

City of Lanett Meeting Minutes

401 N. Lanier Ave.
Lanett, AL 36863

Monday, June 20, 2023, 6:00 PM

Lanett Council Chambers

Regular Session and Public Hearing -

The City Council of the City of Lanett, Alabama, met in a regular meeting on Monday, June 20, 2023, in the Council Chambers of the Lanett Municipal Complex at 6:00 P.M.

Council members present were Ronnie Tucker, Angelia Thomas and Tifton Dobbs. Mayor Heard presided over the meeting.

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

At this time Mayor Heard called on Grant Writer Sara Byard to preside over a public hearing to get community input on needs that a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) would have. The state of Alabama got 23 million dollars to distribute in grants. Lanett's max would be \$500,000. The application deadline is at the end of July. There is a 10% match where in-kind could be used as the match. There were numerous questions coming from the audience.

Councilmember Thomas made the motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Dobbs seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Councilmember Dobbs made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2023, Council Meeting. Councilmember Tucker seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Invoices was motioned by Councilmember Thomas and seconded by Councilmember Dobbs. Motion unanimously carried.

Ordinance 06-23-01 Second Reading was motioned by Councilman Dobbs and seconded by Councilmember Thomas. Motion carried unanimously. A Roll Call vote was taken with the following results: Thomas – Yes, Dobbs – Yes, Tucker – Yes, Heard – Yes.

Councilmember Dobbs motioned to accept Resolution 06-23-03 a Resolution to accept bid from GMC for CDBG Grant Engineering. Councilmember Thomas seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Thomas motioned to accept Resolution 06-23-04 a Resolution to seek bids for Phillips Road Lift Station Rehab. Councilmember Dobbs seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Malone was absent.

Councilwoman Autry was absent.

Councilman Tucker had no committee report. He stated that in his opinion it is time to hire a City Manager to help us across the finish line because he felt that the issue with the Police Jurisdiction would not have happened if one was in place.

Councilwoman Thomas had no committee report. She asked for speed bumps in district 4, stated that the Code Enforcement Officer was doing a good job and had questions about the lights. Superintendent Summers stated that he was working with Temple, Inc. on getting street sign lights repaired. She also mentioned the recent Juneteenth celebration.

Councilman Dobbs had no committee report. He discussed some concerns he had in the housing projects area concerning water standing in the roadway and drains that were not working properly and causing issues. He also had some concerns about street paving in the housing projects. Dobbs also stated that the Airport Manager was doing things like cutting grass, which was taking him away from his regular duties and his desire to hire a multi-purpose person to do this.

Mayor Heard recognized Valarie Gray, Executive Director for the Chambers County Development Authority. Mrs. Gray gave an update on the EPA Browns Field grant study done for Tetra Tech going on at the mill site. Samples have been submitted on the soil study and possible contaminations. No estimate as to when comments will be provided. She stated that their insurance carrier has approved that if any government, public entity or city employee needed to get dirt from the mill site behind Tractor Supply, it is okay to do so because ten thousand cubic yards of dirt had been deposited there. She stated that improvements have been made to the Pavilion and thanked the city for keeping the area clean.

City Attorney Stanley Gray explained the 2021 Police Jurisdiction law and the inability of 128 cities to collect taxes in that area affective June 1st. He stated that we are exploring processes to address this issue. Gray has been in contact with the county attorney and let them know that we will be sending out communications to them. He stated that this could also be detrimental to even cities that complied. Thomas asked if any determination had been made for the cities that sent the report

In, even after the deadline. She stated that she understood that there were 121 cities that did not comply, which was odd because all of these cities would not have wanted to collect tax money. Tucker stated that he is not sure who dropped the ball but there should be a paper trail. A representative from the newspaper stated that he was told that the problem occurred because the information was sent to the police chiefs of each city and at the time, Lanett did not have a permanent chief, only an interim. Gray stated that there must have been an issue for so many cities to miss it but the county is cooperating and working with us.

Councilmember Dobbs made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilmember Thomas.

Mayor Heard stated that there being no further business to come before this council, motion duly made, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Attest:

Jamie L. Heard, Mayor

Deborah Gilbert, City Clerk/Treasurer