

**MEETING MINUTES
January 17, 2024**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers located within the Public Safety Building at 1111 Broad 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, Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble, City Attorney Jimmy Graham, and City Clerk Shannon Davis.

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

Councilmember Bailey delivered the invocation.

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

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the December 5, 2023 Council Meeting, January 2, 2024 Work Session, and January 3, 2024 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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign and enter into a contract agreement with Placer.ai for software services in an amount not to exceed \$11,900.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-07

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 Mayor and City Manager to sign and enter into an agreement with Loop Global, Inc. to access the network for EV Chargers.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-08

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 a resolution in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign and enter into an agreement with DRC Emergency Services, LLC for clean-up of debris and related items in the event of a federal or state declared emergency.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-09

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 declaring items of personal property as surplus to be sold as scrap or disposed of at the City Landfill.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-10

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 accept and sign a quote from J.H. Wright & Associates for two (2) new Summit Self Priming pumps, pulleys and belts for the Water Filtration Plant in an amount not to exceed \$29,370.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-11

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 the Mayor and City Manager to accept a quote from Southern Rewinding Industrial Sales and Services for the replacement of the Flocculator 2 gear boxes and motor assembly in an amount not to exceed \$15,851.62.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-12

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 accept a proposal from Thompson Power Systems for the Preventative Maintenance services for the 18 emergency generator sites in an amount not to exceed \$26,183.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-13

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 accept a quote from Thornton, Musso and Bellamin, Inc. for the replacement and installation of a new Purate tank in an amount not to exceed \$28,100.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-14

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 declared that now was the time and place for a public hearing in reference to an Ordinance to rezone 7.28 acres of land located at 800 US Hwy 431 South from a C-1 Zone (Highway Commercial Residential District) to an R-2 Zone (Medium Density Residential District), Love Life Ministries, Inc., owner. Mayor Lowe stated anyone wishing to address Council concerning the ordinance should come forward and do so at this time. Ms. Ginger Powell came forward by phone to address Council. Ms. Powell stated that she submitted an email to address her question. Ms. Powell inquired if the acres of land are rezone from commercial to residential would that necessarily disrupt the continuity of commercial developments that are being built on Highway 431 South. Ms. Powell stated that in comparison to 431 South and North on 280 there are commercial developments continuing to grow and there are no residential housing communities next to those developments along the Highway 431 South. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Powell for her questions. Mayor Lowe stated that the rezoning would not disrupt the commercial developments moving forward but rather would enhance the development. Mayor Lowe also stated that the new development takes place in high density areas. Mayor Lowe further stated that there are several units being developed that will further enhance the area. Mayor Lowe stated that there are housing developments taking place off Highway 280 that will help to further the density for that area. Ms. Powell stated that along Highway 280 around Walmart there are several new developments in the process of being built and she would like to see the same growth around 431 South. Mayor Lowe stated that the City is in the process of bringing in additional developments along that area of Highway 431. Ms. Powell stated that Mayor Lowe sufficiently answered her questions. Mayor Lowe also stated that the City is working hard to bring the same growth to the specific areas. Ms. Powell stated that she appreciated the time to address the Council and thanked them for their feedback. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Powell for speaking with Council. Mayor Lowe declared the hearing closed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Ordinance to rezone 7.28 acres of land located at 800 US Hwy 431 South from a C-1 Zone (Highway Commercial Residential District) to an R-2 Zone (Medium Density Residential District), Love Life Ministries, Inc., owner.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-02

Councilmember Gordy 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. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented an opening on the Downtown Redevelopment Authority. Mayor Lowe stated that current member, Ms. Van Potter is willing to serve another term. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Day moved to reappoint Ms. Van Potter, 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 Claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Lento Law Group, P. C. on behalf of Samantha and Gus Vogas. Mr. Graham stated that the claim contends negligence and recklessness on the part of the Russell County Jail staff regarding a medical incident involving Gus Vogas, on or about August 18, 2023, while in custody of the Russell county Jail. Mr. Graham also stated that the Russell County Jail is a part of the County and a complete and separate entity from the City. Mr. Graham recommended denying the claim and stated that he will notify the Lento Law Group, P. C. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to deny the claim, 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.

City Manager Wallace Hunter thanked all of the Department Heads for all of their hard work and dedication. Mr. Hunter stated that at times they are scrutinized but the best way to handle it is to continue to do the right thing and continue to be positive.

Mayor Lowe stated that the Council appreciates the work of the department heads and thanked them for all that they do. Mayor Lowe also stated that they should continue to do the right thing and not to be afraid and keep their heads held high. Mayor Lowe further stated that there will be times where they will be pushed in certain situations but they should always do what is right. Mayor Lowe thanked them for what they do for the Citizens of Phenix City.

Mayor Lowe thanked the Council for all that they do and for keeping him accountable. Mayor Lowe stated that he wants to continue to grow as a person and therefore he wanted to encourage the community to show more empathy towards one another because it takes everyone to make it work and we certainly want to do the right thing.

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

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

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until February 6, 2024.