

CITY OF ANNISTON

January 7, 2025

5:30 P.M.

- **INVOCATION**
- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- **CALL TO ORDER**
- **ROLL CALL**
- **READING/APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
 - December 17, 2024
- **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**
- **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

I. PUBLIC HEARING

Speaking to a Public Hearing Item

In the interest of time and to ensure the fairness of all persons who appear before the City Council to speak for or against a public hearing item, speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes each to address City Council except as described herein. One speaker for the Petitioner may address the City Council for no more than 10 minutes, unless extended by the Mayor. In an effort help the City Council and the general public to better understand the issues, the Mayor may request that a City staff member address the City Council from the podium. Speakers from the general public may only speak when recognized by the Mayor during the public hearing. Speakers will be asked to come to the podium to address the City Council for three (3) minutes and they shall state their name and resident address for the record. Speakers addressing City Council on a public hearing item should coordinate comments in order to respect City Council's time constraints. Groups should select a spokesperson to present the major points that summarize their position and opinions. Speakers are urged to be brief and non-repetitive with their comments. Comments shall specifically address the public hearing item before the City Council, and the speaker shall maintain appropriate tone and decorum when addressing the City Council. City Council may ask questions of the applicant, speakers, or staff during these proceedings only for the purpose of clarifying information. The speaker shall not direct derogatory comments to any individual, organization, or business. At the conclusion of the three (3) minute time period, the speaker will be notified that his/her time has elapsed and the next speaker will be recognized to come forward to the podium and address the City Council. Once the public hearing is closed on an item, there will be no further opportunity for formal or informal public input at a City Council meeting.

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) Resolution authorizing reimbursement to city officials for expenses incurred while traveling away from the city
- (b) Motion to authorize Fire Chief Jeff Waldrep the authority to sign, on behalf of the City of Anniston, any Calhoun County Emergency Management Agency (CCEMA), Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) documents related to storm shelter grants for the City of Anniston.

IV. ADDITIONAL OR OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY COME BEFORE COUNCIL

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comment – Speaker Protocol

The City of Anniston believes that any member of the general public should be afforded the opportunity to address the City Council provided that designated rules are followed by the speaker. Any member of the public, who wishes to address the City Council and offer public comment on items within the City Council's jurisdiction, may do so during the Public Comment period of the meeting. However, no formal action will be taken on matters that are not part of the posted agenda. In order to ensure the opportunity for all those desiring to speak before the Council, there is no yielding of time to another speaker. This opportunity to address City Council may not be used to continue discussion on an agenda item that has already been held as a public hearing. Matters under negotiation, litigation, or related to personnel will not be discussed. Members of the general public who would like to address the City Council during the Public Comment portion of the meeting, may do so in accordance with the rules outlined in Ordinance 21-0-22 adopted by the City Council on November 2, 2020 as stated:

Section 12. Members of the public may address the Council or speak on matters of public concern during the period of the meeting agenda reserved for public comments, subject to the following procedures:

(a) No person shall be allowed to speak during public comments unless he or she submits a Request to Speak During Public Comments form to the Office of the City Manager no later than 3:00 P.M. on the Friday before the Council meeting. The request shall identify the speaker by name and residential address and shall specify the date of the meeting in which the speaker desires to offer public comments.

(b) The period for public comments shall be open to the **first ten (10) persons** who submit a timely request to speak during the meeting at hand.

(c) In advance of each meeting, the City Manager shall provide the Council a list of the persons authorized to speak during the period for public comments, not to exceed ten (10) persons, which shall identify the speakers in the order in which their requests were made. The presiding officer shall call on each person from the list. Once recognized, each person shall be provided no more than **three (3) minutes** to complete his or her public comments.

(d) Those persons who make a timely request, after the first ten (10) requests, shall be first on the list of persons authorized to speak during the period for public comments in the next meeting, unless he or she asks to be removed from the list.

Section 13. All comments made by members of the Council shall be restricted to the matter under consideration and shall be addressed to the presiding officer, except during the period of the meeting reserved for Council Comments. All comments made by members of the Council shall be restricted to three (3) minutes, unless the presiding officer grants exception for good cause.

Section 14. No comments shall be permitted by a member of the Council or by a member of the public that is of a disparaging nature or which would constitute a personal attack on the integrity of any member of the Council or the staff of the City.

Once the speaker has been recognized to speak, he/she should not attempt to engage the City Council and/or Staff in a discussion/dialogue and the speaker should not ask specific questions with the expectation that an immediate answer will be provided as part of the three (3) minute time frame since that is not the intent of the Public Comment period. If the speaker poses a question or makes a request of the City, the Mayor may refer the issue or request to the City Manager for follow up. At the conclusion of the three (3) minute time period, the speaker will be notified that his/her time has elapsed and the next speaker will be recognized to come forward to the podium and address the City Council. The Mayor may rule out of order any Speaker who uses abusive or indecorous language, if the subject matter does not pertain to the City of Anniston, or if the Speaker(s) attempts to engage the City Council Members in a discussion or dialogue on issues. City Council shall not discuss non-agenda matters because it does not give the public adequate notice. Accordingly, City Council shall be limited to asking factual and clarifying questions of staff, and when appropriate, the Council may consider placing a matter on a future agenda. In addition, it is not reasonable to expect staff to respond to any of a variety of issues on which they may or may not be prepared to respond to on a moment's notice, so the City Manager may respond, or direct staff to respond at a later time.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

- (a) Motion to convene an executive session to discuss the general reputation and character, physical condition, professional competence, or mental health of individuals and 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 in Alabama or in other states.