

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 18, 2024
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday November 18, 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.

Pastor Patterson lead those in attendance in the invocation. Tarrant Police Fire Chief, Patrick Bennet 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 November 6, 2024 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. After review, Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2024 meeting. 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), the motion to approve the minutes for November 6, 2024 council meeting were approved.

The Mayor moved on to communications and informed everyone in attendance that the City of Tarrant Christmas Parade will be held on December 14, 2024 from 2PM to 6PM. More information will be provided and float participants may contact the Mayor Office at 205. 849. 2800. Also attended a ‘Clothes Drive’ on Saturday, November 2, 2024 hosted by First Baptiste East Bowles. The much needed clothes drive was a success and well attended with an estimated 400 to 500 donated turkeys.

Councilor Threadford provided an update and thanked everyone who participated in the Tarrant Turkey Drive. Two hundred turkeys were given away. Councilor Threadford thanked the following for donations; We R Smart, Vulcan Foundations, Points of Life Resource Centre, and Mr. Threadford for his time and help.

The Mayor invited Mr. Peter Torres to the podium. Mr. Torres provided a personal and professional background of his career before confronting Councilwoman Freeman on spread rumors regarding an unknown individual caught on camera by Councilwoman Freeman who he was mistaken for. Councilwoman Freeman apologized to Mr. Torres and attempted to show him her camera phone detailing how she mistook him. Mr. Torres accepted her apology.

There were no committee reports.

The Mayor and Council moved on to Old Business.

Before introducing Resolution 9191 Mayor Newton acknowledged that though Resolution 9191 was on the Agenda, it was not in the packet. The City Clerk apologized for the error. 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. The Mayor did not ask for a second due to personal prediction that the Council would not second the Resolution. The Mayor asked the City Clerk to include Resolution No. 9191 at the next council meeting. Councilor Bryant acknowledged the lack of seconder and verbally stated that the silent prediction of a non-seconder was improper meeting conduct. Councilor Bryant called City of Tarrant Chief Major to the podium and asked him if there were any criminal charges were brought against him after the investigation. Chief Major affirmed no charges were brought against him as a result of the investigation. Councilor Bryant ended by reading a previous employee investigation and its history.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9235, A Resolution Authorizing the Reimbursement of All Costs Associated with the Retention of Council for and Ongoing Defense Lisa Baker as an Employee of the City of Tarrant. Mayor Newton moved to approve Resolution No. 9235. There was no seconder for the motion. Motion failed

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9236, A Resolution Requested by Mayor Wayman Newton Authorizing Tarrant Electric to Issue a One-Time Seventy-Five Dollar (\$75) Credit to All Tarrant Electric Customers. Mayor Newton moved to table Resolution 9236 until next mtg to allow more research. Councilwoman Freeman seconded the motion. 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 table Resolution No. 9236 was agreed to, and the Resolution was tabled.

Mayor Newton brought attention of the two fire Chiefs to attention. There was question on the topic not being on agenda. Fire Chief Jason Rickels approached the podium and provided the history of his wrongful termination, and explained the offer that was previously provided to the Mayor and Councilor. Fire Chief Patrick Bennett declined an offer to speak by Mayor Newton. Councilor Threadford asked Counsel Brymer for recourse. City Attorney Brymer affirmed that it would have to be discussed in Executive Session.

Chief of Police reminded the Mayor and Council of the Resolution on the agenda. Councilor Bryant made motion to adjourn for 10 minutes. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion.

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 adjourn for 10 minutes beginning at 7:43 pm was approved.

Mayor Newton asked for a roll call at 7:50 pm.

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Matthews
Mayor Wayman Newton

Absent:

Councilor Catherine “Cathy” Anderson

A quorum was determined to be present and the meeting continued at approximately 7:51 pm.

Mayor Newton introduced Resolution No. 9237, A Resolution Not Sustaining Mayor Wayman Newton’s Temporary Removals of Sergeant Cynthia Morrow and Dispatcher Lashondra Jackson and Returning Them Both to Active Service. Councilor Bryant motioned to table Resolution No. 9237. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Councilor Freeman asked the City Clerk to find evidence in the minutes indicating the termination of Mr. Rickels. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

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 table Resolution No. 9237 was agreed to, and the Resolution was tabled.

Councilor Bryant made a motion to add Resolution No. 9238 to the agenda, Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton also asked to add Resolution No. 9239 to the agenda. Mayor Newton intervened and seconded the additions of Resolutions No. 9238 and Resolution No. 9239 to the agenda. Councilor Freeman requested for the record that the Resolutions previously passed needed to be in compliance, and evidence or documentation needs to be provided immediately. Mayor Newton asked for a vote.

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford

Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Matthews

Nays:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being one (1) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to add Resolution No. 9238 and Resolution 9239 was agreed to, and the Resolutions were added to the agenda.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9238, A Resolution Appointing Kimberly Myers to the Tarrant Crime Commission. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Matthews

Nays:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being three (3) and the nays being one (1) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9238 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9238, A Resolution Authorizing the Donation of \$3,000 to Tarrant Youth Football to Attend the Youth National Championships. Mayor Newton made a motion to approve Resolution No. 9238. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Councilor Tracie B. Threadford
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Matthews
Mayor Wayman Newton

Nays:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Not voting:

none

The yeas being four (4) and the nays being one (1) with zero (0) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9239 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Next, The Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant ending November 15, 2024. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant for week ending November 15, 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 Newman

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 week ending November 15, 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 15, 2024. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant Electric Department for the week ending November 15, 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 vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant Electric for November 15, 2024 was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

Next, the Council moved to Public Comments.

First, Mr. Chuck Winborn informed the Mayor and Council, and all who were present that there is an article on Al.com supporting Councilor Bryants accusations against the Mayor and that Chief Rickels was fired before he went to court. Mr. Winborn reminded everyone of the cost of a blown transformer and how Tarrant was out of power for a few days in the past. Mr. Winborn also asked for an update on the Electric Board. Councilor Threadford reported that the board will begin in January of the New Year. The Mayor responded to Mr. Winborn input regarding Councilor Bryant and Mr. Rickels by reading a 2015 facebook post.

Second, Jason Rickels. No show.

Third, Kevin Slaughter. Not ready.

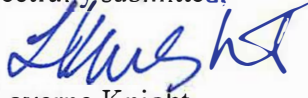
Fourth, Pastor Patterson requested signs and cameras for the safety of kids near school zone on Sloan Avenue. Mr. Patterson also addressed issue of nearly being run over by a City official, and asked the Council ensure there be accountability on the incident.

Fifth, Kevin Slaughter introduced himself as a retired Police Officer and former U.S Military. Mr. Slaughter read a statement regarding property and conflicting ownership.

Sixth, Kathy Snipe acknowledged the City of Tarrant as one family. Before acknowledging the City of Tarrant Ms. Snipe referened Isaiah 1:18, and expressed sincere concern for the City of Tarrant Mayor and Council team work. Ms. Snipe asked the Mayor and Council to work together and to put all conflicting personalities aside for the sake of the City of Tarrant residents and its future.

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 8:22 pm.

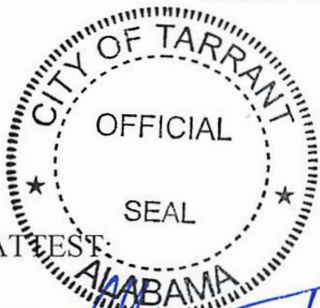

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Laverne Knight
City Clerk December 2, 2024
City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama

READ AND APPROVED this the 2nd day of December, 2024.

ATTEST:

Dr. Laverne Knight

The City of Tarrant, Alabama

APPROVED: _____
WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR