

**MEETING MINUTES  
November 19, 2024**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. 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 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 Acting City Clerk Tonya Williams.

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

Pastor Nelson Lugo with First Assembly of God Church delivered the invocation.

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

Mayor Lowe called for a motion to appoint Tonya Williams as Acting City Clerk. Councilmember Day moved to approve, 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 the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the November 4, 2024 Work Session Meeting and November 5, 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 Resolution No. 2024-240 to be ratified in reference to authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to hire Warr Grading Contractor, Inc., to repair a portion of the sanitary sewer main west of 18th Avenue in an amount not to exceed \$47,904.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-240**

Councilmember Carter 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 Public Notice setting public hearing dates for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY 2024 Local Formula Solicitation.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the public notice, 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 authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into and sign an agreement with Sain Associates, Inc., to perform the 13th Street Corridor Planning Study in an amount not to exceed \$399,945.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-241**

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 personal property as surplus and disposing of for the nominal sum of \$1.00 and other valuable considerations to Raymond J. Smith in recognition of his 35 years of public service.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-242**

Councilmember Gordy 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 declaring various items surplus to be disposed of at the City Landfill.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-243**

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 an Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 2015-15 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Phenix City, Alabama, Chapter 70 (Formally Known as Chapter 12) Section 70-31. Franchise Fee Established.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-09**

Councilmember Day moved to approve 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 for first reading an Ordinance Granting a Non-Exclusive Franchise to Fiber Utility Network Inc., d/b/a Alabama Fiber Network, Its successors and assigns ("Franchisee") for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a Fiber-Optic Infrastructure Network within the public rights-of-way within the City of Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Day moved to place the ordinance 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. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented an opening on the Phenix City – Russell County Library Board. Mayor Lowe stated that current member, Gabriella Dubose is willing to serve another term. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Day moved to reappoint Gabriella Dubose, 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 an for first reading an application for an Off Premise Beer License and Off Premise Wine License, submitted by Sezal Bhandari for KTM 8 Ventures LLC dba Raceway 6992 located at 3423 Martin Luther King Jr., Parkway, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Carter moved to place the applications on first reading, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy, which 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 Glenn Harper. Mr. Graham stated that a City worker was cutting grass on Highway 280 By-Pass when a rock flew out and hit the windshield of Mr. Harper's vehicle and cracking it. Mr. Graham also stated that the windshield is one of the smart windshields with advanced technology and therefore, the cost to repair is higher than a standard windshield. Mr. Graham recommended approving the claim at the lowest estimate amount of \$1,017.51. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to approve the claim in the amount of \$1,017.51, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy, which 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 passed.

Councilmember Day wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and asked everyone to be safe.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that during the months of November and December there is a lot of sadness due to the Holidays and missing loved ones. Mr. Hunter encouraged everyone to do the best that they can. Mr. Hunter stated that our City is changing for the better and that he appreciates everything that is being done for the City by City Employees. Mr. Hunter also stated that as they are preparing to close another year, to keep doing good work and to support and check on one another. Mr. Hunter thanked Mayor and Council.

Mayor Lowe stated that they have the responsibility whether realized or not to look out for one another. Mayor Lowe also stated that especially during this time of the year, we should always be thankful and that he wishes they could have just one day to complain and 364 days to be thankful. Mayor Lowe further stated to the citizens that if there is anything that they do not agree with them on to please come to Council so that they can all discuss it together because that is the only way to move forward in a positive and decent way. Mayor Lowe stated that he hopes that God blesses everyone and that they continue to be lifters and not leaners. Mayor Lowe thanked Council, the Department Heads and the community for their continued support. Mayor Lowe also thanked CTV-Beam for bringing the council meeting to the citizens.

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