

9/15/2015

Anniston, Alabama
September 15, 2015

The City Council of the City of Anniston, Alabama, met in Special Session in the Council Chambers in City Hall of the City of Anniston, Alabama, on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, at approximately 5:33 o'clock p.m.

Darren Douthitt, Superintendent, Anniston Board of Education, prayed the Invocation.

Darren Douthitt, Superintendent, Anniston Board of Education, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order. On call of the roll the following Council Members were found to be present: Council Members Jenkins, Reddick, Selase, Harris and Stewart; absent: none. A quorum was present and the meeting opened for the transaction of business.

Brian Johnson, City Manager, was present.

Council Member Selase made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Harris; and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Jenkins, Reddick, Selase, Harris and Stewart; nays: none. The motion carried.

Mayor Stewart stated that was the time for the public hearing on the reconsideration of the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, declared the hearing open and asked if anyone wished to address the Council concerning the reconsideration of the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget.

Mike Rollins, Executive Director, Coosa Valley Youth Services, addressed the Council concerning funding for Coosa Valley Youth Services.

Mayor Stewart asked if anyone else wished to address the Council concerning the reconsideration of the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget.

No one else addressed the Council concerning the reconsideration of the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget.

Mayor Stewart declared the public hearing on the reconsideration of the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget closed.

Council Member Selase introduced and read Resolution Number 15-R-130 as follows:

(15-R-130, adopting the FY2016 Budget)

Council Member Selase made a motion for the passage and adoption of Resolution Number 15-R-130 as introduced and read. The motion was seconded by Council Member Reddick.

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Council Member Selase stated he supported this budget. He stated that nobody had gotten everything they wanted. He stated that education was an important factor and he hoped the amount for the Education Innovation Fund would not be reduced. He stated he would like for the Council to approve this budget.

Council Member Reddick stated they were not supporting Coosa Valley Youth Services or the non-profit agencies the way they needed to. He stated they were at a time when their citizens needed them most. He stated they agreed that something needs to be done for the schools but that they disagree on how they need to do it. He stated the school system needed a grant writer. He stated they needed to provide more help to the Police Department.

Council Member Harris stated that cutting the non-profit agencies totally off without warning was wrong. She stated they could not afford \$500,000.00 for the Education Innovation Fund when the City had employees who had not had raises in three years. She stated they needed to rebuild the reserve funds. She stated she supported taking care of the schools but they had to have the City on firm financial footing first.

Council Member Selase stated in this proposed budget they were giving the non-profit agencies \$50,000.00. He stated that the non-profit agencies and education were inextricably linked and lack of education would increase the need for the non-profit agencies. He stated the first thing outsiders hear about Anniston is to not send their children to Anniston City Schools.

Council Member Reddick stated they needed to put a flat rate of the City's sales tax into the school system.

Council Member Jenkins stated they had finite dollars with infinite needs. He stated he supported last week funding the Education Innovation Fund at \$400,000.00 which would be an increase of \$50,000.00 from last year but he could not support the budget as currently stood.

Mayor Stewart stated the Education Innovation Fund was not set up to subsidize the school system but to fund data driven strategies that would help improve the system as a whole. He stated he had not seen the sense of urgency from the Board of Education that he would expect. He stated they cannot get transformational change in the school system by funding the status quo.

On call of the roll on Council Member Selase's motion for the for the passage and adoption of Resolution Number 15-R-130 as introduced and read and Council Member Reddick's second to said motion the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Selase; nays: Council Members Jenkins, Reddick, Harris and Stewart. The motion failed.

Council Member Reddick made a motion to amend the budget to take \$25,000.00 from Special Events and \$75,000.00 from the Education Innovation Fund and add \$50,000.00 to the Coosa Valley Youth Services, \$25,000 00 to the Non-profit Agencies and \$25,000.00 to the Police Department. The motion was seconded by Council Member Harris.

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Council Member Selase stated he was open to find some medium ground but he could not support taking \$75,000.00 from the Education Innovation Fund. He stated that money is tied to resources that youth need in school. He stated he was frustrated that they could not find common ground.

Council Member Harris stated that \$75,000.00 was the common ground between the original proposal and this proposed amendment.

Council Member Reddick stated that the \$500,000.00 originally budgeted for the Education Innovation Fund is not going to fix the school system. He stated they needed to go above and beyond this funding.

On call of the roll on Council Member Reddick's motion to amend the budget to take \$25,000.00 from Special Events and \$75,000.00 from the Education Innovation Fund and add \$50,000.00 to the Coosa Valley Youth Services, \$25,000.00 to the Non-profit Agencies and \$25,000.00 to the Police Department and Council Member Harris' second to said motion the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Jenkins, Reddick, Harris and Stewart; nays: Council Member Selase. The motion carried.

Brian Johnson, City Manager, there would be public hearing on the amended budget on Tuesday, September 22, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.

Council Member Selase stated that the Ugandan Thunder would be performing at the City Meeting Center on Thursday, September 17.

There being no further business to come before the meeting at that time Council Member Selase made a motion the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Council Member Harris; and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Jenkins, Reddick, Selase, Harris and Stewart; nays: none. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:36 o'clock p.m.