

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, LINCOLN, ALABAMA

October 11, 2022

The City Council of the City of Lincoln, Alabama met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. Mayor Watson called the meeting to order and upon roll call the following answered present: Mayor Watson, Councilmembers Sadie Britt, Billy Pearson, Jennie Jones and Joey Callahan. Councilmember Brandon Tate was absent. Invocation was given by Billy Pearson and Mayor Watson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Watson opened the Public Hearing in accordance with the provisions of Section 94.01 of the Constitution of the State of Alabama of 1901 (also known as Amendment Number 772 to the Alabama Constitution of 1901), as amended, for the purpose of considering the passage of a resolution to authorize the appropriation of public funds and things of value in aid to the Lady Bass Anglers Association and BASS Tactix Alabama for the purpose of paying sponsorship fees for the promotion and conducting of professional fishing tournaments at Lincoln's Landing. Les Robinson, Lincoln's Landing Director, stated this is the fourth year for the LBAA classic. They have used Lincoln's Landing twice and will have about 25 boats here for one week. The BASS Tactix Alabama is a new high school trail. There were no further comments from the public and Mayor Watson closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Pearson made a motion to approve the minutes of September 27, 2022; second by Jones. The vote was Pearson – Aye, Britt – Aye, Jones – Aye and Callahan – Aye.

Councilmember Britt made a motion to approve the minutes of October 4, 2022; second by Pearson. The vote was Pearson – Aye, Britt – Aye, Jones – Aye and Callahan – Aye.

Mayor Watson presented Resolution 2023-01 authorizing the appropriation of public funds and things of value in aid to a private corporation for the purpose of promoting the economic and industrial development of the city for the Lady Bass Anglers Association. Councilmember Callahan made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-01; second by Jones. The vote was Pearson – Aye, Britt – Aye, Jones – Aye and Callahan – Aye.

Mayor Watson presented Resolution 2023-02 authorizing the appropriation of public funds and things of value in aid to a private corporation for the purpose of promoting the economic and industrial development of the city for the BASS Tactix Alabama. Councilmember Britt made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-02; second by Jones. The vote was Pearson – Aye, Britt – Aye, Jones – Aye and Callahan – Aye.

Councilmember Pearson made a motion to approve the FY-2023 Budget; second by Jones. The vote was Pearson – Aye, Britt – Aye, Jones – Aye and Callahan – Aye.

Mayor Watson opened the Public Hearing regarding the revocation of business licenses for Petro Nation, Inc. d/b/a Lincoln Shell and d/b/a Lincoln Liquors located at 47720 Hwy 78, Lincoln, Alabama. A representative for Petro Nation requested more time stating that the owner was facing chemo treatment today. Kim Davidson, Revenue Officer asked who he was referring to and he stated Mickey Ali and she advised he is the manager, not the owner of the business. Kim advised the letter regarding the Public Hearing was hand delivered to the business. The business has failed to produce requested records. The ABC Board has issued seventeen citations and four warnings. Some of the violations include possession of products illegal to be sold in the State of Alabama, selling to minors and allowing consumption of alcohol on premises. An audit was performed by the state in 2017 which has been appealed. In March of 2021 a new audit was requested through Rivertree. As of September 30, 2022 there has been no response to the request to produce records. Investigator Willis stated the ABC Board performed an audit inspection and

found Schedule II controlled substances on the shelf and in the back. There were no age restrictions on the items. They have sold alcohol and tobacco to minors. Billy Pearson inquired if the city should wait on the state and Kim advised we were still waiting to be put on the docket with the State. Joey Callahan stated there has been a recent incident with some of our kids and we should take a stand between the sale of these substances to our children. He stated the owner has a responsibility to make sure these things don't end up in the store. Councilmember Callahan stated we have no control over the state audit. He informed the Council he had received a phone call regarding an issue at night involving traffic and a violent situation where people were scared to get out of their cars. They are allowing people to drink and smoke in the parking lot. An employee stated he ran off some people in the parking lot and they called the police on him. Kim advised when the state performed the first audit, it took a while to get the records. It has been one and a half years trying to get records this time. It is progressively getting worse. Joey Callahan stated he is concerned about the youth and we have a duty to protect our children from exposure. Jennie Jones said it is a black and white situation when you are selling something illegal. She said when you agree to do business in a city and don't pay taxes – collecting and not remitting is stealing. Joey Callahan said the owner should have been here or had legal representation. Kim advised there are no other stores with this many violations. Jennie Jones stated she is disgruntled the owner is not present. Joey Callahan said they are taking tax money from our community and have a history of not responding. Mayor Watson read the letter, a copy of which is attached, that was hand delivered to the business. Mayor Watson inquired about the illegal products and Jennie Jones asked how other stores are keeping up with these products. Investigator Willis advised they can contact the ABC Board if there is a question about an item for sale. Chief Britton stated his concern about the dangerous situations his officers and citizens are put in. He advised there are multiple issues. Mayor Watson stated Petro Nation is not treating this in a professional manner. They have ignored the requests and are irresponsible. Mayor Watson closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Jones made a motion to revoke the business licenses effective immediately for Petro Nation, Inc. d/b/a Lincoln Shell and d/b/a Lincoln Liquors located at 47720 Hwy 78, Lincoln, Alabama, until they can supply a plan of action satisfactory to the Police Department, Fire Department, Revenue Office and ABC Board; second by Callahan. The vote was Pearson – Aye, Britt – Aye, Jones – Aye and Callahan – Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Pearson made a motion to adjourn; second by Jones. The vote was Ayes: Britt, Pearson, Jones and Callahan.

Carroll L. Watson, Mayor

Attest:

Laura S. Carmack, City Clerk