Anniston, Alabama

February 18, 2025

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, February 18, 2025, 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 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 Smith made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the February 4, 2025, Regular Meeting. 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 February 4, 2025, regular meeting minutes were approved.

Mayor Draper made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of 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. 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 amended agenda was approved.

Frazier Burroughs, Parks and Recreation Director, conducted a special recognition of Wiggins Community Center's A-Town Runners Track Team Member, Cameron Williams.

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

(a) Resolution authorizing reimbursements to city officials for expenses incurred while traveling away from the city *(25-R-3)*

(b) Resolution receiving and confirming a cost report on the abatement of a public nuisance *(25-R-4)*

(c) Resolution declaring various vehicles and pieces of equipment as surplus and authorizing their sale *(25-R-5)*

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 consent agenda was approved.

Walt Frazier, 110 Burns Street, addressed the council on the issue of PCP’s in Anniston. He stated that the city is approaching 100 years in dealing with this issue. He proposed some ideas to help with this issue the city has faced.

David Baker, 1116 West 17th Street, addressed the council and stated that they met with Monsanto, or Solutia, or Eden and no one from the community was invited into the conversation. He stated that 3 or 4 months ago there was a breach in that landfill and Solutia stated that there was no further action to be taken. He stated that the city will repeat what did over 60 years ago. He commended the police department for their actions and working with the community.

Council Member Downing thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He stated that it feels good to have the community come out and express their opinions. He started

Council Member Roberts thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He stated that the community should be weather alert as there will be the possibility of severe weather. He encouraged everyone to check on your love ones.

Council Member Smith thanked everyone for coming out tonight. She stated that she hopes to see more community participation in the council meetings since city hall is back downtown. She thanked Mr. Frazier and Mr. Baker for expressing their concerns. She stated that it would be wise to have an opportunity to sit down with both men and discuss what is happening with Solutia to make sure everyone is on the same page. She stated that she does not want to encourage the spread of misinformation and create a public hysteria.

Council Member Harris thanked everyone for coming out tonight for this historical time. She encouraged everyone to check on their loved one.

Mayor Draper had no comment.

Mayor Draper made 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. 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 meeting was adjourned into executive session at approximately 5:52 o’clock p.m.