

Anniston, Alabama

September 20, 2022

The City Council of the City of Anniston, Alabama, met in Regular Session in Room B at the Anniston City Meeting Center in the City of Anniston, Alabama, on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at approximately 5:30 o'clock p.m.

Jay Jenkins, Council Member, prayed the Invocation.

Jay Jenkins, Council Member, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Steven Folks, City Manager, was present.

Bruce Downey, City Attorney, was present.

Council Member Harris made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the September 6, 2022 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Jenkins, Roberts, Smith, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the September 6, 2022 regular meeting minutes were approved.

Council Member Jenkins made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the September 14, 2022 called meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Roberts and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Jenkins, Roberts, Harris and Draper; nays: none; abstentions: Council Member Smith. The motion carried and the September 14, 2022 called meeting minutes were approved.

Mayor Draper 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 Member Jenkins, Roberts, Smith, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the agenda was adopted.

Council Member Harris made a motion to remove from the table and place on the floor for passage and adoption the motion to approve the request from Anniston City Schools for remaining balance of FY22 appropriated funds of \$45,000.00 to utilized for technology resources and support across District facilities and FY21 appropriated funds of \$200,000.00 to be utilized for Support of Cobb Preparatory Academy, Maintenance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Jenkins, Roberts, Smith, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried.

Mayor Draper made a motion to adopt the consent agenda:

- (a) Resolution authorizing reimbursements to city officials for expenses incurred while traveling away from the city (22-R-48)

(b) Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission for the Anniston Express Fixed Route System and the ADA Para-Transit Services (22-R-49)

(c) Motion to approve a Special Events Retail Alcohol License application for Northeast Alabama Bicycle Association d/b/a Coldwater Mountain Fat Tire Festival from October 21-23, 2022 located at Zinn Park

(d) Motion to approve a Special Events Retail Alcohol License application for the City of Anniston d/b/a Jazz & Art Festival on October 20, 2022 located in City of Anniston Parking lot #3 at 12th & Noble Street from 3:00pm-Midnight.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Harris and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Jenkins, Roberts, Smith, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the consent agenda was approved.

Mayor Draper introduced a Resolution to amend the FY2022 budgets for the General Operating Fund, Museum of Natural History Fund, Fire Training Fund, and the Internal Services Funds, to adjust for the differences between the previously adopted budgets and presently projected revenues and expenditures in the budgets of the various funds.

Council Member Harris made a motion for passage and adoption of a Resolution to amend the FY2022 budgets for the General Operating Fund, Museum of Natural History Fund, Fire Training Fund, and the Internal Services Funds, to adjust for the differences between the previously adopted budgets and presently projected revenues and expenditures in the budgets of the various funds. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Jenkins, Roberts, Smith, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the resolution was passed and adopted. (22-R-50)

Mayor Draper introduced an Ordinance amending Section 15.57 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Anniston, Alabama adding four-way stop intersections (1st Reading) (22-O-10)

Council Member Smith made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Council Member Roberts.

Mayor Draper opened a public hearing to receive public comment on reading the ordinance by title only. No one spoke. Mayor Draper closed the public hearing to receive public comment on reading the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Draper read the ordinance amending Section 15.57 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Anniston, Alabama adding four-way stop intersections by title only.

Council Member Jenkins made a motion of unanimous consent for immediate consideration. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Jenkins, Roberts, Smith, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried.

Council Member Harris made a motion for passage and adoption. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jenkins and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Jenkins,

Roberts, Smith, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and ordinance (22-O-10) was passed and adopted.

Robert Houston, 2 Bristol Place, addressed the city council that when they took office in 2017, they walked into total decay and neglect. He stated that they did not have a school system but a system of schools. He stated that the Anniston school system was \$800,000.00 short this year in their budget. He stated that there will be required meetings to discuss funding and legal matters between the school system and the city council.

Trudy Munford, 2226 McDaniel Ave, addressed the city council that the Anniston City Board of Education, walked into a burning building in 2016. She stated that they did not have their one month reserve, and the IRS and Social Security department were penalizing them on a daily basis. She stated that they were borrowing money from banks to make payroll. She stated that in 2017 and 2018 they did not pass their audit. She stated that the city council made a decision to stop the allocation of the 1% sales tax and she agreed with them. She stated that they passed the audit in 2022.

Shawana Hill, 2630 Wilmer Ave, addressed the city council on issues in her neighborhood and her father's neighborhood. She stated that someone who moved into her neighborhood dumped crates in the yard and on the porch. She stated that near her father's property, 2706 Old Quintard, there is a property on his street, so bad that the grass has grown up on the cars and she has never seen a nuisance notice or anything.

Glen Ray, 3514 Dale Hollow Rd., addressed the city council that the citizens should not be rushed and expected to talk for only 3 minutes. He stated that this should be changed.

Richard Jackson, 2317 Noble Street, addressed the city council that they do what they want, when they want to do it. He stated that he does not appreciate the Mayor cutting the citizens off when their time has elapsed. He stated that the ordinance they created should be erased and citizens should have at least 10 minutes to speak. He stated that this is like voter suppression. He also stated that people are coming around at night dumping things in the alley.

Council Member Jenkins thanked everyone for being there and for their comments. He stated that the council is hearing their concerns and will take them into account.

Council Member Roberts stated this his number is 256-499-4218. He stated that he has always been very open and accessible. He stated that a lot of things were said today and he guarantees if they would sit down and talk with someone, they would see that they are very misconceived. He stated that we have to get out the habit of talking at people. He stated that it is all about delivery. He stated that they should come together and have a conversation, in a peaceful manner.

Council Member Smith stated that they are dancing around the elephant in the room. She stated that while she appreciates the Martin Luther King quotes, she agrees with the sentiments of Munford and Council Member Roberts to continue with their quarterly meetings with the school board. She stated that today, they voted on \$45,000.00 from fiscal year 2022. She stated that \$100,000.00 was allocated for the school system, \$55,000.00 was voted on to pay the salary of a teacher for the Helping Families Initiative, something she brought forth to Dr. Hill. She stated the \$200,000.00 is being allocated to the school system from fiscal year 2021. She stated that the reason why those funds were withheld was because the school system failed to produce an audit. She stated that it is within the council discretion

on how to utilize those funds. She stated that since she has been in office the council has never voted to deny giving the school board funding. She stated that this should be an opportunity for collaboration instead of conflict. She stated that the council discussed suspending the trash ordinance and more information will come.

Council Member Harris stated that she looks forward to working with the school board for better communication. She stated that it is obvious, that there are some real misunderstandings.

Mayor Draper stated that he appreciates all the comments. He stated that open dialogue, like this, is necessary in order to resolve the issues that they face. He stated that it is important for them to continue to partner with other governmental entities such as the Anniston school board. He stated that he agrees that they need to have these quarterly meetings to have an on-going dialogue.

There being no further business to come before the council at that time Mayor Draper made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith; and on call of the roll, the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Jenkins, Roberts, Smith, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:03 o'clock p.m.