

**MEETING MINUTES  
January 4, 2023**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center located at 3743 Moon Lake Drive, Phenix City, Alabama 36867. Upon roll call, the following members of Council were present: Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr., Councilmember Vickey F. Carter, Councilmember Steve Bailey, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember R. Griff Gordy was not present. Also present were City Manager Wallace Hunter, City Attorney Jimmy Graham, and City Clerk Melony Lee.

Upon a quorum being established, Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order.

Pastor Don Abrams of Trinity United Methodist Church was not present to deliver the invocation. Mayor Lowe delivered the invocation.

Mayor Lowe led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

City Manager Wallace Hunter and Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain presented employee service recognitions to Brandon Smith - 10 years, Steven Rigdon - 15 years, and Wallace Walton - 20 years.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the December 19, 2022 Work Session for approval. Councilmember Day moved to approve the minutes, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, Bailey, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the December 20, 2022 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Bailey moved to approve the minutes, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Carter. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, Bailey, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe stated there was no unfinished business to address at this time.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 2016-15 of the City of Phenix City, Alabama Relating to Permit Fees.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01**

Councilmember Carter moved to approve the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, Bailey, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to extending a moratorium on all annexations through December 31, 2023.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01**

Councilmember Day moved to approve the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, Bailey, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Jamal R. Floyd. City Attorney Graham stated that the claim states that the City is responsible for damage to a cracked window that was parked at Mr. Floyd's residence on August 31, 2022. City Attorney Graham recommended tabling the claim to allow Mr. Floyd to update information on the claim form. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to table the claim, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Carter. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, Bailey, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Darlene Chessher. City Attorney Graham stated that the claim states that the City is responsible for damaging a chair at Mrs. Chessher's residence on October 3, 2022. City Attorney Graham also stated that upon investigation, the Phenix City Police Department along with the Russell County Sherriff Department used a chair owned by Mrs. Chessher to attempt to gain entry to a stolen vehicle that was parked at Mrs. Chessher's resident and damaged the chair in the process. City Attorney Graham recommended approving the claim in the lowest estimate of \$300.00. Councilmember Carter moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to approve the claim in the lowest estimate, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, Bailey, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

City Attorney Chan Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Edward and Tangela Cox. City Attorney Graham stated that on November 28, 2022, while driving near 1700 East US Highway 280, Mrs. Cox ran over a pothole and caused damage to their vehicle. City Attorney Graham recommended denying the claim because the road is not maintained by the City. Alabama Department of Transportation maintains the road. City Attorney Graham stated that he would reach out to Mr. and Mrs. Cox to let them know that they need to file a claim with ALDOT. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to deny the claim, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, Bailey, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe stated that with this meeting being the first one for 2023, he is thankful that we were blessed to see another year.

Councilmember Day stated that he agrees with Mayor Lowe and that God has blessed us to see another year. Councilmember Day encouraged everyone to treat each other as they would want to be treated. Councilmember Day stated that Jesus set the example for all to follow and that is to love one another. Councilmember Day thanked City Council, City Manager Wallace Hunter, Department Heads and all City Employees for what they did in 2022 for Phenix City. Councilmember Day stated that a team is better when everyone works together and he applauds all departments for working together in 2022 and looks forward to the great things that 2023 will bring.

City Manager Wallace Hunter called upon Tracie Hadaway, Planning Director, to discuss the Phenix City Comprehensive Visioning Community Workshop. Ms. Hadaway stated that the workshop will be held on January 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center. Ms. Hadaway encouraged Citizens to come out to see, hear and share their thoughts on the growing development of the City. Ms. Hadaway stated that an online portal was created with the tagline of [www.fastforwardphenix.com](http://www.fastforwardphenix.com) where citizens can participate in surveys. Mr. Hunter stated that Citizens can come and hear the information for themselves and not rely on the “rumor mill” for information. Mayor Lowe stated that Council and City Manager Wallace Hunter are transparent and want people to come and see what is going on in their City.

Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to attend the State of the City Address that will be held on January 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center. Mayor Lowe stated that it is another opportunity for the community to see what is going on in their City and the mission that is planned for the City. Mayor Lowe also stated that Phenix City has been blessed tremendously. Mayor Lowe further stated that the Council and the City Manager want to set the bar so high that future Councilmembers and City Managers will always have to have the same virtues. Mayor Lowe stated that as humans we sometimes fumble but it’s the getting up and learning from it that counts.

Councilmember Day thanked the Citizens that serve on one of the City’s boards. Councilmember Day encouraged everyone to do their best in keeping our City safe and clean in 2023.

Mayor Lowe asked God to continue to bless Phenix City.

Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to be a lifter and not a leaner and to get the right person we must be the right person. Mayor Lowe also encouraged everyone to attend the regular scheduled Council Meetings, Phenix City Comprehensive Visioning Community Workshop, and the State of the City Address to see what is going on in our City.

Mayor Lowe thanked CTV-Beam for bringing the council meeting to the Citizens of Phenix City, Alabama.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until January 18, 2023.