

CITY OF TARRANT  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 6, 2024  
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday November 6, 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 Fire Chief Patrick Bennett 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.

The minutes from the October 21, 2024 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. After review, Councilor Anderson provided correction of interpretation that *on bottom of page 5, Councilor Matthews stated 3 x that Mayor Newton did not want Ms. Debbie Hall on the Board of Education because she is white. Mayor Newton also wanted on record that Councilor Anderson also said that there was no racism in Tarrant prior to his being Mayor of Tarrant. Councilor Anderson responded that she does not referencing 50's and 60's but references today's Tarrant.* Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 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 21, 2024 council meeting were approved with the added amendment.

The Mayor moved on to communications and thanked everyone for participating in the successful City of Tarrant annual 'Trunk or Treat.' Volunteers, Churches, and Council were acknowledged. The Mayor declared that rather than entering Old Business with the introduction and reading of Resolution No. 9191 that the notice served to the Mayor Newton be replaced by the reading of

Resolution No. 9191. The Mayor publicly read the Civil Action lawsuit between Plaintiffs former Police Officer and Current City of Tarrant Magistrate and the current Chief of Police. Councilor Freeman wanted it on record that Mayor Newton bought the current Chief of Police to the Councilors to be hired.

Councilor Freeman presented a public notice from the Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH). A public meeting will be held virtually on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm to discuss network of air monitoring, access to air monitoring, air quality complaints, and permitting process and opportunities for public involvement. Councilor Freeman provided the phone number for Jason Howanitz at 205.930.1284.

Councilor Threadford provided a reminder of the turkey and food giveaway for this Saturday, November 9, 2024 from 9am to 11am at Tarrant Recreation Center. Two hundred food boxes will be given away on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month on a first come basis.

There were no committee reports.

The Mayor and Council moved on to Old Business.

Mayor Newton did not introduce and read Resolution No. 9191. A Resolution Removing Chief Wendell Major from the Office of Chief of Police for the City of Tarrant. As formerly stated, Mayor Newton replaced the reading of Resolution No. 9191 with the public reading of Civil Action lawsuit between Plaintiffs former Police Officer and Current City of Tarrant Magistrate and the current Chief of Police.

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. There was discussion on the quotes that were requested at the last regular scheduled Council meeting. Lieutenant Hill reviewed the estimates required from the last regularly scheduled Council meeting. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution No. 9192. 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 approve Resolution No. 9192 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Threadford introduced Resolution No. 9232, A Resolution Authorizing an Invitation to Bid be Issued for the City of Tarrant Electric Department to Purchase Transformers. There was discussion on the date of the bid to be issued with the suggestion beginning on November 7, 2024 and ending December 7, 2024. Councilor Threadford moved to approve Resolution 9232 with the amendment added *bid public notice starting November 7, 2024 and ending December 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 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. 9232 with the said amendment was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved with the amendment.

Mayor Newton introduced Resolution No. 9233, A Resolution Authorizing Payment of Purchase Order 20-2599 For Repairs to Public Works Equipment -KB Loader. There was discussion on annual estimates of repair costs. Mayor Newton moved to approve Resolution No. 9233. Councilor Matthews seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

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. 9233 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton introduced Resolution No. 9234, A Resolution Authorizing the Submission of an Alabama 911 Proposed Recommended New Contract with RPSS. Mayor Newton moved to approve Resolution No. 9234. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

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. 9234 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Next, The Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant ending November 1, 2024. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant

for week ending November 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 Deborah "Debbie" Matthews

Nays:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newman

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 week ending November 1, 2024 was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

The City Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant Electric for November 1, 2024. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant Electric Department for the week ending November 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 vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant Electric for November 1, 2024 was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

Next, the Council moved to Public Comments.

First, Mr. Chuck Winborn informed the Council of the Mayor and a citizens public confrontation at the annual 'Trunk or Treat' 2024 event. Mr. Winborn also defended the Police Chiefs past and current investigations. And, Mr. Winborn also asked why there is so much difficulty in publicly releasing a video that was cleared by all parties including Department of Human Resources as to be non-threatening.

Second, Kevin Slaughter specifically asked Councilor Bryant the process of City of Tarrant criminal investigations on Public Officials. Councilor Bryant referred the question to the City Attorney who responded that it would depend on the crime, and that the investigation could be referred to the City of Tarrant Police Department or the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Slaughter also asked Councilor Threadford why his residential electricity has been turned off by

the Building Inspector with two different hand written signatures attached to the door. Councilor Threadford responded by indicating that the Building Inspector is under the Mayor's administration, and that she does not authorize the disconnection of electricity in the City of Tarrant private residences. The Mayor responded that he would need to talk with the Fire Marshall and the Building Inspector for clarification. Councilor Threadford recommended a written request for the electricity to be turned back on. Kevin Slaughter also asked for the zoning boundaries regarding the entertainment district for the City of Tarrant. The Mayor confirmed there is no entertainment district in the City of Tarrant.

Third, Jackie Beltaine asked the Council what the process was for the Freedom of Information Act requests. Ms. Beltaine informed the Council that a request was sent in early October and that an email was recently forwarded to the City Clerk regarding the request. Ms. Beltaine further informed the Council that she was told that the City Clerk did not have access to the information and that she was not allowed to talk with the Department Heads. The City Clerk confirmed an August 2024 public video meeting with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor confirming the verbal request that the City Clerk refrain communications from all City of Tarrant staff. Councilor Freeman asked the City Clerk to publicly name the Deputy Mayor. The City Clerk also expressed that Ms. Beltaine uses reporter, newspaper etc...resulting in an interpretation outcome of an unregistered business entity in the City of Tarrant, and that a business license needs to be produced especially if declaring 'no revenue' after public and private information delivery. The City Clerk confronted Ms. Beltaine gained knowledge of City of Tarrant public officials internal emails correspondence.

There being no further comments from the public. Councilor Threadford made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken. Meeting ended at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Laverne Knight  
City Clerk November 18, 2024  
City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama

READ AND APPROVED this the 18th day of November, 2024.

The City of Tarrant, Alabama

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

ATTEST:   
Dr. Laverne Knight