acknowledged by the anonymous Tarrant citizen, and she recommended the fire fighter who serviced her husband have a positive evaluation inserted in his personnel file. Councilor Matthews also thanked and acknowledged the Tarrant Police Department and referred to them as 'go getters.'

Councilor Veronica Freeman affirmed that the Human Society phone number is on Facebook and tried to put on Tarrant page but was unsuccessful. If anyone sees stray dogs please call the number and provide the location.

There were no committee reports.

Councilor Anderson confirmed a Public Works meeting. Discussed at the meeting were Public Works employees and estimates. Councilor Threadford asked for the outcome in regards to the Recreation Department public works employee request. Parks and Recreation request was not discussed at the committee meeting. There was discussion on public works equipment. The Recreation Department Head will provide estimates for lawn mowers.

The Mayor and Council moved on to Old Business.

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 did not move to approve the Resolution No. 9191, and did not request a seconder due to interest of time. Mayor Newton asked the City Clerk to add Resolution No. 9191 to next regular Councilor meeting and

affirmed the Resolution will not get a second. The City Clerk affirmed it will be added to the next meeting.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9192, A Resolution Authorizing and Approving the City of Tarrant to Enter into a Purchase Agreement with Axon Enterprises, Inc. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution No. 9192. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton expressed unreadiness. There was discussion on the company and its reputation as a high end merchandise vendor in relation to the City of Tarrant's affordability. Budget and audit discussions led to the question on the City of Tarrant's affordability. Salaries and number of employees were brainstormed for reduction costs for the City of Tarrant. Councilor Threadford asked the Chief of Police if other estimates can be retrieved. The Chief of Police affirmed that Axon Enterprises, Inc. are the industry standard operated company Nationwide for law enforcement. Chief Major continued by stating that Tazers cannot be bought elsewhere due to law enforcement standardization, but body cameras can be bought from other countries. City of Tarrant citizen Tamura Mclellan intervened and publicly asked if grants could be resorted. Councilor Threadford stated that there is currently a \$150k grant that is in default that is affecting future grant applications. Mayor Newton responded by stating the \$150k is in default due to the Police Chiefs unaccountability in forwarding necessary documents to the Deputy Mayor, Lisa Baker. Councilor Threadford disagreed the Chief of Police had no part in the default grant by referencing an email by the Department of Justice and that the default outcome have an effect on City of Tarrant future grants. Councilor Freeman reminded all in attendance as to why all Department Heads need to be in attendance so that questions in comparison to current issues can be answered by the Heads who are specialized in the said areas. After discussion, Councilor Anderson moved to approve Resolution No. 9192 to the next meeting. Councilor Threadford 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 Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to table Resolution No. 9192 was agreed to, and the Resolution was tabled.

Councilor Freeman introduced Resolution No. 9214, A Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Public Works Department of the City of Tarrant to Perform Lawn Care and Maintenance to All City Owned Property and Those Properties Used by the City Under a Written Agreement. There was discussion and debate on the origin of the Resolution, and question on the validity of the various job titles and job performances in City Hall and Public Works. Councilor Freeman moved to approve Resolution No. 9214. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. The Mayor stated on record that the limited resources and staff of the Public Works Department will be utilized to cover as much of the city as possible, and that Parks and Recreation will need to have to cut their facilities. Councilor Matthews expressed unreadiness by questioning the type of work performed by the 28 hired Public Works employees. There was more discussion. Mayor Newton asked if there was anymore unreadiness. 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 Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9214 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Bryant introduced Resolution No. 9217, A Resolution Authorizing the Placement of Surveillance Security Cameras to be Placed at Certain Places Throughout District 1. Councilor Bryant moved to table Resolution No. 9217 until there is more clarification and communications from the City of Tarrant Police Chief. 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

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9217 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Bryant introduced Resolution No. 9218, A Resolution Recognizing October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Resolution No. 9219 A Resolution Recognizing October 10, 2024, as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Tarrant, Resolution No. 9220 A Resolution Recognizing October 7, 2024, as World Mental Health Day Within the City of Tarrant, and Resolution No. 9221 A Resolution Recognizing October 7, 2024, as Child Health Day Within the City of Tarrant. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution No. 9218, Resolution No. 9219, Resolution No. 9220, and Resolution No. 9221. 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

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9218, Resolution No. 9219, Resolution No. 9220 and Resolution No. 9221 was agreed to, and the Resolutions were approved.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9222, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute Service Request Form Between the City of Tarrant and the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority. Mayor Newton moved to approve Resolution No. 9222. Councilor Anderson 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 Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9222 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton introduced and Resolution No. 9223, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Expend Funds for 2024 Halloween Bash. There was unreadiness on section 4 regarding the funds being withdrawn from City of Tarrant 9-1-1 Fund. Mayor Newton motioned to amend Resolution No. 9223 with the amendment to include *funds be withdrawn from the General Account*. 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

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to amend Resolution No. 9222 was agreed to, and the Resolution was amended.

Mayor Newton introduced and Resolution No. 9223, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Expend Funds for 2024 Halloween Bash. There was unreadiness on section 4 regarding the funds being withdrawn from City of Tarrant 9-1-1 Fund. Mayor Newton motioned to approve Resolution No. 9223 with the amendment to include *funds be withdrawn from the General Account*. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews
Mayor Wayman Newton

Nays:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant

Not voting:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

The yeas being four (4) and the nays being one (1) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9223 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9224, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Declare Certain Public Works Equipment 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. Mayor Newton motioned to approved Resolution No. 9224. Councilor Anderson 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 Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9224 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9225, A Resolution Authorizing Mayor to Enter into Agreement with TTL for Inspection Services for the Lawson Road Dam Project in Compliance with Federal Emergency Management Agency Requirements. Mayor Newton motioned to approve Resolution No. 9225. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. The Mayor commented that \$140k was received for the upkeep of the dam and \$75k was used for a skids steer out of the FEMA funds. 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 Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9225 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton moved to motion a request to suspend the meeting rules to add in Resolution No. 9226, A Resolution Authorizing the purchase of Four (4) Radios the Tarrant Fire Department, and Resolution No. 9227, a Resolution Authorizing Mayor to Enter into Real Estate License Agreement with Gibbs Construction Services, LLC for Temporary Use of Property Located at 1124 Ford Avenue, Tarrant, Alabama 35217. 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 Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to suspend the rules to add Resolution No. 9226 and Resolution No. 9227 to the meeting agenda was approved.

Mayor Newton introduced Resolution No. 9226, A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Four (4) Radios the Tarrant Fire Department. Mayor Newton moved to approve Resolution No. 9226. Councilor Matthews 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 Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9226 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9227, A Resolution Authorizing Mayor to Enter into Real Estate License Agreement with Gibbs Construction Services, LLC for Temporary use of Property Located at 1124 Ford Avenue, Tarrant, Alabama 35217. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution No. 9227. Mayor Newton 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 Newton

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9227 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Next, the City Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant for October 7, 2024. Mayor Newton moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant week ending October 7, 2024. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being four (4) 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 October 7, 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 October 7, 2024. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant Electric week ending October 7, 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

The yeas being five (5) 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 September 16, 2024 was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were approved. Councilor Threadford announced that there were five applications for the board that was posted for 30 days. The five applicants will be discussed at the budget work session with date not yet confirmed.

Next, the Council moved to Public Comments.

First, Mr. Chuck Winborn. Chuck Winborn provided recommendations for the Public Works Department.

Second, Ms. Suzanne Randall of Skutt Ceramic Products, Inc. provided quote dated September 4, 2024. There was discussion on the business service for the City of Tarrant. Councilor Bryant assured there will be a Resolution at next the next regular scheduled council meeting.

Third, Mr. Robbie Pridmore expressed concerns on overgrown branches coming into his yard. The Mayor responded by declaring the trees could be on private property resulting in a civil matter rather than aa Mayor and Council matter. Mr. Pridmore responded by asking if City Hall could send someone to check the over grown trees private property. Councilor Anderson asked for the address. After Mr. Pridmore provided the questioned address, he expressed his second concern which was the rising price of the City of Tarrant contract of trash prices with the servicing company. There was discussion on the pricing of trash and the individuals who do not pay trash.

Councilor Threadford ended the meeting by thanking Cynthia Hurd for being a part of the Brummitt Heights traffic lights installation. Councilor Freeman also added Councilor J.T Moore and Mayor Woodfin.

Ms. Tamurra McClellan provided asked the Mayor and Council for the future plan of actions in working together, and she provided recommendations. Ms. McClellan asked the Mayor and Council to resolve necessary issues. The Council thanked Ms. McClellan.

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 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Dr. Laverne Knight
City Clerk October 7, 2024
City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama

READ AND APPROVED this the 7th day of September, 2024.

The City of Tarrant, Alabama

APPROVED: _____
WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR





Dr. Laverne Knight