Anniston, Alabama

May 21, 2024

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, May 21, 2024, at approximately 5:30 o’clock p.m.

Jack Draper, Mayor, prayed the Invocation.

Jack Draper, Mayor, 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 Smith made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the May 7, 2024, 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, Smith, Harris, and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the May 7, 2024, regular meeting minutes were approved.

Mayor Draper made a motion to adopt the agenda with the removal of item (c) Resolution to Vacate a Portion of Mary Lane from the consent agenda. 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 Smith; nays: none. The motion carried and the amended agenda was adopted.

Council Member Roberts introduced a special recognition of the Theta Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi.

Mayor Draper opened a board confirmation hearing for the following individuals:

1. Alice Easley-Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board
2. Johnny Byrd-Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board
3. Maggie Burn- Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board
4. Barry Twigg- Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board

Mayor Draper opened a public hearing to receive public comments regarding a 140-Special Events Retail Liquor application for the City of Anniston d/b/a Anniston Heritage Festival located in Zinn Park at 114 W 14th street inside the city limits. No one spoke. Mayor Draper closed the public hearing to receive public comments regarding a 140-Special Events Retail Liquor application for the City of Anniston d/b/a Anniston Heritage Festival located in Zinn Park at 114 W 14th street inside the city limits.

Mayor Draper opened a public hearing to receive public comments regarding the proposed updates to the Anniston Zoning Ordinance.

Julie Moss, Executive Director of the McClellan Development Authority, stated that she is disappointed in the city council that they have refused to work with the MDA regarding the zoning at McClellan. She stated that it is a concern for the city to continue to decline to meet with the MDA regarding the zoning of the McClellan division. She stated that the city’s complete lack of knowledge regarding the existing environmental clean-up status at McClellan should be a matter of concern. She stated that the McClellan community and the citizens of Anniston deserve better than to have sweeping changes to zoning pushed through for approval without having involved all stakeholders in the process.

Mayor Draper closed the public hearing to receive public comments regarding the proposed updates to the Anniston Zoning Ordinance.

Mayor Draper made a motion to approve the consent agenda:

1. Resolution Appointing/Reappointing Members to the Parks and Recreation Beautification Board *(24-R-27)*
2. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Grant Application for Federal Assistance for the Airport Improvement Project for the Anniston Regional Airport *(24-R-28)*
3. Motion to amend Resolution (24-R-24) authorizing the Alabama Department of Revenue to Administer and Collect Sales, Use, Rental, and Lodging Taxes Levied by the City of Anniston to Remove Section 3
4. Motion to approve a 140-Special Events Retail Liquor application for the City of Anniston d/b/a Anniston Heritage Festival located in Zinn Park at 114 W 14th Street inside the city limits

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

Council Member Jenkins made a motion to read the Ordinance to provide the establishment of Districts within the corporate limits of the City of Anniston, Alabama; to regulate within such districts the use of real property contained therein, including, the height, number of stories, and size of buildings and other structures, the percentage of lot that may be occupied, the size of yards and other open spaces, the density of population and the use of buildings, structures and land; to provide methods of administration of this ordinance and penalties for the violation thereof by title only. *(1st Reading)* The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith.

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 to provide the establishment of Districts within the corporate limits of the City of Anniston, Alabama; to regulate within such districts the use of real property contained therein, including, the height, number of stories, and size of buildings and other structures, the percentage of lot that may be occupied, the size of yards and other open spaces, the density of population and the use of buildings, structures and land; to provide methods of administration of this ordinance and penalties for the violation thereof by title only. *(1st Reading)*

Glen Ray, 3514 Dale Hollow Road, addressed the council on where they are with the status of the Homeless Shelter and that council needs to have a sit down with D.A. Hamilton. He stated that he has a letter from a young man who worked at doctor’s office and stole some money and tried to return the funds and received a life sentence without parole. He stated that these are the types of things that the city needs to get involved in.

Richard Jackson, 2317 Noble Street, asked what the status is of the New City Hall Remodel and the status of the Chief Ladiga Trail. He stated that they need to start seeing some return on their investments.

Council Member Jenkins had no comment.

Council Member Roberts stated that Mr. Ray brought up some points and sometimes you have to see what is going on. He stated there has been a lot of digging in different places for the trail but there are some things being done that you can not see. He stated that the brothers of Omega Psi Phi just want to unify people and work together with the city. He encouraged everyone to go out and vote.

Council Member Smith stated that she likes to refer to the Homeless Shelter as a Transitioning Center. She stated it was created to take people from their current environment and push them to learn how to be a first class citizen.

Jackson Hodges, Public Relations Director, stated that they have raised all the funds needed to complete the project and are expected to break ground within the next couple of months. He stated that they have already established partnerships with St. Michaels, Interfaith, and other non-profit organizations. He stated that this facility will provide services such as, Council Member Smith stated. He stated that this facility will hold around 85 people and will help get those individuals back on track.

Council Member Smith stated that on the city’s Facebook page, there are updates with pictures of the bases of the new city hall. She stated that she agrees with Mr. Ray that the community is losing a large portion of kids to the system which has been an ongoing matter worldwide. She stated that there are a lot of partnerships that should be at play to do something positive to shape the lives of the young. She stated that she looks forward to seeing everyone at the Heritage Festival.

Council Member Harris thanked the gentlemen of Omega Psi Phi for their willingness to make a difference with our young people. She acknowledged Maggie Burns, President and CEO of the YMCA, and her willingness to serve on the Parks and Recreation Beautification Board.

Mayor Draper thanked the men of Omega Psi Phi for the impact they are making within the community. He stated that it does take all of us working together. He stated that the council will be taking up the Zoning Ordinance at their first meeting on June 4th, and it will be discussed in earnest as it will be on its 2nd reading.

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 Roberts; 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 5:59 o’clock p.m.