

**MEETING MINUTES
June 6, 2023**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 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.

Reverend Dr. Clementine Warren, Colbert AME Church was present to deliver the invocation as listed on the agenda.

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

City Manager Wallace Hunter and Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain presented an employee service recognition to Edwin Reece – 10 years. Ms. Chastain advised that there are other service recognitions to be presented when the employees arrive for the meeting.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the May 15, 2023 work session and the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of May 16, 2023 council meeting 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 stated there was no unfinished business to address at this time.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to adding an additional day to be observed for Independence Day Holiday, July 5, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-107

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 Mayor and City Manager to sign Change Order No. 4 with J. Douglas Martin & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$473.09 for reduction of the renovation of the Economic Development Building.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-108

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 the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with Concrete Contractors, Inc. to replace a 6" slab at the north end of the Phenix City Riverwalk Project in an amount not to exceed \$128,883.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-109

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 took a Point of Privilege to call upon Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain to present the remainder of the service recognitions to Jason Newman – 5 years, and Darrel Tharpe – 5 years. Ms. Chastain advised that Roger Austin – 5 years, was not able to make it to the meeting.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to accepting a proposal from Sunbelt Fire, Inc. for one (1) E-One Light Rescue Apparatus mounted on a Ford F-550 chassis in the amount of \$273,100.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-110

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 Mayor and City Manager to enter into a 36 month lease agreement with Best Copy Products, Inc. for one (1) SHARP BP-70C55 Networked Digital Copier in the amount of \$208.35 per month.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-111

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 declared that now was the time and place for a public hearing in reference to make application to the office of Community Oriented Policing, School Violence Protection Program – Local Solicitation, for financial assistance. Mayor Lowe stated anyone wishing to address Council concerning the ordinance should come forward and do so at this time. Kai Gary, Executive Director of Knowledge Academy, came forward to address Mayor and Council. Ms. Gary stated that she sent over a list of the questions to the City Clerk's Office because she was not sure if she would make the meeting. Ms. Gary also stated that as a community non-profit organization, she was glad that the City is applying for the grant because Phenix City is getting ahead of the issues as we are not as bad as Columbus but that we do have violence. Ms. Gary inquired as to whether invitations were sent out to local non-profit organizations to partner with

the Phenix City Schools and the City of Phenix City Police Department and if so, when were they sent. Ms. Gary inquired if local non-profits will be considered to provide MOU's to partner with the Phenix City Schools and the City of Phenix City Police Department to contract services or sub awardee's contractor's to provide the work with the non-violence services beyond the school hours and during non-traditional hours. Ms. Gary inquired as to whether the local non-profits will be trained and included in preventing school violence. Ms. Gary stated that she is bringing this to the Council's attention because they are located on 901, 903, 905 South Railroad Street and want to ensure that the private schools and child care centers are included when planning for this grant. Ms. Gary also stated that they have the same children that are in the after school programs and during the summer and would love to be part of preventing school violence. Ms. Gary further stated that they are aware that violence is on the rise at child care centers and they have disgruntle parents and she asked that they be included. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Gary and stated that they are deferring the questions to Phenix City Police Chief Ray Smith. Chief Smith provided Ms. Gary with his contact information. Chief Smith stated that he appreciated the questions and the input for this grant. Chief Smith also stated that they have to abide by the rules and regulations provided by the Bureau of Justice Administration and under this specific Grant. Chief Smith further stated that the grant is only eligible for local law enforcement agencies, state enforcement agencies, local units of government like counties, cities, school districts, federally recognized Indian tribes, and public government agencies and because knowledge doesn't follow the end of those categories they wouldn't be eligible to apply for assistance for this particular Grant. Chief Smith stated he wanted to address some of her other questions. Chief Smith advised that they didn't send out any invites because again even Glenwood School would not be applicable to this particular funding. Chief Smith also stated that this grant does not provide any training but rather it provides specific technical assistance and equipment for radio communications between the Police Department and School System. Chief Smith stated that will not be able to use any of the Grant's funds to provide radio communications for the private entities including Glenwood and Knowledge Academy. Chief Smith also stated that they cannot include any non-profits for this Grant; however, they will be looking for any additional Grants that do not have these restrictions in place. Chief Smith further stated that the Grant does not provide training; however, we do have in our agency trained officers that are able to provide specific training for schools and that they will offer that training to Ms. Gary's school. Chief Smith asked Ms. Gary to send an email to the Police Department and they will select a time to have their trainers reach out and provide training to both the Knowledge Staff and the students. Chief Smith asked Ms. Gary if she had any additional questions, to which she replied not at this time. Councilmember Carter stated that since Knowledge Academy is located in the second district, she wanted to invite Ms. Gary and the parents of her students to the Fifth Annual District Two Meeting that will be held at 5:00 p.m., one hour prior to the Council Meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at the Central Activities Center. Councilmember Carter also stated she would like for Chief Smith and his staff to also be in attendance so that they may answer any additional questions and provide information on what they are doing to keep the citizens safe. Councilmember Carter also thanked Ms. Gary for coming to the meeting.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to purchasing (4) four 2023 Dodge Charger vehicles from Stivers Ford Lincoln in the total amount of \$159,053.52.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-112

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 and City Manager to enter into a 36 month lease agreement with Best Copy Products, Inc. for one (1) SHARP MX-7081 Networked Digital Color Copier in the amount of \$276.50 per month.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-113

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 for first reading an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Phenix City, Alabama, Chapter 82 Utilities; Article II Water and Sewer Rates and Charges; Section 82-20 Water Schedule of Rates and Charges; Section 82-21 Sanitary Sewer Schedule of Rates and Charges; and Section 82-22 Payment of Bills. Councilmember Day moved to place the Ordinance on first reading, 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 for first reading a Public Notice and Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Phenix City, Alabama, Chapter 14 – Buildings and Building Regulations; Article II Technical Codes; Division 1 Generally; Sec. 14-23 Adopted; Division 2 – Electrical Code; Sec. 14-57 – National Electrical Code Adopted by Reference; and Chapter 30 – Fire Prevention and Protection; Sec. 30-3 - International Fire Code Adopted. Councilmember Day moved to approve the Public Notice, and place the Ordinance on first reading, 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. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented an opening on the Personnel Review Board. Mayor Lowe called for a nomination. Councilmember Bailey moved to nominate Jim Holt. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Gordy moved to appoint Jim Holt, 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 three Itemized Statements of Expense for Dean Grohman, of the Building Department in the amount of \$352.39. Councilmember Carter moved to approve the Itemized Statement of Expenses in the amount of \$352.39, 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 passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Application for a Bail Bonding Company License submitted by Barry Johnson for A Call Away Bail Bonding located at 132 Main Street, Roanoke, Alabama 36274. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the application, 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 for second reading applications for an On-Premise and Off-Premise Beer License, and On-Premise and Off-Premise Wine License submitted by Heike Horning for German Foods Gifts and More, LLC located at 711 13th Street, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Bailey moved to approve the applications, 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.

Councilmember Day thanked the employees that received Service Recognitions for doing a great job and hoped that they would continue with the City. Councilmember Day stated that he had the opportunity to attend the Central High School Graduation Ceremony with over 400 students graduating. Councilmember Day also stated that it was exciting and a blessing to see kids here in the community receive their high school graduate diplomas and to move on to better things. Councilmember Day further stated that his hat was off to all of the graduates.

Councilman Day stated that he would like to thank Colonel Regina Mabry Power from South Phenix City for her dedicated service. Councilmember Day also stated that he had the opportunity to know her mother and father and it was amazing to see her go off and do good things and dedicating so many years in the service. Councilmember Day further stated that we have so many talented citizens in the City that are successful and we continue to welcome them back to Phenix City. Councilmember Day stated that he has spoken to citizens at local graduations recently that have stated how much Phenix City has changed and that the City is doing a great job.

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

Mayor Lowe stated that as always we have the opportunity to be a lifter and not a leaner.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until June 21, 2023.