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Anniston, Alabama
January 31, 2012

The City Council of the City of Anniston, Alabama, met in Special Session in the City Meeting Center of the City of Anniston, Alabama, on Monday, January 31, 2012, at approximately 3:08 o'clock p.m.

Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order. On call of the roll the following Council Members were found to be present: Council Members Jenkins, Little, Dawson and Robinson; absent: Council Member Palmore. A quorum was present and the meeting opened for the transaction of business.

Don A. Hoyt, City Manager, was present.

Cleo Thomas, City Attorney, was present.

Mayor Robinson reintroduced and read Ordinance Number 12-O-4 as follows:

(12-O-4, amending section 30.22 and 30.72 of the City Code setting the levy and amount of sales and use tax; second reading)

Mayor Robinson made a motion for the passage and adoption of Ordinance Number 12-O-4 as reintroduced and read. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jenkins.

Council Member Little asked what had changed in this Ordinance since its first reading.

Cleo Thomas, City Attorney, stated he was not aware of any changes in this Ordinance since its first reading.

Council Member Little made a motion the meeting be adjourned. (There was no second to the motion.)

Council Member Little stated they needed to get an Attorney General's Opinion as to whether Council Member Jenkins can vote on this Ordinance.

Council Member Little made a motion that they ask for an Attorney General's Opinion and an Ethics Opinion as to whether Council Member Jenkins can vote on this Ordinance. (There was no second to the motion.)

Council Member Little stated they should have a public hearing concerning this Ordinance and allow the public a chance to speak concerning this Ordinance.

Council Member Little asked the Mayor Robinson what the goals and purpose of this tax increase were.

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Mayor Robinson read the proposed resolution setting forth the goals of Ordinance Number 12-O-4.

Council Member Little stated they should not pass this tax. He stated he had not seen anything from the Police and Fire Retirement Fund or the School Board putting forth a plan on how to use additional funding. He stated they should put this burden on the citizens.

Mayor Robinson stated there was never a good time to increase taxes. He stated if they do not pass this tax then their city would falter. He stated this tax would help develop and rebuild the city's business infrastructure. He stated they had to have economic development activity in this city. He stated all sectors of Anniston should benefit from this economic development. He stated if this sales tax does not accomplish these goals he would resign at some time in the future.

Council Member Little stated they were wasting \$15 million on building a jail. He stated they should use the City's surplus during these hard economic times.

On call of the roll on Mayor Robinson's motion for the passage and adoption of Ordinance Number 12-O-4 as reintroduced and read and Council Member Jenkins second to said motion the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Jenkins, Dawson and Robinson; nays: Council Member Little; absent: Council Member Palmore. The motion carried and Ordinance Number 12-O-4 was passed and adopted.

Mayor Robinson introduced and read Resolution Number 12-R-9 as follows:

(12-R-9, setting forth the goals of Ordinance 12-O-4)

Mayor Robinson made a motion for the passage and adoption of Resolution Number 12-R-9 as introduced and read. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jenkins.

Council Member Little stated this resolution should require unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

On call of the roll on Mayor Robinson's motion for the passage and adoption of Resolution Number 12-R-9 as introduced and read and Council Member Jenkins second to said motion the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Jenkins, Dawson and Robinson; nays: Council Member Little; absent: Council Member Palmore. The motion carried and Resolution Number 12-R-9 was passed and adopted.

(Council Member Palmore entered the meeting at approximately 3:39 p.m.)

Rose Munford addressed the Council and stated that the city needed more businesses for people to shop at. She stated she hoped this tax would help bring in some businesses for people in Anniston to shop at.

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Council Member Dawson stated that a very large oak tree had been taken down at the corner of 6th and Keith Avenue and the people in the community were very upset and he wanted to know why it had been taken down. He asked if they had an arborist on staff.

Bob Dean, Public Works Director, stated they did have a certified arborist on staff and he had determined the tree was dying and could be dangerous. He stated based on that expertise they had decided to take the tree down.

Council Member Jenkins stated he would like for them to amend their policy so there is some notification to the residents when a tree is be taken down.

Council Member Little stated he took exception with anyone saying they go to Oxford to shop because there is nowhere in Anniston to shop. He stated the stores in Anniston have provided financial stability in Anniston for years. He stated they could stimulate growth in their communities without increasing taxes. He stated he needed the breakdown for the money allocated for paving.

Mayor Robinson stated he agreed they do not have complete shopping in Anniston. He stated the one percent sales tax would help provide complete shopping in Anniston again. He stated they needed a new police and jail facility. He stated this tax has to be spent wisely.

There being no further business to come before the meeting at that time Council Member Dawson made a motion the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jenkins; and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Jenkins, Palmore, Little, Dawson and Robinson; nays: none. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:54 o'clock p.m.