Anniston, Alabama

December 17, 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, December 17, 2024, at approximately 5:37 o’clock p.m.

Reverend David Hodnett, St. Michaels and All Angels Episcopal, prayed the Invocation.

Reverend David Hodnett, St. Michaels and All Angels Episcopal, 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 Downing, 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 Roberts made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the December 3, 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 Downing, Roberts, Smith, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the December 3, 2024, regular meeting minutes were approved.

Council Member Downing made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the December 12, 2024, 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 Downing, Roberts, Smith, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the December 12, 2024, special called meeting minutes were approved.

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

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

1. Resolution authorizing acceptance of real property donation *(24-R-66)*
2. Resolution authorizing reimbursement to city officials for expenses incurred while traveling away from the city *(24-R-67)*

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

Mayor Draper introduced the ordinance amending Section 7.174: Tobacco Shop Regulations, of the City of Anniston Zoning Ordinance to Include Tobacco Products, Cannabidiol (CBD) oil, Electronic/Liquid Based Smoking or Vaping Products, and which by law, persons under the age of 21 are prohibited from entry. (2nd Reading)

Council Member Harris made a motion to read the ordinance by title-only. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith.

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.

And on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Downing, Roberts, Smith, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried.

Mayor Draper read the ordinance amending Section 7.174: Tobacco Shop Regulations, of the City of Anniston Zoning Ordinance to Include Tobacco Products, Cannabidiol (CBD) oil, Electronic/Liquid Based Smoking or Vaping Products, and which by law, persons under the age of 21 are prohibited from entry by title only.

Council Member Harris made a motion for passage and adoption of the ordinance amending Section 7.174: Tobacco Shop Regulations, of the City of Anniston Zoning Ordinance to Include Tobacco Products, Cannabidiol (CBD) oil, Electronic/Liquid Based Smoking or Vaping Products, and which by law, persons under the age of 21 are prohibited from entry. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Downing, Roberts, Smith, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the ordinance was passed and adopted.

Mayor Draper introduced the ordinance designating polling places and polling hours for the Municipal Elections to be conducted within the City of Anniston. (2nd Reading)

Council Member Roberts made a motion to read the ordinance by title-only. The motion was seconded by Council Member Harris.

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.

And on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Roberts, Smith, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried.

Mayor Draper read the ordinance designating polling places and polling hours for the Municipal Elections to be conducted within the City of Anniston by title only.

Council Member Harris made a motion for passage and adoption of the ordinance designating polling places and polling hours for the Municipal Elections to be conducted within the City of Anniston. The motion was seconded by Council Member Roberts and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Member Downing, Roberts, Smith, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the ordinance was passed and adopted.

Council Member Harris commended Jackson Hodges, Public Information Director, on revamping the city’s website. She thanked him for bringing the city up to the 21st century.

Council Member Smith stated that she received several compliments over the past week regarding Frazier “Coach Frazier” Burroughs, Parks and Recreation Director. She thanked him for all the things he has done, seen and unseen. She stated that he makes the city look good.

Council Member Roberts stated that city staff does a wonderful job and thanked Jackson for updating the website. He stated that he has received so many comments on the Christmas parade and that it has been one of the best in a long time. He stated that the progress the city has made, in the last 3 years, has been noticeable to the community.

Council Member Downing stated that city staff is dedicated and works tirelessly to aid in the progress of the city. He commended staff for being eager to assist him in his transition to council member. He stated that the past Christmas parade has been one of the best and most attended that he can remember. He thanked everyone for their hard work with putting that event on.

Mayor Draper stated how thankful he is of all the great things going in Anniston. He stated that he anticipates even more progress in 2025 and thanked everyone for their engagement. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season.

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 Smith; and on call of the roll, the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Downing, Roberts, Smith, Harris and Draper; nays: none. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:50 o’clock p.m.