

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2025
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday February 17, 2025, at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

Mayor Newton called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 of High School Wildcat Varsity Basketball player Tristan Goodwin, 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 Veronica Bandy Freeman
Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews
Mayor Wayman A. Newton

Absent:

Councilor Tracie B. Threadford

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The minutes from February 3, 2025 regularly scheduled council meeting were presented for review and approval. After review, Councilor Anderson moved to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2025. Councilor Bryant 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

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 minutes for February 3, 2025 council meeting were approved.

The Mayor moved on to communications by introducing the City of Tarrant Wildcats Varsity Basketball team and presenting each player with a City of Tarrant Proclamation. The Mayor read the Proclamation as it identified Wildcat Day to be February 18, 2025! Official pictures were proudly taken with the Council and the Varsity team. After the team left the council chambers, the City Clerk asked the Mayor to return or destroy the seal that was used for the proclamations, as the official Seal was secured in the City Clerks office. The Mayor responded by referencing a past meeting in which the Clerk identified how the official Seal could not be used. The Mayor further continued his response by clarifying his unawareness of the City Seal and its official recognition in the City of Tarrant Ordinances. The City Clerk re-stated on how the official Seal can and cannot be used, and assured the Mayor that the Official City Seal is available for use when requested for delivery of Proclamations that benefit Tarrant such as the City of Tarrant Varsity Basketball team.

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. There was unreadiness on the Resolution. Councilor Bryant commented on the validity of the Resolution due to its failure at the last City of Tarrant regularly scheduled meeting, and other conflicting matters. City Attorney agreed by stating if Resolution No. 9191 fails then it would have to be re-numbered and added as new business for re-introduction into a City Council meeting. Mayor Newton asked the City Clerk to add and re-number on to new business at the next City Council meeting. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

Abstain:

Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson

Nays:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Councilor Deborah "Debbie" Matthews

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman A. Newton

The yeas being one (1), the abstains being one (1), and the nays being three (3), with zero (0) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9191 failed. Mayor Newton asked the City Clerk to re-number the Resolution and add to new business at the next City 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 Council then moved on to Ordinance 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. The second reading was recommended to be tabled. Councilor Bryant made a motion to table Ordinance No. 1155 to next meeting. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Newton asked for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant

Councilor Catherine "Cathy" Anderson

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 table Ordinance 1155 was agreed to and the Ordinance was tabled until the next regularly scheduled council meeting.

The Mayor and Council moved on to New Business

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9259 and Resolution 9260. Resolution 9259, A Resolution of the Tarrant City Council Commending: Corporal Cordell Smith, Officer Jemarco Harris, Officer Jaymz Bagby, and Officer Darrel Sanders for the Exemplary Service and

Dedication to the Community, Resolution 9260, A Resolution of the City of Tarrant City Council Commending Corporal Smith, Officer Harris, Officer Bagby, and Officer Sanders for their Exemplary Service and Dedication to the Community. Councilor Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution 9259 and Resolution No. 9260. Councilor Anderson 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

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being four (4), the nays being one (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No 9259 and Resolution No. 9260 was agreed to and the Resolutions were approved.

Councilor Bryant introduced and read Resolution No. 9261, A Resolution Authorizing and Approving the City of Tarrant to Purchase Essential Motorola Equipment for the Tarrant Police Department. Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution No. 9261. Councilor Anderson 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

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being four (4), the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9261 was agreed to and the Resolution was approved.

Councilor Bryant introduced Resolution No. 9262 and asked the City Clerk to read Resolution No. 9262, A Resolution Conducting a Reduction in Force for Certain Position within the City of Tarrant, Alabama. Mayor Newton expressed unreadiness with the Resolution by reviewing past discussions believed to conflict with the Resolution. Mayor Newton provided a video transcript regarding the past discussions. For the record, Mayor Newton acknowledged Attorney Morro to be present in the Council chambers. The Council disagreed and asked for whole transcripts of past discussion verse partial video extractions. Councilor Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution No. 9262. Councilor Anderson 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

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being four (4), the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve Resolution No. 9262 was agreed and the Resolution was approved.

Mayor Newton introduced Resolution No. 9263. A Resolution Approving of and Adopting the City of Tarrant Employee Handbook. After discussion, it was recommended that the Resolution be tabled. Mayor Newton made a motion to table Resolution No. 9263. Councilor Bryant 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

Nays:

None

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being four (4), the nays being zero (0) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to table Resolution No. 9263 was agreed to and the Resolution was tabled.

Next, the City Council reviewed the vouchers and expenses for City of Tarrant, City Hall week ending February 3, 2025. There were no vouchers from the Electric Department due to its official incorporation. Councilor Anderson moved to approve the vouchers for week ending February 3, 2025. Mayor Newton seconded the motion. Mayor Newton called for a vote.

Yeas:

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

Nays:

Councilor Veronica Bandy Freeman

Not voting:

Mayor Wayman Newton

The yeas being three (3), the nays being one (1) with one (1) member not voting, the motion to approve the vouchers and expenses for week ending February 3, 2024 were agreed and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

Next, the City Council moved on to Public Comments.

First, Chuck Winborn. Chuck Winborn introduced himself as a member of the Crime Commission Committee for the City of Tarrant. Mr. Winborn provided a brief summary of past requests including renovations needed at the City of Tarrant jail.

Second, Tommy Weaver. Mr. Weaver introduced himself as a property owner and life long resident of Tarrant. Mr. Weaver explained past approaches with past Mayors regarding erosion issues flowing from Lithicum street on to his properties located at 1100 block Birmingham St. Mr. Weaver provided evidence using pictures and requested the Mayor and Council proceed on fixing the erosion issues effecting his property from the flow on Lithicum Street.

After the public comments ended Mayor Newton moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. There was a verbal vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Laverne Knight

City Clerk February 3, 2025
City of Tarrant Council Meeting, Alabama

READ AND APPROVED this the 3rd day of March, 2025.

The City of Tarrant, Alabama

APPROVED: _____
WAYMAN NEWTON, MAYOR

ATTEST: 

Dr. Laverne Knight

The seal is circular with a double-line border. The outer ring contains the text "CITY OF TARRANT" at the top and "ALABAMA" at the bottom, separated by two stars. The inner circle contains the text "OFFICIAL SEAL". A blue ink signature is written over the seal and extends to the left.