

Anniston, Alabama

March 21, 2023

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, March 21, 2023, at approximately 5:32 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, Harris and Draper; absent: Council Member Smith. A quorum was present and the meeting opened for the transaction of business.

Steven Folks, City Manager, was present.

Council Member Jenkins made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the March 7, 2023 regular 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. The motion carried and the March 7, 2023 regular meeting minutes were approved.

Mayor Draper made a motion to adopt the agenda with an addition of an informal public hearing on the Emtek Bid to allow Mr. Heath to address the council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jenkins and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Jenkins, Roberts, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the amended agenda was adopted.

Mayor Draper opened a public hearing to receive public comments regarding a Lounge Retail Liquor-Class I alcohol license application for Pooh's Live Lounge, LLC d/b/a Pooh's Live Lounge located at 320 S Quintard inside the corporate city limits. No one spoke. Mayor Draper closed the public hearing to receive public comments regarding a Lounge Retail Liquor-Class I alcohol license application for Pooh's Live Lounge, LLC d/b/a Pooh's Live Lounge located at 320 S Quintard inside the corporate city limits.

Mayor Draper opened a public hearing to hear public comments regarding a Special Retail-More than 30 Days alcohol license for Anniston Country Club, Inc., d/b/a Anniston Country Club located at 601 Highland Avenue inside the corporate city limits. No one spoke. Mayor Draper closed the public hearing to hear public comments regarding a Special Retail-More than 30 Days alcohol license for Anniston Country Club, Inc., d/b/a Anniston Country Club located at 601 Highland Avenue inside the corporate city limits.

Mayor Draper opened an informal public hearing to receive public comments on the motion to approve bid for demolition of eighteen (18) substandard structures to Emtek in the amount of \$157,500.00 with funding from CDBG.

Curtis Heath, 2122 Cobb Ave, addressed the council on needing an extension to fix up his house before his property is demolished.

Mayor Draper asked if the property in question is one on the demolition list? He asked if Mr. Heath owns the property and is able to produce a deed because there were issues regarding the owner of the property.

Mr. Heath stated that the property is in his name however he was not aware that he needed to have the deed tonight.

Mayor Draper asked Tana Bryant, Senior Code Enforcement Officer, if Mr. Heath's property can be last on the list of 18, in order to give him some additional time.

Tana Bryant, Senior Code Enforcement Officer, stated that Mr. Heath has to have a land surveyor come out because the house is in the middle of a floodplain. She stated that she can arrange a contract with Mr. Heath.

Council Member Harris made a motion to approve the consent agenda:

- (a) Resolution declaring personal property as surplus and authorizing the disposal of said property (22-R-16)
- (b) Motion to approve bid for demolition of eighteen (18) substandard structures to Emtek in the amount of \$157,500.00 with funding from CDBG
- (c) Motion to approve bid for Citywide Patch Paving Project to Massey Asphalt in the amount of \$166,708.30
- (d) Motion to approve a Lounge Retail Liquor-Class I License application for Pooh's Live Lounge, LLC d/b/a Pooh's Live Lounge located at 320 S Quintard Avenue within the city limits
- (e) Motion to approve Special Retail-More than 30 Days License application for Anniston Country Club, Inc., d/b/a Anniston Country Club located at 601 Highland Avenue within the city limits

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

Mayor Draper introduced an ordinance Amending Chapter 3, Article VIII of the Code of Ordinances Establishing the Downtown Anniston Arts and Entertainment District. (1st Reading)

Council Member Harris 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 comments on reading the Ordinance Amending Chapter 3, Article VIII of the Code of Ordinances Establishing the Downtown Anniston Arts and Entertainment District by title only. No One Spoke. Mayor Draper closed the public hearing to receive public comments on reading the Ordinance Amending Chapter 3, Article VIII of the Code of Ordinances Establishing the Downtown Anniston Arts and Entertainment District by title only.

Council Member Harris made a motion of unanimous consent for immediate consideration of the Ordinance Amending Chapter 3, Article VIII of the Code of Ordinances Establishing the Downtown Anniston Arts and Entertainment District. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jenkins and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Jenkins, Roberts, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried.

Council Member Roberts made a motion for passage and adoption. The motion was seconded by Council Member Harris and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Jenkins, Roberts, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the ordinance was adopted. (23-0-3)

Glen Ray, 3514 Dale Hollow Rd, addressed the council on the misconduct of the Anniston Police Department. He stated that a young lady who attends Talladega College was driving through the city and an Anniston police officer pulled her over because her tag light but then it went to the officer smelled alcohol, to disorderly conduct, and to the young lady being arrested.

Richard Jackson, 2317 Noble Street, addressed the council that maybe some of the money the council is using to tear houses down can instead be used to save the homes. He stated that the communities are being diminished house by house. He stated that if they do not do something to bring taxes into the city then Anniston will be a ghost town and it is close to it now.

Council Member Harris had no comment.

Council Member Roberts asked everyone to be in prayer for Anniston and for every city. He stated that he agrees with Mr. Ray that he is concerned about any report of police misconduct. He stated that at one point there was an active police advisory committee that could address any issues. He stated that the problem with homes is that they sit and sit and the council does not know what to do with them.

Council Member Jenkins stated that he is concerned when they hear issues regarding to the police department but the incident will be looked into. He stated that he agrees with Mr. Jackson regarding neighborhoods but he believes that it is a grassroots effort. He stated that they can look to the Rocky Hollow Neighborhood Association, which was created by neighbors who banded together after they were tired of the conditions in their neighborhood.

Mayor Draper stated that he trusts staff and the police department to look into these issues that were raised during public comments. He stated that the council is working hard to bring economic development into the city; and that they should be thankful for any and all business they want to come into Anniston. He thanked staff for the work that went into the ordinance establishing the Downtown Arts and Entertainment District.

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 Jenkins; and on call of the roll, the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Jenkins, Roberts, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:57 o'clock p.m.