

MEETING MINUTES
April 18, 2023

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, April 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 Don Abrams II, of Summerville Trinity United Methodist Church was not present to deliver the invocation as listed on the agenda. Councilmember Bailey delivered the invocation.

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

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Fair Housing Month to Deputy Building Official Ray Rogers.

PROCLAMATION

Building Official Ray Rogers came forward to accept the proclamation.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the April 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 April 4, 2023 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Gordy 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Councilmember Bailey. 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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to provide a copy of an executed Resolution to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the design and construction plans of the Chattahoochee River Bridge Replacement Project to include Multi-Use Transportation Facilities/Sidewalks.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-67

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

Mayor Lowe presented (2) resolutions in reference to awarding bids for the demolition and removal of structures at the following locations:

1. 708 Williams Avenue – Great Southern Furniture & Home Remodeling - \$9,250.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-68

2. 1205 2nd Street South – Great Southern Furniture & Home Remodeling - \$4,450.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-69

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 declaring (1) one 2006 Chevrolet Trail Blazer as surplus to be sold at auction or as scrap.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-70

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 awarding a bid to Columbus Quarry for E23-02 Aggregates.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-71

Councilmember Day 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 directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign an Engagement Agreement with Fontenot Benefits & Actuarial Consulting, LLC.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-72

Councilmember Carter 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 purchase of insurance from the Flowers Insurance Agency through American Zurich Insurance Company.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-73

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 and directing the Mayor, City Manager and Chief of Police to sign an agreement with PropertyRoom.com, Inc. for online auction platform services.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-74

Councilmember Day 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 directing the Mayor, City Manager and Chief of Police, Raymond Smith to sign an agreement with The United States Marshals Service.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-75

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 accepting the dedication of said Sanitary Sewer Main Infrastructure along North Tillery Drive installed by EEH Holdings, LLC.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-76

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 directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign a lease agreement with Quadient, formally known as Mail Finance for new postage and mail equipment at a cost of \$699.86 per month for 63 months.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-77

Councilmember Day 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 an opening for the ALM Voting Delegate. Mayor Lowe called for a motion to appoint Councilmember Day as the active delegate. Councilmember Carter moved to approve, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Carter, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Councilmember Day. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented one opening for the Phenix City Housing Authority. Mayor Lowe stated that current member, Steve Pace is willing to serve another term. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Gordy moved to reappoint Steve Pace, 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.

Councilmember Carter stated that over the past few weeks one of our city employees Mr. William Lowman that has worked over 20 years with the city retired. Councilmember Carter also stated that Mr. Lowman was a very dedicated employee not only to the City but to his family and stated that he passed about a week after retiring. Councilmember Carter further stated that it was a sad moment and we want to extend our deepest condolences to his family and we will continue to pray that they will share those precious memories that they shared together to help get through this time of bereavement.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that Utilities Director Charles Woody has worked with Mr. William Lowman his entire career and asked if Mr. Woody had any comments. Mr. Woody stated that Mr. Lowman worked with the City for 27 years and he was dedicated and always ready to work. Mr. Woody also stated that he was the first employee to call and that he would always come in to assist. Mr. Woody further stated that he remembered a story about Mr. Lowman, it was several years ago when the City had a small tornado that came through at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Mr. Lowman was working that morning and he remembered getting that call on Sunday as he was getting ready for church and Mr. Lowman thought that a bomb had went off in one of the buildings as he was seeking shelter. Mr. Woody stated that there was all kinds of destruction and the City had several department employees come to assist and Mr. Lowman stayed even past his shift to help as this was the kind of dedication he had. Mr. Woody also stated that it was truly a blessing to work with Mr. Lowman all those years and to get to know him. Mr. Woody also stated that he was a fine husband and friend to many people.

Mayor Lowe stated that Councilmember Bailey alluded to the Munis System Conversion and he stated that with a conversion, you have system changes and there will always be hiccups and things that you have to deal with and he asked if everyone could please bear with the City and we are so thankful to be part of this community.

Mayor Lowe stated to always think of others instead of ourselves and continue to be a lifter for our community and not a leaner, thank you.

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 May 2, 2023.