

**MEETING MINUTES
February 21, 2024**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Wednesday, February 21, 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, City Attorney Jimmy Graham, and City Clerk Shannon Davis.

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

Reverend Karen Siefert of Summerville Methodist Church was present to deliver the invocation as listed on the agenda.

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

Mayor Lowe presented the called meeting minutes of the February 1, 2024 State of the City Address 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 February 5, 2024 Work Session Meeting, and February 6, 2024 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Carter moved to approve the minutes, 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 stated there was no unfinished business to address at this time.

Mayor Lowe presented Resolution No. 2024 - 35 to be ratified in reference to authorizing the Mayor to sign and submit the Bridge Investment Program grant application for the development of the Planning and Environmental Linkages study for use in future grant funding.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-35

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 a resolution in reference to renewing the tax structure of the City of Phenix City, Alabama for the tax year beginning October 1, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-36

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 accepting of the dedication of an easement for Public Utilities for an Administrative Subdivision, "Part of Block 1, Edmunds Subdivision", lying in the Southeast Quarter of Section 10, Township 17 North, Range 30 East, Phenix City, Russell County, Alabama, Tyro Properties, LLC (c/o Rodney Niles) owner.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-37

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 and directing the Mayor and City Manager to take all actions necessary to acquire the following property located at 518 6th Street, Parcel #: 57-05-06-23-2-201-029.001 from the State of Alabama in an amount not to exceed \$100.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-38

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 and City Manager to renew the contract with Robinson Paving Company for Bid Number E23-01 Hot Mix Asphalt Paving, Roadway, Drainage and City Facility and Property Improvements at the current contract unit prices to February 28, 2025.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-39

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 purpose of a Carlyle Air Compressor from Napa Auto Parts in an amount not to exceed \$4,437.49.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-40

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 purchase of a LFT SKID 5 GPM @ 4000PSI Pressure Washer from Central Pump and Compressor a division of Davidson & Davidson Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$9,095.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-41

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 purchase of an 18,000 lb. Lift Rolling Jack from Advance Auto Parts in an amount not to exceed \$32,703.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-42

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 purchasing one (1) ALAMO 8" Flail Mower under Sourcewell Vendor from Coblenz Equipment and Parts Company Inc., in Montgomery, Alabama, in an amount not to exceed \$10,933.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-43

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 purchasing two (2) Z930M ZTrack Mowers under Sourcewell Vendor from SunSouth LLC in Columbus, Georgia, in an amount not to exceed \$24,875.62.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-44

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 and enter into a concession services agreement with Greenwalt Hospitality, LLC dba B & B Beverage Management for beverage and bartending staff management at the Phenix City Amphitheatre 2024 through 2026 at a cost of \$0.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-45

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 and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign a contract with M & M Staging for a roofing system lease at the Phenix City Amphitheater April 1, 2024 thru December 17, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-46

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 and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign a contract with Pyrotecnico Fireworks, Inc., for a fireworks presentation at the Phenix City Amphitheatre on July 4, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-47

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 declaring vehicles labeled "Exhibit A" as surplus to be sold to the highest bidder at a public auction or sold as scrap.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-48

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 described property entitled "Exhibit A" as surplus to be disposed of at the City Landfill.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-49

Councilmember Carter 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 second 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 Gordy moved to approve the application, 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 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 Day moved to approve the application, 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 second 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 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 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 approve the applications, 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.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Jonathan Toombs. Mr. Graham stated that the claim states that Mr. Toombs's vehicle was damaged while driving across a pothole on 17th Avenue on January 16, 2024. Mr. Graham also stated that the pothole did a lot of damage to Mr. Toombs vehicle. Mr. Graham further stated that the pothole had been previously fixed by the Public Works Department but that recent rain caused it to reopen. Mr. Graham recommended approving the claim in the lowest estimate of \$6,273.47. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to approve the claim in the amount of \$6,273.47, 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.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Alphonso Copelin. Mr. Graham stated that on November 8, 2023 one of the Phenix City Police vehicles backed into Mr. Copelin's vehicle in a parking lot at a very slow speed, causing minor damage to his vehicle. Mr. Graham also stated that the claim was originally on the agenda for the January 3, 2024 Council Meeting and it was approved for him to negotiate a settlement. Mr. Graham recommended approving the claim in the lowest estimate of \$1,257.96. Councilmember Carter moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to approve the claim in the amount of \$1,257.96, 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 stated that it is always good to have the Phenix City Employees recognized for their achievements at the State level and that he is proud of their accomplishments. Mr. Hunter also stated that the City's Department Heads are doing a good job and that he appreciates all of their hard work and dedication. Mr. Hunter thanked the City Council for their flexibility in allowing the departments to get the job done.

Mayor Lowe stated that it is all about trust and that we should always have employees that are trustworthy.

Councilmember Day stated that the City Manager Wallace Hunter and his staff make the Council look good and that is a compliment to their work ethics. Councilmember Day also stated that the City employees are doing a fantastic job and that it is great to see how well the departments work together and respect each other. Councilmember Day further stated that when he first came to the Council, the departments did not work very well with each other but that has now changed.

Mayor Lowe congratulated Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes on his achievement of being named President of Alabama Parks and Receptions Association and that he and the Council were very proud of him. Mayor Lowe stated it is always great to have good people and he thanked everyone and Council for all that they do for the City and the Citizens. Mayor Lowe thanked everyone for standing the test of time and doing it the right way and they are thankful for being part of the Community. Mayor Lowe stated that we should continue to show empathy and lift our City up in prayer and as we do this, we are setting the tone for the next generation.

Councilmember Day stated that the residents of the Post Ridge Apartments wanted to thank the City for getting the water back on and that they appreciate the continued support from the City.

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

Mayor Lowe stated may God continue to bless us and our Citizens.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until March 5, 2024.