

Anniston, Alabama

July 18, 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, July 18, 2023, at approximately 5:30 o'clock p.m.

Craig Miller, Citizen of Anniston, prayed the Invocation.

Craig Miller, Citizen of Anniston, 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. 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 Smith made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 regular meeting. 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, and Harris; abstentions: Mayor Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the June 20, 2023 regular meeting minutes were approved.

Council Member Roberts made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023 special called 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 July 10, 2023 special 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.

Mayor Draper introduced Curtis McCants for his appointment to the Highland Health Systems Board.

Mayor Draper opened a public hearing to receive public comments on appointing Curtis McCants to the Highland Health Systems Board. No one spoke. Mayor Draper closed the public hearing to receive public comments on appointing Curtis McCants to the Highland Health Systems Board.

Mayor Draper made a motion to approve the consent agenda:

- (a) Resolution appointing members to the Highland Health Systems Board (23-R-33)
- (b) Resolution declaring a reported condition to be a public nuisance-Group 2023-03 G/D/V (23-R-34)
- (c) Motion to approve the bid for grass cutting and lot clean-up of 18 lots to Wendy Thornton in the amount of \$4,850.00
- (d) Motion to approve the bid for the demolition of substandard structures using CDBG funding to Emtek for four (4) properties totaling \$42,800.00 and to T&D Stump Grinding for ten (10) properties in the amount of \$62,500.00
- (e) Motion to approve the bid for the purchase of one (1) 2023 ¾ ton Crew Cab Pickup for the Fire Department in the amount of \$50,550.00
- (f) Motion to approve an amendment to the City of Anniston's Personnel Policies and Procedures manual addition Essential Information Policies section to include, "Pregnant Workers Fairness Act: PWFA after Family and Medical Leave

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.

Glen Ray, 3514 Dale Hollow Rd, addressed the council that mental health is an issue in the city. He stated that it seems like we are putting people in jail instead of trying to help them. He suggested the council have someone from Montgomery, that has some authority, to come in and talk with the community.

Richard Jackson, 2317 Noble Street, addressed the council that there needs to be some attention brought to the issues that are happening to the citizens when they go to the hospital. He stated that we need to make sure citizens have adequate rooms available for citizens.

Council Member Smith stated that she agrees with Mr. Ray and Mr. Jackson that all levels of government should pay more attention to mental health issues. She stated that she cannot speak to the operational side of the hospital but sometimes it is not as easy as having a bed available. She stated that this is not an Anniston issue but a United States issue.

Council Member Roberts makes a plea to the parents in Anniston. He stated that it is becoming sickening the amount of shootings that are taking place. He stated that at some point we all have to take accountability. He stated that the City has a new semi-pro league basketball team.

Council Member Jenkins stated that the issue is not a lack of beds but a shortage of staff. He stated that it is a national problem and covid-19 did real damage across the nation. He stated that there are efforts made at the hospital to handle this issue. He stated that everyone at the hospital, including the board, is driven to the same goal, to deliver the best possible care for the community.

Mayor Draper made a motion to convene an executive session to discuss the consideration the Council is willing to offer or accept when considering the purchase, sale, exchange, lease, or market value of real property; and the council will not be reconvening to take action on anything discussed in the executive session. The motion was seconded 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 meeting was adjourned into executive session at approximately 5:52 p.m.