

CITY OF TARRANT  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 3, 2025  
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday February 3, 2025, 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.

Fire Chief Patrick Bennett lead those in attendance in the invocation. City Attorney Michael Brymer, 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

Absent:

None

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from January 22, 2025 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. After review, Councilor Threadford moved to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2025. 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), the motion to approve the minutes for January 22, 2025 council meeting were approved.

The Mayor moved on to communications by announcing the Rushing Spring Baptist Church will be hosting a community cleanup day for its historic cemetery on March 8, 2025 from 8am to 12pm at 550 Rushing Springs Rd., Birmingham, Alabama 35217. The Mayor noted that it is a well-attended event with extraordinary buried individuals. Volunteers are requested.

Councilor Threadford thanked the Tarrant Electric Board and announced their recent swearing in ceremonies with the public looking forward to what will be accomplished. There will also be a city-wide Easter Egg hunt will also be on April 6, 2025 with more information to follow.

Councilor Threadford introduced Police Chief Wendell Major for comments on Letters of Commendations within the City of Tarrant Police. Police Chief Major asked Lieutenant Curry to

introduce and read the letters. The two Letters of Commendations for the Tarrant police force were for outstanding services in December 2024 and January 2025 for the following City of Tarrant Police Officers; Corporal Cordell Smith, Officer Jemarco Harris, Officer Jaymz Bagby and Officer Darrel Sanders.

There were no committee reports.

The Mayor and Council moved on to Old Business.

Mayor Newton introduced Ordinance 1163. An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1160 to Correct the Legal Description that Altered, Rearranged, and Extended the Corporate Limits of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, so as to Embrace and Include Within the Corporate Area of Said City All Territory Now Within Such Corporate Limits and Also Certain Other Territory Contiguous to the City. Mayor Newton made a motion to suspend the rules to wave the first reading of Ordinance 1163. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton asked for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Abstain:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being four (4), the abstains being one (1), the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to suspend the rules in waving the first reading of Ordinance 1163 was approved.

Mayor Newton introduced and read Ordinance 1163. An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1160 to Correct the Legal Description that Altered, Rearranged, and Extended the Corporate Limits of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, so as to Embrace and Include Within the Corporate Area of Said City All Territory Now Within Such Corporate Limits and Also Certain Other Territory Contiguous to the City. Mayor Newton motioned to approve Ordinance 1163. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton asked for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Abstain:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being four (4), the abstains being one (1), the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Ordinance 1163 was agreed, and the Ordinance 1163 was approved.

Next, 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. Councilor Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution 9191. Councilor Threadford seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

None

Nays:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford

Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being zero (0) and the nays being five (5) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9191 failed. Mayor Newton asked the City Clerk to include Resolution No. 9191 at the next council meeting.

Next, Mayor Wayman Newton introduced and read Resolution No. 9248. A Resolution Affirming the Termination of the Employment of Jason Rickels from the Office of Fire Chief for the City of Tarrant. For the interest of time and for personal prediction of no seconder, Mayor Newton did not request for a motion for Resolution No. 9248. Mayor Newton asked the City Clerk to add the Resolution No. 9248 to the next City Council regular scheduled meeting.

The Mayor and Council moved on to New Business

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9250. A Resolution to Reinstate Jason Rickels to Fire Chief of the City of Tarrant Fire Department and Directing All Back Pay and Benefits Pursuant to the Personnel Board of Jefferson County Order Dated November 7, 2024. It was noted that Jason Rickels would not be making any presence in the City of Tarrant Fire Department. Councilor Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution 9250. Councilor Freeman seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant

Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews

Abstain:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being four (4), the abstains being one (1), the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No 9250 was agreed to and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Freeman introduced and read Resolution No. 9251. A Resolution Authorizing the City of Tarrant to Renew its Membership in the National League of Cities. Mayor Newton expressed concern over the validity of the membership due to maximum expenditures already to be incurred on Council travel. Councilor Freeman also expressed concern on the importance of the City of Tarrants membership with the National League of Cities. Councilor Freeman made a motion to

approve Resolution No. 9251. 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), the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9251 was agreed to and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9252 and Resolution No. 9253. Resolution No. 9252, A Resolution of the City of Tarrant Pursuant to Ordinance No. 1017 of the City of Tarrant Declaring Certain Properties a Public Nuisance at 209 Oak Forest Dr., Tarrant, Alabama 35217. And, Resolution No. 9253, A Resolution of the City of Tarrant Pursuant to Ordinance No. 1017 of the City of Tarrant Declaring Certain Properties a Public Nuisance at 2205 Evergreen St., Tarrant, Alabama 35217. Councilor Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution No. 9252 and Resolution No. 9253. 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), the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9252 and Resolution No. 9253 was agreed to and the Resolutions were approved.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9254. A Resolution Authorizing and Approving the City of Tarrant to Purchase CAD User Agreement, RMS User License, Jail User License, Mobile Module Package and Additional Training for the Tarrant Police Department. Councilor Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution No. 9254. 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 (5), the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9524 was agreed to and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Threadford introduced and read Resolution No. 9255. Resolution No. 9255 City of Tarrant. After discussion on the Resolution, Councilor Threadford moved to table Resolution No. 9255. 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 table Resolution No. 9255 was approved and the Resolution was tabled.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9256. A Resolution Directing the Pay of Certain Police Officers Within the City of Tarrant Police Department. Councilor Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution No. 9256. 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. 9256 was agreed and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Bryant introduced Resolution No. 9257. A Resolution Authorizing SAIN Associates to Inspect and Develop a Plan for the Repair of the Bathrooms at Brummitt Heights Park. After much discussion, the Council concluded that the City of Tarrant Building Inspector is the appropriate entity to inspect the Bathrooms at Brumitt Heights. Councilor Bryant made a motion to change the entity name from SAIN Associates to the City of Tarrant Building Inspector. 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. 9257 was agreed to and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Bryant introduced Resolution No. 9257 with the changes made. A Resolution Authorizing *The City of Tarrant Building Inspector* to Inspect and Develop a Plan for the Repair of the Bathrooms at Brummitt Heights Park. Councilor Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution No. 9257. 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. 9257 was agreed to and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read resolution No. 9258. A Resolution Declining to Rearrange or Otherwise Redraw City Council Districts Following the 2020 Decennial Census. Councilor Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution No. 9258. 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. 9258 was agreed to and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Ordinance No. 1155 first reading. Ordinance No. 1155, An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance No. 1155 and Adopting Replacement Ordinance No. 1155-A Establishing Requirements for the Management and Retention of Security Surveillance Information and Video.

Next the City Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for City of Tarrant, City Hall and the City of Tarrant Electric Department for weeks ending January 3, 2025. Councilor Threadford moved to motion an approval the vouchers and expenses for week ending January 3, 2025. 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

Councilor Freeman noted that it was a nay for the City of Tarrant, City Hall and a yea for the City of Tarrant Electric Department.

Next, the City Council moved on to Public Comments.

First, Linda Samuel Escott. Ms. Escott introduced herself by commending Chief Major on his position as Police Chief. A list of concerns from citizens was read with a provided a handout. Some items on the handout indicated the need for surveying corner lots, vacant lots with deceased owners, vacant lots with street issues, garbage cans on roads, rental property issues, and speed bumps that needs to be repaired.

Second, Chuck Winborn. Mr. Winborn reviewed rules and conducts of Mayors. Mr. Winborn also asked questions of the uncertainty of employees positions and the specific number of lawsuits against the City of Tarrant. Mayor Newton read a past facebook post of Mr. Winborns.

Third, Novalee Williams. Ms. Williams asked a series of questions ranging from financial accountability to City of Tarrant debris. The Mayor noted for the record was on checks in 2021 but was taken out. The Council responded by informing Ms. Williams of their careful overview of the weekly vouchers and expenses. Ms. Williams went into detailed questions regarding City of Tarrant infrastructure monies and other questionable financial queries. Ms. Williams finalized by asking for a forensic audit.

Fourth, Chris Patterson. Mr. Patterson thanked the Tarrant Police Department for all the current gun fire abuse. Mr. Patterson had concerns over an alley that needs to be blocked off. Fire Chief Bennett explained that the alley is a needed drive through for Tarrant emergency vehicles. Mr. Patterson also expressed concerns of dangerous and possible criminal activity on Sloan Avenue. The Chief of Police provided a run down on some camera devices on certain Tarrant streets. Council member Threadford asked Mr. Patterson to provide her specific addresses.


Councilor Freeman asked the Mayor of Ms. Bailey is still blocked on Facebook. The Mayor agreed to check if Ms. Bailey is blocked on Facebook.

After the public comments ended Councilor Threadford moved to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Newton seconded the motion. There was a verbal vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Laverne Knight  
City Clerk February 17, 2025  
City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama

ATTEST:



Dr. Laverne Knight

READ AND APPROVED this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.

The City of Tarrant, Alabama

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