

MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 2023

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Activity Center located at 1500 14th Street, 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 Brady Baird, Seale United Methodist Church was present to deliver the invocation as listed on the agenda.

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

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Father Tom Weise.

PROCLAMATION

Father Tom Weise came forward to accept the proclamation.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the June 5, 2023 Work Session and regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the June 6, 2023 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Day 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, 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 accepting the audited financial statement as presented by Robinson, Grimes and Company, P.C. for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-114

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 resolution in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign documents granting easements to ADECA and Alabama Power to install electric vehicle chargers at the 14th Street Parking Garage and 5th Street South Youth Sports Complex.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-115

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

Mayor Lowe presented resolution in reference to grant assistance from ADECA for electrical vehicle chargers at the 5th Street South Youth Sports Complex.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-116

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 grant assistance from ADECA electrical vehicle chargers at the 14th Street Parking Garage.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-117

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 authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign Change Order No. 2, 3, and 4 with Whatley Construction, LLC for the construction of the Fire Training Facility.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-118

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 declaring one 2008 Ford Crown Victoria as surplus to be sold to the highest bidder at a public auction or sold as scrap.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-119

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 a resolution in reference to authorizing the Mayor, City Manager and Chief of Police to sign a contract agreement with ALDOT for the installation and maintenance of public safety sensors on highway rights-of-way.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-120

Councilmember Day moved to approve the resolutions, 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, City Manager and Chief of Police, Raymond Smith to enter into and sign a Memorandum Agreement with the Russell County Multidisciplinary Team.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-121

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 sign Change Order No. 10 and 11 with P.F. Moon and Company, Inc. for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade and Expansion Project.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-122

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 a resolution in reference to accepting a quote from C&G Heating and Air, LLC to replace a HVAC unit in an amount not to exceed \$27,492.17.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-123

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 and enter into an agreement with 120Water for assistance with creating initial water service line inventory in an amount not to exceed \$33,579.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-124

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: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-08

Councilmember Day moved to approve the ordinance, 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 opening on the Housing Code Abatement Board. Councilmember Day nominated Yuletta Jenkins. There were no other nominations. Councilmember Gordy moved to appoint Yuletta Jenkins, 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 Carter thanked the Citizens for coming out to the District Two Meeting prior to today's Council Meeting and wanted to be informed regarding to what is going on in our great community. Councilmember Carter stated that ii demonstrates that each citizen is concerned and engaged in what happens in and around our community. Councilmember Carter also stated that she had asked Chief of Police Ray Smith and Assistant Chief of Police George Staudinger to be present to share safety tips during the meeting. Councilmember Carter thanked Chief Smith and Assistant Chief Staudinger for their time and dedication and all that they do to make certain that the community remains safe. Councilmember Carter stated that she appreciated Chief Smith for providing information on the new law and on the Active Shooter Training that is being offered and that several church members have indicated that they will attend. Councilmember Carter also stated that with all of the violence going on in the nation, Phenix City is still fortunate that we have minimum violence and that we are not in the news daily regarding shootings and gun violence. Councilmember Carter thanked the citizens that provided refreshments for the meeting and that she could not do what she does without the Citizens of Phenix City. Councilmember Carter stated that she appreciated the citizens giving her the opportunity to serve as their Council representative and that the Council will continue to be transparent and continue to serve with the highest ethical standards. Councilmember Carter thanked Councilmember Gordy for allowing her to lead the pledge as ii was his turn to do so but he wanted her to lead since ii was her district meeting. Councilmember Carter stated that Councilmember Gordy showed the strong leadership that all of the councilmembers adheres to on this board.

Mayor Lowe stated that by the actions of the Councilmembers, ii shows that they respect each other and agree to support one another and that he is grateful for this Council. Mayor Lowe also stated that he is grateful for the City Manager Wallace Hunter for stepping up during the Work Session Meeting and showing his strong leadership skills by pulling everything on his own shoulders as a true leader should do. Mayor Lowe further stated that during these changing times our part should be to show others how we should live by the way we carry ourselves. Mayor Lowe stated that there is a right way and there is a wrong way and ii is that simple and no in between. Mayor Lowe also stated that he wanted to thank everyone for allowing the Council to be part of the City.

Mayor Lowe stated that he would like to remind everyone that the Public Safety Building is now open and on June 30, 2023 there will be the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony and he would like all citizens to attend. Mayor Lowe also stated that they are very proud of the new building and that each citizen should be extremely proud. Mayor Lowe further stated that it did take some time to complete especially with the workforce environment that we are in but the building is completed, beautiful and ready to be utilized.

Councilmember Day stated that he wanted to reiterate that the City's financial numbers and ratings are in good standing and that he does not want citizens to believe that anything is wrong. Councilmember Day also stated that he can assure everyone that so many departments and other businesses are still experiencing lack of employees as we see signs for help needed everywhere we go and that hopefully this will get better soon.

Councilmember Day stated that the safety mechanisms that are being put in place throughout the City are going to be tremendously helpful to our citizens to be safe.

Mayor Lowe thanked the citizens and stated that if they have any questions or concerns to contact your representative individually or contact them collectively.

Mayor Lowe thanked CTV-Beam for following the Council to different locations and for bringing the council meeting to the Citizens of Phenix City, Alabama.

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

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until July 3, 2023.