

**MEETING MINUTES  
December 3, 2024**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 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, City Attorney Jimmy Graham, and City Clerk Shannon Davis. Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble was not present.

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

Councilmember Carter delivered the invocation as listed on the agenda.

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

City Manager Wallace Hunter and Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain presented employee service recognitions to Brenn Holloway – 5 years, Charles Weed – 5 years, and Kenneth Taylor – 10 years.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the November 18, 2024 Work Session Meeting and November 19, 2024 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Day moved to approve the minutes, 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 stated there was no unfinished business to address at this time.

Mayor Lowe declared that now was the time and place for a public hearing in reference to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY 2024 Local Formula Solicitation. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone come forward, Mayor Lowe called for a motion to close the public hearing. Councilmember Carter moved to close the public hearing, 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 enter into and sign an agreement with Sain Associates, Inc., to generate the Phenix City Safety Action Plan in an amount not to exceed \$249,937.000.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-244**

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, City Manager and Fire Chief to enter into and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Alabama Fire College for development and administration of written promotional exams.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-245**

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 presented 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.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-10**

Councilmember Gordy 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 a Letter of Recommendation from the Planning Commission, Public Notice and Ordinance to repeal and replace the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Phenix City, Alabama.

**LETTER**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ORDINANCE**

Councilmember Day moved to accept the letter, approve the public notice, and 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. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for first reading an Ordinance to exempt certain items from the Municipal Sales and Use Tax during February 2025, referred to as the Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday. Councilmember Carter 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 for second 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 Gordy moved to approve the applications, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day, 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.

Mayor Lowe presented for new business an application for a Banquet Hall submitted by Pratik D. Patel for Phenix City Banquet Hall located at 1700 East US 280 By Pass, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Gordy moved to deny 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 new business an application for a Detail Shop submitted by Kcee Odom and Davetom Odom for Blessed Hands located at 1215 14th Street, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Day moved to deny 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 thanked the Council, Department Heads and everyone in attendance for attending the meeting. Mayor Lowe stated that the Department Heads were doing a great job and they appreciated them and asked that they communicate that to the employees.

Councilmember Carter thanked the employees that were recognized for their time with the City. Councilmember Carter stated that there are great benefits to working with the City, congratulated them, and wished them many additional years of service.

Councilmember Carter stated that the school system is a part of this community and that she wanted to congratulate the Central High School's students that will be traveling to Birmingham Alabama to play in the Championship games. Councilmember Carter thanked them for their outstanding athletic abilities to perform as well as they have to be placed in the position to bring home the state title. Councilmember Carter stated that the girl's flag football sport has really taken off, and in not only the City or State of Alabama but also that, they made national headlines. Councilmember Carter thanked them for what they do on the field and off the field and that; she looked forward to them bringing back that national title trophy once again.

Councilmember Carter asked that everyone remember that Jesus is the reason for the season and ask God's blessings for the community and that he keeps everyone safe throughout the holiday season. Councilmember Carter stated that they are so grateful to be a part of a community where everyone cares for one another and that she thanks God for bringing them to the last month of the year. Councilmember Carter thanked the citizens of the Second District.

Councilmember Day stated that he was proud to represent Phenix City at the National League of Cities Conference in Tampa Bay, Florida and he had the opportunity to meet Mayor's and Councilmembers from all over the state. Councilmember Day stated that everywhere he travels to, that he represents Phenix City as Positively Phenix City. Councilmember Day thanked the City for allowing him the opportunity to represent Phenix City and to vote on behalf of the City.

Councilmember Bailey stated that the day before was Councilmember Day's birthday and that they are celebrating a day late. Councilmember Bailey thanked all of the City's employees for all the work they perform throughout the City. Councilmember Bailey stated that he drives throughout the City to view items that need to be completed but also to view all of the hard work that has been completed and that there is more positive than negative. Councilmember Bailey

stated that the hard work of the City employees does make their jobs easier. Councilmember Bailey congratulated the Central High School's girls and boys teams for a job well done and that they should be proud to have gotten to the championship games. Councilmember Bailey thanked the citizens of Phenix City and asked that they keep them accountable.

Councilmember Day stated that he has received calls this week from citizens regarding the water leaks and that he asked the citizens to be patient and that the leak repairs are bided out to a contractor and that they are being repaired as quickly as possible.

City Manager Wallace Hunter thanked everyone and stated that it is coming to the end of another year and that everyone has done a great job. Mr. Hunter stated that loyalty and dedication have been his focus, and that the new generation is challenging for him to understand and adjust to the new way of doing things and that they are doing the best that they can do. Mr. Hunter also stated that the school system and the City have had many positive accomplishments this year and he hopes that the citizens will take note of all of the information available to them to learn more about the City's work. Mr. Hunter further stated that on December 10, 2024 the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce is holding a Community Conversations Event at the Troy State University campus and that it is a perfect opportunity for citizens to hear what is going on and how to get more involved. Mr. Hunter stated that his position is a thankless job and that he receives a lot of negativity but that he wants to also take some good credit and thank the Phenix City School System and Central High School for bringing back several State Champion Titles to Phenix City. Mr. Hunter also stated that many of our area schools, Russell County High School and Glenwood High School have all done great this year not just in sports but academically as well. Mr. Hunter thanked the Council for everything they have done for the City this year.

Mayor Lowe thanked the Council and stated how much he loves and appreciates them. Mayor Lowe stated that he could speak for the entire Council when he says that they truly love Phenix City. Mayor Lowe also stated that there are many good things that take place in Phenix City and there are many good people in the City. Mayor Lowe challenged the good hearted and decent people to continue to support and build up the community and that there will always be naysayers but as model citizens we should learn how to not be because there is always a better way. Mayor Lowe stated the City's Christmas decorations and the lights are so nice and he recommended everyone to drive through at night to see them. Mayor Lowe also stated that on behalf of the Council and himself that they love and appreciate all of the citizens. Mayor Lowe thanked CTV-Beam for bringing the council meeting to the citizens.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until December 17, 2024.