

MEETING MINUTES
June 4, 2024

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 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 Dr. Clementine Warren of Colbert AME Church delivered the invocation as listed on the agenda.

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

Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain stated that the employees were not able to attend the Council meeting but that she wanted to recognize them for their years of service to the City: Ray Monday – 5 years, and Jason Fillingim – 10 years.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the May 20, 2024 Work Session Meeting for approval. Councilmember Day 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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Councilmember Gordy. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the May 21, 2024 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Carter 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 No. 2024-105 to be ratified in reference to authorizing the instigation of a lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Russell County, Alabama to declare 1801 Knowles Road a public nuisance and for injunctive relief prohibiting owner Rickey L. Patterson from utilizing the property in contradiction of the law.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-105

Councilmember Day 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 a Resolution No. 2024-106 to be ratified in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to hire Brown and Son, LLC, for the emergency repair work to replace the damaged electrical generator transfer switch at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed \$24,385.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-106

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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to add an additional day to 2024 Independence Day Holiday.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-107

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 Resolution in reference to adding an additional day to be observed for the 2024 Independence Day Holiday.

1. 228 11th Avenue

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-108
PUBLIC NOTICE

2. 1300 21st Street

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-109
PUBLIC NOTICE

Councilmember Day moved to approve the resolutions and public notices, 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 sign an Indemnification agreement with Lindstrom & Company, LLC, for the subdivision known as the "Phenix City Retail Development" along US Hwy 280/431 N.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-110

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 and installation of one (1) Cummins ISL 450 horsepower, six (6) cylinder diesel electronic motor from Russell & Sons, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$62,390.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-111

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, City Manager and Public Safety Director, Raymond Smith to enter into and sign a Mutual Aid Assistance Memorandum of Agreement with participating cities, departments, commissions, and organizations to provide support during an emergency or disaster.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-112

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 for second 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-06

Councilmember Day moved to approve the ordinance, 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. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe thanked the Council and Department Heads for allowing him to be part of the team. Mayor Lowe stated that he appreciated everyone for all of their hard work and dedication.

Councilmember Carter stated that she attended the Central High School Graduation Ceremony with over 400 graduates and she also wanted to congratulate the graduates of Central High School, Russell County, Glenwood, Smiths Station and surrounding areas. Councilmember Carter also stated that the high school graduation is such a great accomplishment and should be recognized therefore, on behalf of the Mayor and Council, she congratulated all of the students. Councilmember Carter further stated that the school systems are producing productive students which makes up our community and she hopes they all go off and do great things and that they will come back to Phenix City as this City is one of the best growing cities in Alabama.

Councilmember Bailey stated that on Thursday, May 30, 2024 the ground breaking ceremony was held for the new 431/280 North development. Councilmember Bailey also stated that some perceptions are that Phenix City is not moving forward however, they have brought in international companies, nationwide companies and that many well-known new businesses are coming onto the 280 bypass. Councilmember Bailey further stated that so many citizens have been waiting for these businesses to develop in Phenix City and they have other businesses that

he can promise the City is consistently recruiting new businesses. Councilmember Bailey further stated that if a business decides not to come into the City, it is not from lack of effort on the City's part but rather because the time is not right. Councilmember Bailey stated that Phenix City is in the position to continue to grow in the next few years and while COVID is over and they have learned to live with it, people are back to spending money and helping to get the economy straightened back out. Councilmember Bailey also stated that he wanted everyone to know that Phenix City is moving forward in all three districts of the City and that they do not play favoritism or have teams, as they are a team. Councilmember Bailey further stated that the City's Economic Development Department is doing a great job and all of the additional departments that worked on this new development as a team to everyone's benefit. Councilmember Bailey stated that he is excited to see the new businesses come and that the City is blessed to have the dependable and reliable department heads.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that Phenix City is experiencing hope fill times which means what they have hoped for is being filled. Mr. Hunter also stated that it is because of the movement, progress and success of the departments and what they are doing economically. Mr. Hunter further stated that the City is now a City that people want to invest in and there will be retail shops coming to the City as well. Mr. Hunter stated that there are businesses on the listing that citizens have been asking about for a while that are beginning to happen. Mr. Hunter also stated that the size of the City and the steady growth that they are experiencing, the City has to be in control of it because they do not want to end up like so many larger urban cities that are in dilapidation and it is a matter of having sound departments, Police, Fire, Engineering, Public Works Departments working together as a team. Mr. Hunter further stated that having all of the department heads attend the Council Meetings is critical for them to have firsthand knowledge of the work going on in all areas of the City.

Mr. Hunter stated that he wanted the public to understand that the State of Alabama has a new squatter's law in place and that it is stern and the new cell phone law that has recently been put into place for hands free from cell phones and the police department will have to enforce it. Mr. Hunter asked that if residents see people squatting in homes, to call and let the City know so that they can handle the situation because with the new law, they will be able to handle it immediately. Mr. Hunter thanked the Council for approving the additional Independence Day Holiday for the City employees. Mr. Hunter congratulated Phenix City School Superintendent Brenda Coley for her accomplishment in receiving an award and that she has done an excellent job with the school system. Mr. Hunter stated that if they want the City to thrive than they have to back each other as leaders in the City and County so that investors see a unified and sound City for future investments.

Councilmember Day stated that Phenix City is on the move and that the City is not located by a major interstate when business would typically want to locate, so the City is doing great at attracting the new growth. Councilmember Day also stated that while he was at a new local business, he noticed cars with out of town tags shopping at the business and he noticed the new businesses being built in the areas as well and that the City is growing in all three districts. Councilmember Day thanked Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan and everyone involved for doing such a great job.

Mayor Lowe thanked Councilmember Bailey for his comments on the City not playing favorites because this is one community. Mayor Lowe stated that sometimes people will make negative comments and that recently comments were made that Outback had decided not to come into the City but that is not true and that the person(s) making the comments are trying to spread untruths. Mayor Lowe challenged everyone to push back on the negatively and that this

Council has faith with principals, leadership and hope. Mayor Lowe stated that every Council member, City Manager and his team do love Phenix City and that is what will continue to inspire them but that they realize there are people that do not want to see Phenix City prosper. Mayor Lowe thanked CTV-Beam for bringing the council meeting to the citizens of Phenix City, Alabama. Mayor Lowe thanked God and stated they will continue to move ahead.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until June 18, 2024.