

MEETING MINUTES
April 2, 2024

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 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.

Pastor Grant Parker with Epworth Methodist Church delivered the invocation as listed on the agenda.

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

City Manager Wallace Hunter presented employee service recognition to Kristen Kennedy – 35 years. Mr. Hunter stated that Vashone Williams – 5 years, and Jordan Dollar – 5 years, were not present.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the March 18, 2024 Work Session Meeting, and March 19, 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 accepting the audited financial statement as presented by Robinson, Grimes and Company, P.C. for fiscal year ending on September 30, 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-62

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 (5) five resolutions in reference to awarding bids for the demolition and removal of structures on the following properties:

1. 1424 10th Avenue - Great Southern Furniture - \$1,800.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-63

2. 228 11th Avenue – Great Southern Furniture - \$4,800.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-64

3. 1907 10th Court – Great Southern Furniture - \$4,200.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-65

4. 1215 20th Street – Great Southern Furniture - \$4,800.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-66

5. 1300 21st Street – Great Southern Furniture - \$17,000.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-67

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 accepting the dedication of an easement for public utilities for an Administrative Subdivision, “Lot 1A and 1C, the Village at Crosswinds Subdivision”, lying in the Northwest Quarter of Section 33, Township 17 North, Range 30 East, Phenix City, Russell County, Alabama, Altera Phenix City Shops, LLC (c/o Patrick Denney) owner.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-68

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 an authorized Signer on the City of Phenix City’s checking accounts with Phenix Girard Bank to sign the Positive Pay Agreement with Phenix Girard Bank.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-69

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 a resolution in reference to authorizing and directing an authorized Signer on the City of Phenix City’s checking accounts with Phenix Girard Bank to sign the Remote Deposit Capture Agreement with Phenix Girard Bank.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-70

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 one (1) 2006 For F-150 pickup truck as surplus and transferring it to the Utilities Department.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-71

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 sign and enter into an agreement with Alabama Power for the installation, maintenance, and energy of two (2) LED light fixtures, poles and wire to illuminate the entrance of the WWTP in an amount not to exceed \$122.82 per month for a term of five (5) years.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-72

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 and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign Change Order No. 1 with Gordy Construction Company, Inc., for the Saddlebrook Gravity Sanitary Sewer project.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-73

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 one (1) 1998 Chevrolet C20 pickup truck and one (1) 1984 Ford backhoe as surplus to be sold to the highest bidder at a public auction or sold as scrap if no one purchases them.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-74

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.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a previous tabled claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Michael Osman. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that the claim alleges that a tree located on city property had limbs that fell onto Mr. Osman's roof causing damage. City Attorney Jimmy Graham also stated that the city had no prior notice of the condition of the tree and that the storm that caused the damage was an act of God and that the City is therefore not liable. City Attorney Jimmy Graham's recommendation was to deny the claim. 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 Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Shannon Pritchett. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that the claim alleges that the City is responsible for damage to the back passenger tire of a 2021 Gray Toyota Camry that occurred when Ms. Pritchett hit a pot hole on Riverchase Drive. City Attorney Jimmy Graham also stated that the City had no prior notice of the pot hole. City Attorney Jimmy Graham's recommendation was to deny the claim. Councilmember Carter moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to deny the claim, 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 rescinding Resolution No. 2015-279 in reference to approving credits being issued to residential customers utilizing City garbage services.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-75

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 thanked the Council and all of the Department Heads and asked that they communicate to all of the City employees that he appreciates all of their hard work. Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to keep their hearts in their work and service to the City.

Councilmember Day stated that after hearing from Brian Rutledge of Robinson, Grimes and Company P. C. at the Work Session meeting held on April 1, 2024, he wanted to congratulate the Finance Department and the entire team of the City for doing such a great job. Councilmember Day also stated that City Manager Wallace Hunter and his complete team continues to make the City Council look good and he thanked them.

Councilmember Day stated that there was an elected official at the meeting and he introduced Russell County Coroner Arthur Sumbry and stated that it was a pleasure to have him in attendance.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that he wanted to give a special thank you to Brian Rutledge of Robinson, Grimes and Company P.C. Mr. Hunter also stated that Mr. Rutledge is smart, studious and a good person. Mr. Hunter further stated that he had a conversation with Mr. Rutledge where they discussed the state of finance throughout the United States and that Mr. Rutledge is a key person to reach out to for quality insight into finance questions. Mr. Hunter

thanked Finance Director Labrita King-Copeland and the entire Finance team for the work they have performed to prepare for the audit. Mr. Hunter stated that they are all aware of the recent audit news pertaining to the Finance Department with the City of Columbus Georgia and the staff shortages they have and that the Phenix City Finance Department has also had staff shortages. Mr. Hunter also stated that people do not understand the challenges in hiring and maintaining qualified employees. Mr. Hunter further stated that he can understand what the City of Columbus Finance Department is going through as it is terrible when they do not have enough qualified people to work to meet the deadlines. Mr. Hunter stated that the leaders have to be consistent in pushing the employees to adhere to the timelines and deadlines and that it takes a strong team to get the job done and that he appreciates and applauds the Phenix City Finance team for what they have accomplished. Mr. Hunter also stated that he is dedicated to the City and has no problem putting anyone in front of himself. Mr. Hunter encouraged everyone to pray for Columbus and what is happening within the government at this time and that he wants Columbus as well as the surrounding governments to be successful.

City Manager Wallace Hunter thanked Fire Chief Kristen Kennedy for her years of service with the City. Mr. Hunter stated that no one knows everything that Chief Kennedy endured as the first female Fire Chief of Phenix City. Mr. Hunter also stated that he has worked with Chief Kennedy for many years as she has come up the ranks in the Fire Department and that she is extremely dedicated and has always been willing to be there for the citizens and put her life in danger with all of the Fire Department Employees. Mr. Hunter further stated that Chief Kennedy is in a challenging position to have to oversee the training of new recruits in today's time and to ensure that they understand the roles of a Firefighter is not just to wear the uniform but that when they leave home to go to work, they may not come back. Mr. Hunter stated that Firefighters have to be trained very well and think about what they are doing because when they are in those situations they have to perform to survive and to save lives. Mr. Hunter also stated that he wants the city and the citizens to know what Chief Kennedy has achieved because it will always be part of the history of the City. Mr. Hunter thanked all of his Department heads, Mayor and Council for all that they do.

Mayor Lowe stated that they have to continue to love and push each other to be the best. Mayor Lowe also stated that two of the most powerful words to say and when it is said sincerely is "thank you". Mayor Lowe thanked the Council, Department Heads, Citizens of Phenix City and the City's employees for all that they do for Phenix City. Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to continue to show empathy and that God continues to bless everyone individually and collectively throughout the entire city.

Mayor Lowe thanked CTV-Beam for bringing the council meeting to the citizens of Phenix City, Alabama because they always want to be transparent for the citizens.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until April 16, 2024.