

City of Lanett Meeting Minutes

401 N. Lanier Ave.
Lanett, AL 36863

Monday, October 4, 2021

6:00 PM

Lanett Council Chambers

Regular Session -

The City Council of the City of Lanett, Alabama, met in regular session on Monday, October 4, 2021, in the Council Chambers of the Lanett Municipal Complex at 6:00 P.M.

Council members present were Tony Malone, Jamie Heard, Angelia Thomas, Charles Looser and Tifton Dobbs. Mayor Pro-tempore Heard presided over the meeting.

Rev. Rodney Jones said the invocation and Mayor Pro-tempore Heard led the pledge of allegiance.

Councilmember Thomas made the motion to adopt the prepared agenda. Councilmember Malone seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Councilmember Dobbs made the motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called Council Meeting of September 27, 2021 and the September 30, 2021. Councilmember Malone seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jamie Heard relinquished the chair to Attorney Stanley Gray.

Attorney Stanley Gray stated on September 22, 2021 the position of mayor was vacated with the departure of Mayor Kyle McCoy. Attorney Stanley Gray said the City Council has to decide who to appoint as mayor when a vacancy exists in the office within a city that falls under a class 7 municipalities. Attorney Stanley Gray said based upon the class 7 municipality sections, City Council shall fill the vacancy and the vacancy must be filled with a qualified elector in the municipality and shall meet the other requirements by law.

Attorney Gray stated he had informed the council of their options in filling the vacancy and said at this point the council will move forward with accepting nominations that will come from the Council Members only. He further said if a mayor is nominated and accepted, they will be sworn in tonight and that person will fulfill the unexpired term.

Attorney Gray opened the floor for nominations.

Councilmember Malone made the motion to nominate Councilmember Jamie Heard for the position of Mayor.

Attorney Gray asked if there were any other nominations and none was recorded.

Attorney Stanley Gray closed the floor for nomination with Councilmember Jamie Heard being the only one from the floor.

Attorney Stanley Gray requested a roll call vote on the nomination of Jamie Heard to fill the unexpired term of office for Mayor. Roll call vote as follows: Councilmember Malone - Yea, Looser - Yea, Thomas - Yea, Dobbs - Yea, and Heard - Yea. Motion carried with Councilmember Heard being the new mayor to finish the unexpired term.

Mayor Jamie Heard was sworn in by Attorney Gray with his wife Janice standing with him.

Mayor Jamie Heard gave a statement saying “to my fellow councilmembers and the citizens of Lanett, I want to simply say thank you for trusting me to lead this city in the right direction and in a positive manner. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve and it is my prayer and goal to build the trust of the citizens of this great city. I have served on the council for many years and have had a great working relationship with the 2 former Mayors Crawley and McCoy as well as the current and previous councilmembers. I look forward to continue to work with this council. We are a team. In order to be a successful team, we must work together to move this city in the right direction. Lanett has 5 districts and each district has needs, some greater than others. I will be meeting with each councilmember to see what needs they have for their districts and come up with a plan to meet some, not all of their needs in each district. I will be transparent and have an open line of communication. I will return all calls in a timely manner. I am no stranger to the majority of the city, working at Lanett City Schools for 26 great years. When I retired in December, I left W.O. Lance financially sound. The City of Lanett is financially sound and it is my goal to keep it that way. I know that my parents would be proud of me today if they were here. This week I lost a dear cousin, Jessie L. Martin who would have told him “Boy, don’t go up there and mess up our money. I would like to thank my wife Janice, my children and my family and church family. Thank you and I look forward to serving with each of you. May God Bless each of you and May God bless the City of Lanett”.

Attorney Gray explained that with Mayor Heard being appointed a vacancy is created within District 2 for a Council Member and this should be filled by the Council at the next City Council meeting in a similar fashion.

Under old business, Mayor Jamie Heard asked for a motion to approve Resolution 09-21-02, a resolution to offer an incentive to employees utilizing the American Rescue Plan funds. Councilmember Dobbs made the motion while Councilmember Looser seconded it. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Heard asked for a motion for "Approval of Invoices". Councilmember Thomas made the motion for "Approval of Invoices". Councilmember Malone seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Resolution 10-21-01 a resolution to approve the application of state and federal matching funds for airport improvement project was put into motion by Councilmember Dobbs and seconded by Councilmember Looser. Motion unanimously carried. Ryan Pearce from Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood was present to speak about the need for this resolution.

Resolution 10-21-2 a resolution to apply for an ADECA Police Equipment Grant was put in motion by Councilmember Thomas and seconded by Councilmember Dobbs. Motion unanimously carried. Chief Johnny Wood spoke about this and the next resolution.

Resolution 10-21-3 a resolution to apply for a USDA Police Vehicle Grant was put in motion by Councilmember Dobbs and seconded by Councilmember Malone. Motion unanimously carried.

Councilman Malone had no committee report. He thanked the citizens for their presence and congratulated Mayor Heard.

Councilman Looser had no committee report. He stated that we were lucky to have Mr. Heard serving.

Councilwoman Thomas had no committee report. She stated that she was glad to see everyone present tonight. She asked for support and prayers for Mr. Heard, stating that he would do great things for the city.

Councilman Dobbs had no committee report. He stated his congratulations to Mr. Heard. He said that he brings a lot to the table with his administration skills.

Mayor Heard asked for a motion to dismiss. Malone motioned and Thomas seconded.

Mayor Heard stated that there being no further business to come before this council, motion duly made, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Attest:

Jamie L. Heard, Mayor

Deborah Gilbert, City Clerk/Treasurer