

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 21, 2024**

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

Mayor Lowe delivered the invocation.

Mayor Lowe led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Alabama House Representative Chris Blackshear came forward to speak to Council. Representative Blackshear stated that the State of Alabama has been blessed for a couple of years from a financial perspective on both the General Fund and Education Budgets which have provided a surplus in State funds. Representative Blackshear also stated that the budget that the State of Alabama passed two weeks ago of \$3.4 billion was short of the \$10 billion budget that was projected which in turn leaves some excess funds. Representative Blackshear further stated that he would like to bring some of those excess funds to the district and at the end of the day he is there to represent 52 thousand constituents that fall under each one of the 105 districts. Representative Blackshear stated that last year they provided \$500,000.00 funds for the Miracle Park Project and this year they want to continue to focus on improving the park so that families all across the City can utilize the parks and that improves the quality of life throughout the City. Representative Blackshear also stated that the arts are another area of focus and that the Art Center at Moon Lake is still operating and that there are a lot of local artists that sell their paintings and art work. Representative Blackshear further stated that it is an opportunity to reach out to the youth and the schools to get them involved as there are a lot of artistic abilities in the youth. Representative Blackshear presented a check to the Phenix City Art Council in the amount of \$50,000.00. Billy Walters and Sue Walters came forward to accept the check. Representative Blackshear stated that he would also like to present a check to Parks and Recreation Department for Moon Lake. Representative Blackshear also stated that Moon Lake is a staple in this community and it services everyone in the community along with the Idle Hour Community Center and that the area is growing. Representative Blackshear presented a check to the City of Phenix City Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of \$1,000,000.00. Mayor Lowe, Council, City Manager Wallace Hunter, and Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Hughes came forward to accept the check. Representative Blackshear stated that they will continue with their infrastructure improvements and that the City has been very successful in helping to rebuild Alabama. Representative Blackshear also stated that his office understands the priorities around what they are trying to accomplish from an infrastructure perspective and they consistently are working towards those goals.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that in 2023 along with assistance from the State of Alabama the City had \$8.3 million in the system and plan to break that record in 2024 with a total of \$5.3 million to date. Mr. Hunter also stated that Representative Blackshear provided assistance with the project for Jr. Allen Parkway in the amount of 1.4 million and that he is doing a great job

at representing the City of Phenix City. Mr. Hunter further stated that the City did not have to use any funds for the Jr. Allen Project in thanks to Representative Blackshear. Mr. Hunter stated that he appreciated all of the assistance from Representative Blackshear for Phenix City.

Councilmember Day thanked Representative Blackshear for all of his assistance with the Moon Lake Park and the Phenix City Art Center.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the May 6, 2024 Work Session and May 7, 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 a resolution in reference to authorizing the Mayor, City Manager and City Clerk to allow Alabama Power to install two (2) APCO leased (LED) fixtures, floods, lumen Range at 29 Downing Drive.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-99**

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 accept a proposal from Huckaby Brothers Floorcovering, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$98,995.00 to replace the floor covering in the Phenix City – Russell County Library.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-100**

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 declaring personal property as surplus and disposing of for the nominal sum of \$1.00 and other valuable considerations to Angela Leslie in recognition of her 17 years of public service.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-101**

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 and sign a proposal from ADS Environmental Services for calibration, operation and maintenance of sanitary flow monitors and rain gauges and data collection, storage and reporting in an amount not to exceed \$4,160.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-102**

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 hire Gordy Construction Company for the emergency repair work to the sanitary force main at Industrial Park Lift Station 2 in an amount not to exceed \$83,662.72 and stabilize the slope for an estimated amount of \$42,500.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-103**

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 for first reading an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Phenix City, Alabama, Section 1.099 of the Merit System Rules and Regulations of the City of Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Gordy moved to place the ordinance 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. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented two openings on the Industrial Development Board. Mayor Lowe stated that current member's, Theri Brooks and Eli Brown are both willing to serve another term. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Carter moved to reappoint Theri Brooks and Eli Brown, 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 one opening on the Zoning Adjustment and Appeals Board. Mayor Lowe called for a motion to appointment Curtis Adams. There were no other nominations. Councilmember Day moved to appoint Curtis Adams, 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 Itemized Statement of Expense for Joseph Grohman of the Building Department in the amount of \$356.44. Councilmember Day moved to approve the Itemized Statement of Expense, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmember Day, Carter, Bailey, Gordy and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Ophelia Whitlow Crockett. City Attorney Graham stated that the claim alleges that on April 22, 2024, Ms. Crockett hit a pot hole while driving on South Railroad Street which caused damages to two of her tires. City Attorney Graham also stated that the pot hole was located at a construction site and that this is not the City's liability. City Attorney Graham further stated that he would contact Ms. Crockett and advise her to contact the contractor regarding the claim. City Attorney 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 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, City Manager and Chief of Police to enter into an agreement with Knightscope Inc., for six (6) K1 Hemisphere security devices to be installed at the City of Phenix City River Walk and parking garage for a one-year contract in an amount not to exceed \$39,240.00, plus a one-time deployment fee of \$7,200.00.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-104**

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.

Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan came forward to address Council. Mr. Culligan stated there will be a Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Linstrom Project located on Highway 280 in Phenix City. Councilmember Day inquired to Mr. Culligan to provide the names of the businesses that will be located at the new site. Mr. Culligan stated that there will be a Starbucks, Outback Restaurant, Chipotle, Jersey Mikes, AT&T, Peachtree Emergency Care and Valvoline. Councilmember Day inquired about the state adding right-of-ways and Mr. Culligan stated that they will be adding two additional ones to that area.

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.

Councilmember Day moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character and Potential Litigation for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Gordy seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 10:01 a.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 10:31 a.m.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until June 4, 2024.