

CITY OF TARRANT  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 21, 2024  
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday October 21, 2024, at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

Mayor Newton 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 citizen Charles Johnson lead those in attendance in the invocation. Tarrant Police Department, Lieutenant Hill 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 Catherine "Cathy" Anderson  
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford  
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman  
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews  
Mayor Wayman A. Newton

Absent:

None

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 October 7, 2024 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. After review, Councilor Freeman requested the statement be added that a *'yes' vote would have been provided if there was a second round of voting for Resolution No. 9223 Council polling*. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2024 meeting with the amendment. Councilor Anderson 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), the motion to approve the minutes with the added amendment were adopted, and the minutes for October 7, 2024 council meeting were approved with the added amendment.

The Mayor apologized for the 'Helping Hands Giveaway' set for Saturday, October 19, 2024 from 3pm to 6pm at Ford Avenue. The event originally scheduled for 3pm resulted in an early give away. Amazon was called and assured that there will be more items for Christmas. The Mayors office will provide confirmation dates and the next giveaway will be allotted for the actual

scheduled time. The Mayor also thanked Sheriff Pettway and his team for a recent occurrence in the City of Tarrant, Waverly Street that derived from a public citizen tip to the Mayor. Mayor Newton encouraged all citizens and the public to call City Hall if they suspect any illegal activity including drugs and all other crime. Included in the communications were the possible dates of the Tarrant Christmas parade to be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024. More details will be provided in closer proximity to the date. Finally, a reminder was provided on the upcoming annual 'trunk or treat' from 6pm to 8pm\*. Asterisk referencing while supplies last. Volunteers were encouraged to arrive at 5:30 for early set up in accommodating all participants.

Councilor Threadford confirmed that Christmas plans are already in the works in her Department for December 14, 2024 as the planned date for the City of Tarrant Christmas events. Councilor Thredford also informed all those in attendance that the job fair at the Tarrant Recreation Center on 1232 Faye Drive held on Friday, October 11, 2024 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm was a success. Another job fair will be planned for the upcoming Spring of 2025. Acknowledgements were extended out to Pastor Knight of Victory City, Alabama invitation to the 2024 Fall Festival on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. A reminder was provided of the good giveaway for November to be on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, 2024 from 9am to 11am at Tarrant Recreation Center. Food boxes will be given away on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month. Councilor Threadford also forwarded a message to Mayor Newton regarding a constituent who requested a tree, kudzu and additional other cutting and cleaning needs to be completed between city lots of 112 and 118 East Lake Blvd. Repeated calls were made to the Tarrant City Hall.

There were no committee reports.

The Mayor requested a work session date to discuss the Budget for fiscal year 2025. October 29, 2024 at 5:00 pm was scheduled. Mayor Newton affirmed the date for the City Clerk to post the work session meeting.

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 motioned to 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. 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. There was discussion on the quotes that were requested at the last regular scheduled Council meeting. Lieutenant Hill stated that the estimates have not been provided to the City of Tarrant Police Department and that more time is needed for Motorola. Lietenant Hill also wanted to let the Council be aware that Motorola body cameras and Axon tasers are not compatible. The Mayor requested Councilor Bryant to table Resolution No. 9192 until the necessary quotes are available. Councilor Bryant moved to table Resolution No. 9192 until the next regular scheduled Council 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 Bryant introduced Resolution No. 9228, A Resolution Engaging Dipiazza, Larocca, Heeter, & Co., LLC to Perform an Audit of the City of Tarrant, Alabama Electric Department Accounts for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024, Resolution NO. 9230, A Resolution Approving the Lexipol, LLP., A Service Contracted Annual Invoice 2024, and Resolution No. 9231, A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Replacement Parts for the Skutt Kiln in the Tarrant Recreation Center. There was discussion on the invoice of Resolution No. 9231. The Recreation Director Scott Evans provided the correct invoice and it was noted by the Council. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution No. 9228, Resolution No. 9230 and Resolution No. 9231 with the correct invoice of 1214 to be inserted and replaced by invoice no. 1169. 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. 9228, Resolution No. 9330, and Resolution No. 9331 was agreed to, and the Resolutions were approved.

Mayor Newton introduced Resolution No. 9229, A Resolution Appointing Ms. Debbie Hall to the Tarrant City Board of Education. Mayor Newton moved to table Resolution No. 9229 until the next regular scheduled Council meeting. Councilor Anderson asked if there was other interest in application to the Tarrant City Board of Education. The Mayor confirmed two people had called him after the publicized interest during the pre-council meeting. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson  
Mayor Wayman Newton

Nays:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford  
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Abstain:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant  
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews

The yeas being two (2), the nays being two (2), and the abstains being two (2) with zero (0) member not voting, the motion to table Resolution No. 9229 was not agreed to, and the Resolution failed. Mayor Newton read Jarvis Escott resume and indicated he was one of the individuals who was interested in being a member of the Tarrant City Board of Education. Councilor Freeman wanted it to go on record that the Mayor stated Mr. Jarvis Escott reached out to him within the last hour

and provided him a resume. Councilor Freeman affirmed that Mr. Jarvis Escott said he provided the Mayor his resume over the weekend upon his request. There was back and forth.

Councilor Bryant introduced Resolution No. 9229, A Resolution Appointing Ms. Debbie Hall to the Tarrant City Board of Education. Councilor Bryant moved to adopt Resolution No. 9229. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton wanted it on record that Councilor Matthews wanted Ms. Hall on the Board of Education because she's white. There was back and forth. Mayor Newton expressed unreadiness and asked the citizens to remember the meeting night and referenced the Board of Education candidates' history and qualifications. There was more back and forth between the Mayor, the Council and the citizens. Mayor Newton also referenced that for the record he is speaking for the people who cannot speak for themselves and cannot afford a better education. Mayor Newton concluded by asking if there was any more unreadiness and finalized by calling a vote.

Yeas:

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

Abstain:

Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews

Nays:

Mayor Wayman Newton

Not voting:

None

The yeas being four (4), one (1) abstain and the nays being one (1) with zero (0) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9229 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Next, the City Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant Electric for October 21, 2024. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant week ending October 21, 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 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 Electric for October 21, 2024 was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

The Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant ending October 21, 2024. Mayor Newton moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant for week ending October 21, 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 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 week ending October 21, 2024 was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

Next, the Council moved to Public Comments.

First, Mr. Chuck Winborn. Chuck Winborn provided his comments to Mr. and Mrs. Lowry. Mr. Lowry asked about the City of Tarrant statistics on the number of Hispanic population in the schools. There was some discussion. Mr. and Mrs. Tarrant expressed their frustrations with yard issues and related it to the City of Tarrant Public Works Department. recommendations for the Public Works Department. Miscommunication issues regarding backyard property and water flow was also acknowledged.

Second, First Lady Everson of New Faith Ministries extended her thankyou from the church to Councilor Threadford for the morning service participation and Mayor Newton for the afternoon service participation. their recent participation. There will be an official thank you statement sent to the City of Tarrant from New Faith Ministries. The First Lady assured the Mayor and Council that there is constant prayers for the City of Tarrant, and there will be more integration into the community, and that the Church believes in the City of Tarrant.

There being no further comments from the public, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilor Threadford made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken. Meeting ended at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Laverne Knight  
City Clerk November 6, 2024  
City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama

READ AND APPROVED this the 6th day of November, 2024.

The City of Tarrant, Alabama

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR

ATTEST: 

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