

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2024
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday December 16, 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 Chris Patterson lead those in attendance in the invocation. Tarrant City Fire Chief, Patrick Bennett 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 Catherine “Cathy” Anderson
Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah “Debbie” Matthews
Mayor Wayman A. Newton

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from the December 2, 2024 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. After review, Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes of the December 2, 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 A. Newton

The yeas being five (4) and the nays being zero (0), the motion to approve the minutes for December 2, 2024 council meeting were approved.

The Mayor moved on to communications by acknowledging the City of Tarrant Christmas Parade held on December 14, 2024. The Mayor thanked the businesses involved and acknowledged the organizations that did not participate in this years parade. The Mayor invited the City of Tarrant Alumni to aid in hosting the City of Tarrant 2025 Christmas Parade. Mayor Newton updated all those in attendance of the Supreme Court ruling in the John C. Brown v. State of Alabama ex rel. Deanna Ceasor, as informant decided on December 13, 2024. Mayor Newton metaphorically extended an olive branch to the Council in response to the Supreme Court outcome. Councilor Bryant responded by outlining the past conflicting incidents between Mayor, Council and Citizens of the past four years and the concept of change. Councilor Bryant finalized his comments by thanking the Mayor for his metaphorical olive branch extension.

Councilor Threadford thanked Fire Chiefs Jason Rickels and Patrick Bennett for aiding in the recent toy drive giveaway in which 60 families with their children were helped along with giveaway boxes.

Mayor Newton finalized public comments by including Pastor Everson of New Faith Ministries and the City of Tarrant Public Works Department of their participation in the City of Tarrant Christmas Parade 2024.

There were no committee reports.

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. The Mayor did not ask for a second due to the interest of time and 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.

Councilwoman Freeman quietly excused herself from the meeting at approximately 7:17 pm.

The Mayor and Council moved on to New Business

Councilor Threadford introduced and read Resolution No. 9244, A Resolution Approving of and Authorizing the Execution of the Assignment Agreement Among the City of Tarrant, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Electric Board of the City of the City of Tarrant, Alabama. Councilor Threadford moved to approve Resolution 9244. 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:

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. 9244 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton introduced Resolution No. 9245, A Resolution Authorizing the Disposition of the Remaining American Rescue Plan Funds. Mayor Newton suggested the Resolution be withdrawn due to Council previous discussions regarding the American Rescue Plan Funds already released into the City of Tarrant General Funds. Mayor Newton motioned to withdraw Resolution No. 9245. 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:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being four (4) and the nays being zero (0) with 1 (1) member not voting, the motion to withdraw Resolution No. 9245 was agreed to, and the Resolution was withdrawn.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9246, A Resolution by the City of Tarrant Recognizing and Celebrating 100 years of the National League of Cities. Mayor Newton motioned to approve Resolution No. 9246. 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:

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. 9246 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9247, A Resolution Preapproving of and Authorizing Travel for Councilwoman Veronic Freeman to Attend the National League of Cities 2025 Congressional City Conference. Mayor Newton made motion to amend Resolution No. 9247. Councilor Anderson seconded the amendment. 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:

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 amend Resolution No. 9247 was agreed to, and the Resolution was agreed to be amended.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9247, A Resolution PreApproving of and Authorizing Travel for *Mayor Wayman Newton* and Councilwoman Veronica Freeman to Attend the National League of Cities 2025 Congressional City Conference with the amendments added to add *Mayor Wayman Newton, only pay for registration fee of \$670 each in advance, cost of transportation to and from airport, air travel, accommodations and per diems to be reimbursed upon receipts in accordance to section 2-221 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Tarrant, and that the total cost of the trip for each City Official will not exceed \$2,500.00.* Mayor Newton also noted for the record that he will not accept the daily \$50.00 per diem. Mayor Newton motioned to approve Resolution No. 9247. 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:

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. 9247 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved as amended.

Next, Mayor Wayman Newton introduced Resolution No. 9248 with amendments *to remove first person singular tense pronoun used for Chris Patterson, and the stanza phrase in reference to personal motives at bottom of page one*. Mayor Newton motioned to approve Resolution No. 9248. There was no seconder. Mayor Newton asked the City Clerk to add the Resolution No. 9248 to next meetings agenda and that the amendments will be provided to the City Clerk before the next meeting.

Next, The Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the Tarrant City Hall ending December 13, 2024. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers for the Tarrant City Hall ending December 13, 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:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newman

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 Tarrant City Hall for December 13, 2024 was agreed to and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

Next, The Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for the City of Tarrant Electric ending December 13, 2024. Councilor Threadford moved to approve the vouchers for the City of Tarrant Electric ending December 13, 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:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newman

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 for December 13, 2024 was agreed to and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

Next, the Council moved to Public Comments.

First, City of Tarrant Fire Chief Jason Rickels thanked Lt. Hill, Councilor Threadford and all those that participated and that were in attendance for the successful toy drive of the City of Tarrant Christmas 2024.

Second, Chris Patterson asked the Council of an update on the software used to detect gun shots in the City of Tarrant. Mr. Patterson also acknowledged and reviewed the abuse of the 2nd amendment of the United States Constitution in the City of Tarrant. Council agreed that the Chief of Police would provide a 30-day report of the gunshots fired in the City of Tarrant. The Chief of Police invited Mr. Patterson to a gunshot detection training event to be held at 12 noon December 17, 2024 at the Tarrant Police Station. Mr. Patterson accepted the invitation.

There being no further comments from the public Councilor Threadford made a motion to adjourn at 7:44pm. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Laverne Knight
City Clerk January 22, 2025
City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama



ATTEST

Dr. Laverne Knight

READ AND APPROVED this the 22nd day of January, 2025.

The City of Tarrant, Alabama

APPROVED: _____
WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR