

**MEETING MINUTES
January 18, 2023**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 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, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. 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 Brady Baird of Seale United Methodist Church delivered the invocation.

Councilmember Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

PROCLAMATION

Jamie Willet, Community Awareness & Engagement Chair, with the Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force came forward to accept the proclamation.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the January 3, 2023 Work Session for approval. Councilmember Day moved to approve the minutes, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the January 4, 2023 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Carter 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: Gordy. The motion thus passed.

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to renewing the tax structure of the City of Phenix City, Alabama for the tax year beginning October 1, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the resolution, 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to filing an application with ALDOT for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for FY 2023 to correct ADA deficiencies,

hardscape improvements, and landscape improvements along a portion of 14th Street between 9th Avenue and 12th Avenue.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-03

Councilmember Carter moved to approve the resolution, 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to the Revision of the Public Works Manual Section 7.0 6.C.4 Sanitary Sewer specifications.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-04

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the resolution, 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Mayor Lowe. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a Public Notice setting an Administrative Hearing for Revocation of Business License for Chancey's Tree Service.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Mayor Lowe presented a Public Notice setting an Administrative Hearing for Revocation of Business License for The HoneyComb.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Councilmember Bailey moved to approve the public notice, 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a Public Notice setting an Administrative Hearing for Revocation of Business License for Automotive Service Center.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to declaring various items as surplus to be sold as scrap or disposed of at the City Landfill.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-05

Councilmember Gordy 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing the takeover of monthly payments to Alabama Power Company to replace the current bracket at the corner of 12th Avenue and 11th Avenue with a longer arm and to install two (2) 53 Watt LED Street Lights (5,200 – 7,200 Lumens – Type II – Gray) at the corner of 12th Avenue and 11th Avenue and on the pole in the island at 12th Avenue and 13th Avenue.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to entering into a Grant agreement with the Alabama Department of Commerce for tuition reimbursement with Chattahoochee Valley Community College for Emergency Medical Technician Training in an amount not to exceed \$6,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-07

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing and accepting a proposal from Phenix Paving and Maintenance, LLC to repair the Lakewood Golf Course Cart Path in an amount not to exceed \$49,345.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-08

Councilmember Day moved to approve the resolution, 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to declaring personal property as surplus and disposing of for the nominal sum of \$1.00 and other valuable considerations to Terrance Walker in recognition of his 25 years of public service.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the resolution, 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing paying the emergency repairs of the Sewer Main on Crawford Road to Warr Grading Contractor, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$211,399.92.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-10

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to accepting the lowest responsible quote from Riley Heating & Air for the replacement of the Utilities Department (dispatch/breakroom) HVAC unit in an amount not to exceed \$19,051.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-11

Councilmember Gordy 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to accepting a proposal from Thompson Power Systems for Preventative Maintenance services for the 18 emergency generator sites in an amount not to exceed \$23,802.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-12

Councilmember Carter moved to approve the resolution, 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for first reading an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Phenix City, Alabama, Chapter 74, Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article III, Underground Utilities Policy, Section 74-67, Street Opening and Pavement Cut Fees, Description and Schedule, (b) Application Fee, and (c) Inspection Fee. Councilmember Gordy moved to place the ordinance on first reading, 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented an Itemized Statement of Expense for Christopher Ross of the Fire Department in the amount of \$58.15. Councilmember Carter moved to approve the Itemized Statement of Expense, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion

being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmember Day, Carter, Bailey, Gordy and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a previously tabled 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 stated that upon investigation, the City did not have a crew in that area on that date. City Attorney Graham recommended denying the claim. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to deny the claim, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a Notice of Claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by A'saila Thomas, Swahili Thomas and Austin Williams. City Attorney Graham stated that on November 7, 2022, while at a stop sign at 200 Lee Road 183, Salem, Alabama, a sanitation truck rolled backwards and struck Ms. Thomas' vehicle causing injuries to her and her children. City Attorney Graham recommended denying the claim because the road is not maintained by the City but the County. Attorney Graham stated that he would reach out to Ms. Thomas to let her know that they need to file a claim with the County. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to deny 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe thanked Council, City Manager Wallace Hunter, City Employees and the Citizens of Phenix City for all that they do for Phenix City.

Councilmember Bailey thanked the Citizens that attended the Phenix City Comprehensive Plan Visioning Workshop on January 10, 2023. Councilmember Bailey stated that there were several Citizens who expressed their views and concerns, some of which Council has no control over. Councilmember Bailey also stated that it was great to see so many citizens attending the meeting. Councilmember Bailey encouraged all citizens to either attend Council meetings in person or view online to see what is going on in Phenix City.

Councilmember Bailey stated that the nation celebrated the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on Monday January 16, 2023. Councilmember Bailey recalled growing up in the era of segregation and then integration. Councilmember Bailey stated that he and other members of Council are almost 70 years old and has seen a lot of changes in our nation and people in general. Councilmember Bailey also stated that Dr. King had a whole movement for the right reason and at the right time. Councilmember Bailey further stated that we may look different on the outside but we are all the same on the inside because we were all created by the same God. Councilmember Bailey stated that God sent his son to die on the cross not just for some of us but for all of us. Councilmember Bailey also stated that it does not matter who you are or where you are from, we are all the same in God's eyes. Councilmember Bailey further stated that unfortunately, there is still a lot of hatred in the world and some people think that they are better than others. Councilmember Bailey stated that Mayor Lowe says it all the time; we must learn to love each other and lift each other up.

Councilmember Day stated that he agrees with Councilmember Bailey that Dr. King was all about showing love to everyone. Councilmember Day also stated that where love prevails, it triumphs over hatred and envy. Councilmember Day further stated that Jesus Christ first set the example for us to live by and that is to love one another.

Councilmember Carter stated that she agrees with Councilmember Bailey and Councilmember Day that our nation has come a long way.

Councilmember Carter wished her brother Gregory Carter a Happy 53rd Birthday on January 19, 2023. Councilmember Carter stated that her brother has been a joy to her family and all that know him.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the Utilities Department has received an upgrade in the Standards and Poor's Rating Service. Mr. Hunter also stated that Standard and Poor's Rating Services rate cities and counties throughout the nation.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that Alabama is the number two state for military and military retired families. Mr. Hunter also stated that with Phenix City being in close proximity to Ft. Benning, there are a lot of active duty and retirees in this area including Ft. Mitchell. Mr. Hunter further stated that the Department of Defense is allocating throughout the nation, grant funds for communities that are adjacent to military installations, which includes Ft. Mitchell. Mr. Hunter stated that Phenix City is in Russell County as well as Lee County and he along with Mayor and Council wants all parts of the City and surrounding areas to grow and prosper.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that Phenix City is often unfairly compared to Columbus, Georgia. Mr. Hunter also stated that Columbus is the second largest city in Georgia and Phenix City is doing great for a city this size. Mr. Hunter stated that people should want to help the City as a whole and not just one area of the City. Mr. Hunter also stated that we are one City.

Mayor Lowe stated that City Manager Wallace Hunter and City Council has always been consistent in decision-making. Mayor Lowe stated that everything should be done with character and integrity. Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to participate and be involved in the community.

Mayor Lowe stated that we all know the difference between right and wrong. Mayor Lowe also stated that we must have the courage to do what is right. Mayor Lowe further stated that we are living in difficult times, which is a great opportunity for all of us to make a difference.

Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to be a lifter and not a leaner.

Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone that is able to attend the State of the City Address on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.

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 February 7, 2023.