

CITY OF TARRANT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2026
TARRANT CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday January 5, 2026, at 6:30PM at City Hall.

Prior to convening the regular meeting, the City Council held a work session beginning at 6:00PM for the purposes of discussing the items on the proposed council agenda for the regular meeting at 6:30PM. The City Council also discussed other matters related to the City and City business during the work session.

At 6:30PM, Pastor and City Chaplain the Rev. Leon Wright lead those in attendance in prayer. Immediately following the prayer, City Attorney Michael Brymer lead those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Tracie B. Threadford then called the meeting to order at 6:32PM.

The City Council unanimously agreed to permit Mr. Michael Brymer to serve as acting city clerk for the limited purpose of keeping the minutes from tonight's meeting as Dr. Knight was returning from vacation and holiday travels.

Mayor Threadford asked for a roll call. The following officials were present during the roll call:

Councilor Charles Johnson from District 1
Councilor Bruce Cooper from District 2
Councilor Valarie McClellan from District 3
Councilor Debbie Matthews from District 4
Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant from District 5
Mayor Tracie B. Threadford.

A quorum was determined to be present at the meeting.

The following department heads were present at the work session and the council meeting:

Public Works Director, Ms. Andrea Stallworth
Chief Building Inspector, Mr. Chris Muir
Court Chief Magistrate, Ms. Tanyila Jackson
Senior Principal Accountant, Ms. Jocylyn Cash
Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Scott Evans
TFD Interim Fire Chief, Patrick Bennett
Chief of Police, Wendell Major
Public Works Assistant Director, Mr. Dedrick Browder

The City Council reviewed the proposed agenda for the January 5, 2026, meeting. Following review, Councilor Bryant moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Cooper seconded the motion. There being no further discussion on the agenda, Mayor Threadford called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Charles Johnson
Councilor Bruce Cooper
Councilor Valarie McClellan
Councilor Debbie Matthews
Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Mayor Tracie B. Threadford

Nays:

None

The yeas being six (6) and the nays being zero (0), the motion to approve the agenda for the meeting as presented was agreed to, and the agenda approved and the January 5, 2026, city council meeting as presented.

Next, the minutes from the regular council meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025, were presented for review and approval. After review, Councilor McClellan moved to approve the minutes from December 15, 2026, regular meeting as presented. Councilor Bryant seconded the motion. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, Mayor Threadford called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Charles Johnson
Councilor Bruce Cooper
Councilor Valarie McClellan
Councilor Debbie Matthews
Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Mayor Tracie B. Threadford

Nays:

None

The yeas being six (6) and the nays being zero (0), the motion to approved minutes from the Monday, December 15, 2025, meeting was agreed to, and the minutes approved as presented.

Next, the Council received the following reports from commissions, committees, boards, and officers:

Mayor Threadford made the following announcements to those who were in attendance:

1. Fire Department Christmas Toy & Food Drive:

Our Fire Department successfully fed 250 families and provided toys for 180 children during the annual Christmas toy and food drive. A special thank you to Chief Bennet for organizing another outstanding event that truly reflects the spirit of our city.

2. City Hall Winter Wonderland:

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Allen and Deborah Bailey, our City Hall lobby has been transformed into beautiful Winter Wonderland. It is whimsical, warm, and inviting. We appreciate their dedication. Please stop by and enjoy the festive décor if you have the chance.

3. Clean Tarrant Initiative:

Just a reminder: our Clean Tarrant Initiative began on January 2, 2026. Residents were given 31 days back in December to tidy yards and porches. That period has ended, and now Inspector Chris Muir and Corporal Muwakkil will begin inspections to ensure compliance with city ordinances.

4. City Hall Closure & Council Meeting:

City Hall and all city services except Police and Fire will be closed on January 19, 2026, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. The City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026:

- Pre-Council: 6:00 P.M.
- Council Meeting: 6:30 P.M.

5. Tarrant Citizen Leadership Academy

We are excited to welcome the inaugural class of the Tarrant Citizen Leadership Academy, beginning January 8, 2026. Thank you to everyone who signed up we look forward to an inspiring program.

This ended communications from Mayor Threadford.

The Mayor then called for any additional reports from city councilors, any council comments, any committee reports, board reports, or commission reports. No reports were made.

There were no items on the consent agenda.

There were no public hearings held as none of the agenda items required public hearings.

Then, the Council considered old business.

Mayor Threadford asked the acting clerk to report the resolution under old or unfinished business. The acting clerk reported and read Resolution No. 9351, A Resolution Authorizing and Approving the City of Tarrant to Enter into a Textile Rental Agreement with ALSCO Linen and Uniform Rental Service which had been carried over from prior meetings.

Following the reporting of Resolution No. 9351, Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution 9351. Councilor McClellan seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion to confirm the proposed agreement for floor mats in city buildings carried all applicable discounts and the term of the agreement was only 24 consecutive months – not 60 months – with the change reflected in the ALSCO service agreement. Additionally, the changes to the pricing were confirmed as reflected in schedule A of the service agreement. Following this discussion, Mayor Threadford called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Charles Johnson
Councilor Bruce Cooper
Councilor Valarie McClellan
Councilor Debbie Matthews
Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Mayor Tracie B. Threadford

Nays:

None

The yeas being six (6) and the nays being zero (0), the motion to approve Resolution 9351 was agreed to, and the Resolution was adopted.

The council then proceeded to new business.

Mayor Threadford asked the acting clerk to report the next item on the agenda. The acting clerk reported and read Resolution No. 9374, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor Pro Tem on Behalf of the City Council of the City of Tarrant, Alabama, to Request a Certified List of Eligible Candidates from the Personnel Board of Jefferson County for the Chief of Police Position.

Following the reporting of the resolution, Councilor Johnson moved to table Resolution No. 9374 until the March 2 regular council meeting. Councilor McClellan seconded the motion. The Council discussed the reason to table the item was for additional research and analysis of how this request interplayed with certain city ordinances, state law, and the PBJC’s Enabling Act / rules and regulations. Following the brief discussion, Mayor Threadford called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Charles Johnson
Councilor Valarie McClellan
Councilor Debbie Matthews
Councilor John T. “Tommy” Bryant
Mayor Tracie B. Threadford

Nays:

Councilor Bruce Cooper

The yeas being five (5) and the nays being one (1), the motion to table Resolution No. 9374 was agreed to, and the Resolution tabled until the March 2, 2026, meeting.

Mayor Threadford asked the acting clerk to report the next item on the agenda. The acting clerk reported and read Resolution No. 9375, A Resolution Appointing the Honorable Mischelle Lewis to the Board of Directors of the Tarrant Alabama Housing Authority.

Following the reporting of the resolution, Mayor Threadford moved to indefinitely table Resolution No. 9375. Councilor McClellan seconded the motion. In the following discussion, Mayor Threadford stated that applications for this position would be available tomorrow morning at city hall. The deadline for applications would be January 31, 2026, at which time the council would review the applications and make its appointment following the necessary review and interview process, if needed. Mayor Threadford then called for a vote:

Yeas:

Councilor Charles Johnson
Councilor Bruce Cooper
Councilor Valarie McClellan
Councilor Debbie Matthews
Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Mayor Tracie B. Threadford

Nays:

None

The yeas being six (6) and the nays being zero (0), the motion to indefinitely table Resolution No. 9375 was agreed to, and the Resolution was tabled.

Mayor Threadford then asked the acting clerk to report the next item on the agenda. The acting clerk reported and read Resolution No. 9376, A Resolution Declaring January 2026 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month Within the City of Tarrant, Alabama.

Following the reporting of the resolution, Councilor Bryant moved to approve Resolution No. 9376. Councilor Cooper seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the item. Mayor Threadford then called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Charles Johnson
Councilor Bruce Cooper
Councilor Valarie McClellan
Councilor Debbie Matthews
Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Mayor Tracie B. Threadford

Nays:

None

The yeas being six (6) and the nays zero (0), the motion to approve Resolution No. 9376 was agreed to, and the Resolution was approved.

Then, Mayor Threadford presented the vouchers and expenses of the City for the period ending January 2, 2026, for council consideration and approval. Following review of the vouchers and expenses, Councilor Bryant moved to approve the vouchers and expenses as presented. Councilor McClellan seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the item. Mayor Threadford called for a vote.

Yeas:

Councilor Charles Johnson
Councilor Bruce Cooper
Councilor Valarie McClellan
Councilor Debbie Matthews
Councilor John T. "Tommy" Bryant
Mayor Tracie B. Threadford

Nays:

None

The yeas being six (6) and the nays being zero (0), the motion to approve the vouchers and expenses was agreed to, and the vouchers and expenses were approved.

Next, the City Council heard from members of the public who had signed up to speak prior to the meeting. Mayor Threadford reminded all members of the public that comments were limited to three minutes following the speaker saying his or her name and state the speaker's address, and all comments were to be delivered to the chair with no personalities from the public speaker being permitted.

First, Mr. Sydney Clements, as resident of Tarrant and owner of ABC Parts, spoke in favor and support of Chief Major asking the City Council to reconsider its position and keep Chief Major appointed.

Second, Mr. David Guin the owner and operator of Mr. Payroll and Tarrant Car Wash, stated business owners was to be more involved with the City and were exploring different ways to partner with the City. Further, Mr. Guin requested all present to increase involvement within the City. Finally, Mr. Guin commented on the condition of the jail along with related issues therein.

Third, Ms. Novilee Williams, a resident of Tarrant, spoke in support of Chief Major and wanting more information as to any specific issues surrounding Chief Major's performance.

Fourth, Mr. Rickey Johnson, a Tarrant resident, spoke regarding the increase in his power bill and how such increases poses a strain on local residents, especially the elderly residents or those households who are single income households. Mr. Johnson requested assistance from the city. Mayor Threadford thanked Mr. Johnson for his comments and referred Mr. John to the Electric Board of the City of Tarrant for the Electric Board to consider and address those items.

Fifth, Mr. Chuck Winborn, a Tarrant resident, asked about the status of the audit along with check signing authority in the prior administration. Mr. Winborn inquired if any additional checks with only one authorized signor in preparation for the audit. Finally, Mr. Winborn spoke in support of Chief Major and asked the council to continue his appointment. Mayor Threadford thanked Mr. Winborn for his comments and announced the city audit would begin January 19, 2026, and would take several weeks or months to complete because of the number of audits needed to bring audits current.

Sixth, Ms. Linda Escott, of 2238 Evergreen Street, inquired about the garbage situation and complained about the current garbage service through Republic Services. Mayor Threadford thanked Ms. Escott for her comments and noted other options were being explored related to seeking a different provider when the current contract expires.

Seventh, Mr. Willie Biggs, who is not a resident of Tarrant but who frequents the Krystal's in Tarrant, spoke in support of Chief Major. Mr. Biggs yielded the remainder of his time to another individual who was with Mr. Biggs. That individual did not provide his name but spoke in favor of Chief Major.

Eighth, Ms. Winifried Dill, a Tarrant resident and resident of Brumitt Heights, raised certain concerns relative to Brumitt Heights. She identified continue truck traffic through the neighborhood along with other neighborhood related matters. Ms. Dill emphatically encouraged

all councilors to work together to solve the problems for the citizens of Tarrant. Finally, Ms. Dill spoke in support of Chief Major.

Finally, the Honorable Joe Knight, Jefferson County Commissioner District 4, addressed the Council regarding the Alabama Simplified Sellers and Use Tax Act and how current pending litigation threatened to significantly alter and upend the way the Alabama Department of Revenue collects and distributes the SSUT tax. Commissioner Knight asked the Council to consider passing a resolution in support of maintaining the current SSUT calculation and distribution.

This concluded public comments.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, Councilor Bryant moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor McClellan seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with all councilors being in favor of adjournment. The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

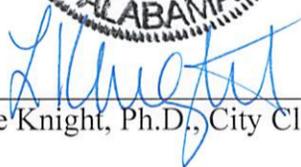


Michael Brymer
Acting City Clerk for the January 5, 2026, City Council Meeting

READ AND APPROVED this the 17th day of February, 2026.



Attest:



Laverne Knight, Ph.D., City Clerk

Tracie B. Threadford, Mayor