

**MEETING MINUTES
February 6, 2024**

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

Reverend Brady Baird of Seal United Methodist Church was not present to deliver the invocation as listed on the agenda. Councilmember Carter delivered the invocation.

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

City Manager Wallace Hunter and Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain presented employee service recognitions to Tonya Williams – 5 years, Carson Nicholson – 5 years, Jared Barker – 5 years, Ruby McInnis – 10 years, Labrita King-Copeland – 15 years, Daniel Dixon – 20 years. Ms. Chastain stated that Melvin Averett – 20 years was not present.

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Arbor Day.

PROCLAMATION

Tommy Ware, Chairman of Tree Commission and Jennifer Davidson, Russell County Alabama Extension Office, came forward to accept the proclamation.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the January 16, 2024 Work Session Meeting, and January 17, 2024 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Carter moved to approve the minutes, 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 stated there was no unfinished business to address at this time.

Mayor Lowe presented Resolution No. 2024-15 to be ratified in reference to authorizing an additional \$11,544.00 increase in the contract amount with Truck Equipment Sales, Inc., for one (1) 2023 International HV607 SBA Truck and Graball Equipment from Southland Transportation Group.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-15

Councilmember Day moved to ratify 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 Resolution No. 2024-16 to be ratified in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to make application for grant assistance from ALDOT for the resurfacing of Fontaine Road from 6th Place South to Brickyard Road.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-16

Councilmember Gordy moved to ratify 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 Resolution No. 2024-17 to be ratified in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign and submit an SEP grant application with ADECA for the HVAC upgrades to the C-Club Gym.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-17

Councilmember Day moved to ratify 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 accepting the dedication of an easement for Public Utilities for an Administrative Subdivision of Lots 1, 2, & 10, Block 281, Totten's Map of Phenix City, Lying in Section 14, Township 17 North, Range 30 East, Phenix City, Russell County, Alfonza Smith, owner.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-18

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 resolutions in reference to declaring properties a public nuisance and authorizing and directing the Housing Abatement Board to take necessary action to demolish, remove and clear all building materials, trash, and debris from the following properties:

1. 1424 10th Avenue

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-19

2. 1508 10th Avenue

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-20

3. 228 11th Avenue

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-21

4. 1809 10th Court

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-22

5. 1907 10th Court

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-23

6. 909 Larry Court

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-24

7. 1110 14th Street

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-25

8. 1118 20th Street

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-26

9. 1215 20th Street

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-27

10. 1300 21st Street

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-28

11. 811 Dillingham Street

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-29

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 and City Manager to accept and sign a proposal to enter into a contract with Fifty-Twenty Engineering Resource Group Incorporated for the Bridgewater Drive Bridge Replacement project.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-30

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 a refund payment in the full amount of \$604,806.45 and final satisfaction of the sales and use tax including interest made to the subject of Russell County Community Hospital, LLC D/B/A Jack Hughston Memorial Hospital v. Russell County, Alabama, Lee County, Alabama, and Phenix City, Alabama in the Alabama Tax Tribunal, case number County/City 21-124-LP.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-31

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 sign and enter into an 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 \$18,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-32

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 accepting a bid and authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with Ben. B. Gordy Construction Co., for the construction of a property and evidence storage warehouse.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-33

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 the purchase of Two (2) 2024 Dodge Ram Big Horn 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 vehicles purchased under State Contract T191L from Stivers Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, Prattville, Alabama in the total amount of \$96,228.06.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-34

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 declared that now was the time and place for a public hearing in reference to an Ordinance to rezone 1.12 acres of land located at 5203 Summerville Road from an R-1 Zone (Low Density Residential District) to a C-3 Zone (Neighborhood Commercial District), Edward E. Cook, Jr., Roger D. Cook, Jeffery W. Cook and Tina Marie Rogers, owners. Mayor Lowe stated anyone wishing to address Council concerning this ordinance should come forward and do so at this time. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone come forward, Mayor Lowe declared the hearing closed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Ordinance to rezone 1.12 acres of land located at 5203 Summerville Road from an R-1 Zone (Low Density Residential District) to a C-3 Zone (Neighborhood Commercial District), Edward E. Cook, Jr., Roger D. Cook, Jeffery W. Cook and Tina Marie Rogers, owners. Councilmember Gordy moved to deny the Ordinance, 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 an Ordinance to rezone 2.31 acres of land located at 1801 Knowles Road from a C-4 Zone (Highway Commercial District) to an R-3 Zone (High Density Residential District), Ricky Patterson, owner. Mayor Lowe stated anyone wishing to address Council concerning this ordinance should come forward and do so at this time. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone come forward, Mayor Lowe declared the hearing closed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Ordinance to rezone 2.31 acres of land located at 1801 Knowles Road from a C-4 Zone (Highway Commercial District) to an R-3 Zone (High Density Residential District), Ricky Patterson, owner. Councilmember Day moved to deny 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 two openings on the Zoning Adjustment and Appeals Board. Mayor Lowe stated that current member, Rudolph Martin is willing to serve another term. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Day moved to reappoint Rudolph Martin, 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. Councilmember Bailey moved to nominate Nancy Jones, 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 first reading an application for an Off Premise Beer License, submitted by Vinodrai Meraiya for Corner Store 1 Inc., dba Corner Store 1 located at 3814 Opelika Road, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Day moved to place the application 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 an application for an Off Premise Beer License, submitted by Vinodrai Meraiya for Corner Store 2 Inc., dba Corner Store 2 located at 3930 US Highway 80 West, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Carter moved to place the application 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. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for first reading an application for an Off Premise Beer License, submitted by Vinodrai Meraiya for Corner Store 3 Inc., dba Corner Store 3 located at 3717 Highway 431 South, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Gordy moved to place the application on first reading, 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 application for an Off Premise Beer License, and Off Premise Wine License submitted by Vinodrai Meraiya for Corner Store 4 Inc., dba Corner Store 4 located at 128 Alabama Highway 165, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Day moved to place the applications 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.

Councilmember Carter thanked the employee's that were recognized for their years of service with the City. Councilmember Carter stated that for the seven employees that were recognized it totals 80 years of combined service to the City of Phenix City. Councilmember Carter also stated that it shows that Phenix City is a great place to work, worship and play and congratulations for their dedication and commitment.

Councilmember Carter stated that the month of February we celebrate Valentine's Day as well as Black History Month. Councilmember Carter also stated that the month is set aside to acknowledge the contributions of the African-Americans that have made great marks within the United States. Councilmember Carter further stated that there will be a Black History Breakfast in Columbus Georgia at the Trade Center. Councilmember Carter stated that the Phenix City's Parks and Recreation Department continue to do a great job and they will be holding a Black History Celebration on February 22, 2024 at the Central Activity Center. Councilmember Carter encouraged everyone to attend an event and show their support for Black History Month. Councilmember Carter stated that the Parks and Recreation Department has done a great job and to continue to ensure our Citizens have events to attend within the City. Councilmember Carter further stated that we should celebrate Black History Month because it is a part of American History.

Councilmember Bailey stated that we should pray for the men and women around the world in our armed services. Councilmember Bailey also stated as we have lost three service members this past week from Ft. Moore, killed in the line of duty while serving their countries. Councilmember Bailey further stated that they probably thought that they were not in harm's way but they were since there are people that do not like American's. Councilmember Bailey stated that because we live in a free Country and the best Country in the world, other people are jealous and want to take that away from us but thank goodness we have people right here to protect us. Councilmember Bailey also stated that we have a group of young men and women that are protecting us all over the world to keep our heritage free and keep us free. Councilmember Bailey further stated that we should continue to pray for the service men and women and their families. Councilmember Bailey stated that the service men and women that we lost knew what they were doing when they put on the uniform to protect all of us and that we should appreciate and never overlook their sacrifice.

Councilmember Day stated that with all of the negativity in the news, people should have more love in their hearts and treat other people the way they want to be treated. Councilmember Day also stated that we all have a difference of opinion at times but we should always have compassion for one another.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated there were several resolutions on the agenda that had to do with grants from the Federal and State levels. Mr. Hunter also stated that in the Republican, Democrat and Independent legislative bodies, they are discussing the new budget for the state of Alabama. Mr. Hunter further stated that he is praying that they all can come together and produce a strong budget for the State of Alabama. Mr. Hunter stated that they should always take care of home first and that the State of Alabama has done so much to take care of the Citizens of Alabama so far and prays that they continue to do so. Mr. Hunter also stated that we should pray that they have a great budget session so that they can continue to receive grants to provide the services that we do for the Citizens of Phenix City. Mr. Hunter further stated that

the City has gone back to the basics in the way that we have taken care of the City and by sticking to what they are supposed to do, it has made them successful.

Mayor Lowe stated that we want our City to be exalted. Mayor Lowe also stated that our City is 100 years old and we look forward to preparing and establishing the foundation for the next 100 years. Mayor Lowe further stated that we have to have righteous people who want to stand up for what is right regardless of ethnicity and which side of the tracks they come from or their affiliation with either the Republican, Democrat or Independent Party's because at the end of the day it takes righteous people to exalt the City and the Nation. Mayor Lowe stated that he hopes we will continue to always show more empathy towards one another.

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 21, 2024.