Anniston, Alabama

June 18, 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, June 18, 2024, at approximately 5:35 o’clock p.m.

Ciara Smith, Council Member, prayed the Invocation.

Ciara Smith, 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 Roberts, Smith, Harris, and Draper; absent: Council Member Jenkins. 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 4, 2024, Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Harris and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Roberts, Smith, Harris, and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the June 4, 2024, regular meeting minutes were approved.

Mayor Draper made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Roberts, Smith, Harris, and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the amended agenda was adopted.

Mayor Draper read a special proclamation to honor the memory and legacy of the late Former Mayor William Alan “Bill” Robison.

Mayor Draper opened a public hearing to receive public comments regarding a 011-Lounge Retail Liquor- Class I for Lambasi LLC d/b/a Victory Package Store located in the City limits of Anniston at 1511 Greenbrier Dear Road Anniston, AL 36201. No one spoke. Mayor Draper closed the public hearing to receive public comments regarding a 011-Lounge Retail Liquor- Class I for Lambasi LLC d/b/a Victory Package Store located in the City limits of Anniston at 1511 Greenbrier Dear Road Anniston, AL 36201.

Mayor Draper made a motion to approve the consent agenda:

1. Resolution declaring a reported condition to be a public nuisance. Group 2024-02 Grass/Debris/Vehicles/Burnt Structure *(24-R-35)*
2. Resolution appointing members to the Anniston-Calhoun County Library Board *(24-R-36)*
3. Resolution to amend the FY 2024 Budgets for the General Operating Fund, Anniston Museums & Gardens Funds, Fire Tax & Fire Training Fund, and the Capital Projects Fund to Adjust for the Differences Between the Previously Adopted Budgets and Presently Projected Revenues and Expenditures in the Budgets of the Various Funds *(24-R-37)*
4. Motion to amend the “longevity pay” section of the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual to reflect an increase in longevity pay from $12.00 per year to $20.00 per year
5. Motion to approve a 011-Lounge Retail Liquor-Class I for Lambasi LLC d/b/a Victory Package Store located in the City limits of Anniston at 1511 Greenbrier Dear Road, Anniston AL 36207
6. Motion to approve a Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) and Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) for Circle K Stores Inc. d/b/a Circle K 2709309 located inside the City Limits at 22 Choccolocca Rd. Anniston, AL 36201

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

Mayor Draper introduced the Flood Plain Development Ordinance *(1St Reading)*

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 comments on reading the ordinance by title only. No One Spoke. Mayor Draper closed the public hearing to receive public comments on reading the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Draper read the ordinance by title only.

Evangelist Veronica Williams, 895 West 9th Street, addressed the council on the conditions of the city and citizens of Anniston. She stated that Anniston has had the highest population adjusted rate of violent crime in the United States for years.

Kevin Cheatwood, 1027 Forest Lane, addressed the council on the lack of accountability and transparency with the Downtown Development Authority. He stated that there have been no minutes from this board and he encourages the council to take immediate action.

Council Member Roberts stated that words cannot express what Mayor Robinson meant to the City of Anniston. He stated that the Heritage Festival will be this Saturday at Zinn Park. He stated that there are a lot of things to enjoy in downtown Anniston. He encouraged everyone to check on their loved ones in this heat.

Council Member Smith reiterated the sentiments of Council Member Roberts and she thanked everyone for coming out.

Council Member Harris thanked everyone for coming out to tonight’s council meeting.

Mayor Draper thanked Mrs. Emily Robison for coming out tonight. He commended the late former Mayor Bill Robison for his service to Anniston. He stated that Steven Folks, City Manager, notified them in the work session that he will be retiring on April 25, 2025. He stated that Mr. Folks has served the city for 30 years and they will begin the process of searching for his replacement.

Mayor Draper made a motion to convene an executive session to discuss preliminary negotiations involving matters of trade or commerce in which the governmental body is in competition with private individuals or entities or other governmental bodies; and to discuss with the City’s attorneys the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated or imminently likely to be litigated if the governmental body purses a proposed course of action. The motion was seconded by Council Member Harris.

Bruce Downey, City Attorney, stated that the discussion with the city attorney falls under … *(further comments were inaudible)*

And on call of the roll, the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Roberts, Smith, Harris, and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned into executive session at approximately 5:59 p.m. o’clock.