APPROVED AS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL 01-24-25

MEETING MINUTES
January 7, 2025

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 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 City Clerk Shannon Davis.

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

Pastor Adrian Chester of Greater Beallwood Baptist Church delivered the invocation as it was listed on the agenda.

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

Mayor Lowe called upon City Manager Wallace Hunter and Police Chief George Staudinger to present a service award to Retired Phenix City Police Captain Michael Campbell.

City Manager Wallace Hunter and Police Chief George Staudinger presented a service award recognizing Retired Phenix City Police Captain Michael Campbell for his 17 years of Service. Chief Staudinger thanked retired Captain Campbell for his 17 years of service to our community. Retired Public Safety Director Ray Smith stated that he enjoyed working with Retired Captain Campbell and wished that the newly recruited officers could train under his leadership. Mr. Hunter stated that Retired Captain Campbell is truly missed at the City and he thanked him for his service.

Manager Wallace Hunter and Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain presented employee service recognitions to Kilpatrick Thomas – 15 years, Joseph Weierick – 15 years, Bobby Brooks – 35 years. Ms. Chastain stated that Lisa Smith – 10 years, was not able to attend.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the December 16, 2024 Work Session Meeting and December 17, 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. 2025-01 to be ratified in reference to authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to hire A.N. Smith Company, Inc., to perform the removal, installation and programming of the new Knowles Road Tank Telemetry System in an amount not to exceed $5,125.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01

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 Resolution No. 2025-02 to be ratified in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into and sign an agreement with Russell County Commission to utilize ADEM's Scrap Tire Right of Way Program to help remove scrap tires within City limits.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02

Councilmember Gordy moved to ratifiy 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 Resolution No. 2025-03 to be ratified in reference to authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to hire Warr Grading Contractor, Inc., to perform emergency work to the Village Green Sanitary Sewer Main in an amount not to exceed $103,356.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03

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 Public Notice setting an Administrative Hearing for the Revocation of Business Privilege License for Chaserz Bar Lounge and Eatz LLC dba Kramers Sports Bar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Councilmember Carter moved to approve the public notice, 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 Terracon to perform geotechnical engineering services on the Municipal building in an amount no to exceed $8,850.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04

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 a resolution in reference to authorizing and directing an authorized Signer on the General Fund, Utilities Fund and Payroll checking Accounts to sign ACH Agreements with Phenix Girard Bank.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-05

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 pass.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to adopting the revised Cash Reserve Policy to increase the emergency fund from four million, five hundred thousand dollars ($4,500,000.00) to seven million dollars ($7,000,000.00).

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06

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 pass.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign a prepaid competitive bid contract agreement with Sunbelt Fire, Inc., for two (2) Custom Pumper Fire Apparatus mounted on a Custom E-One Typhoon Chasis in a total not to exceed $1,823,987.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-07

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 pass.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to hire Southern Rewinding to perform the necessary repairs to get the High Service Pump 2 back in operation for the estimated amount of $35,350.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-08

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 pass.

Mayor Lowe declared that now was the time and place for a public hearing in reference to the Ordinance to replace and repeal the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Phenix City, Alabama. Mayor Lowe stated anyone wishing to address Council concerning this ordinance should come forward and do so at this time. Jason Fondren, KPS Group Prinicipal Planner and Building Official Ray Rogers came forward. Mr. Fondren and Mr. Rogers review changes in the Zoning of

Ordinance. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone else come forward, Mayor Lowe declared the hearing closed.

Mayor Lowe presented an Ordinance to replace and repeal the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Phenix City, Alabama.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01

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. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus pass.

Mayor Lowe presented for first reading an Ordinance to Amend sections 4.16-C 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 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. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an application for a Bail Bonding Company License, submitted by Brian Cole Free U Bail Bonds, Inc., located at 1810 3rd Street South Suite A, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Day moved to approve 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 presented for second reading an application for a Bail Bonding Company License, submitted by Brian Cole Free Mr. Bail, Inc., located at 1810 3rd Street South Suite A, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the application, 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 first reading an Application for a Bail Bonding Company License, submitted by Joshua C. Singleton for Blessed Bail Bonds, located at 127 Lee Road 2209, Salem, Alabama. Councilmember Day moved to place the application 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.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a supplemental claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Joshua Welch. Mr. Graham stated that Mr. Welch's claim had been previously approved last year but once the vendor took the vehicle apart, additional issues were found that could not have been known at the time of the original quote. Mr. Graham also stated that the additional repairs were quoted at $237.86. Mr. Graham recommended approving the claim in the amount of $237.86. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to approve the claim in the amount of $237.86, 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 passed.

Councilmember Bailey stated that they look forward to the New Year and that he hoped it would be a good and safe year for all. Councilmember Bailey also stated that over the holidays many unfortunate things happened with terrorist attacks and the loss of President Jimmy Carter which is all apart of life. Councilmember Bailey further stated that he did not know how the Police, Fire and Safety Departments can work any harder to keep the citizens safe as they put their lives on the line every day. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone that if they see anything, they should say something and report it even though most of the time it may not be anything to worry about but that it only takes one time. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone to keep our local first responders, the military and national first responders in their prayers to not be in harms way. Councilmember Bailey stated that if not for the Police in New Orlean's, if could have been much worst as it was terrible for the families that lost someone and asked that they keep them in their prayers as well. Councilmember Bailey also stated that we need to heal our nation and encourage each other to start caring and trusting one another more, as our pledge states, we are one nation under God and this has been forgotten somewhere along the way. Councilmember Bailey further stated that we may all look different and talk different but that we are the same people which have been made by God and created equally and that one day we will all share the same ground.

Councilmember Day stated to the citizens of Phenix City that as we embark on 2025, he wanted to invite and encourage all of the citizens to attend the Council Meetings and get involved in what is going on with the City. Councilmember Day also stated that as a tax payer, each citizen has the right to be involved and get the truth of what is going on, they should attend the meetings to be aware and gather the correct information and facts. Councilmember Day thanked and acknowledged the employees with service anniversaries and retired Captain Michael Campbell and retired Public Safety Director Ray Smith for their service and dedication.

City Manager Wallace Hunter thanked the Council for approving the several items on the agenda in order to keep the City moving in the right direction. Mr. Hunter stated that there are many tasks planned for 2025 for the citizens. Mr. Hunter also stated that there were several new laws that took effect in January that were passed from the State of Alabama that could help citizens with childcare and workforce development. Mr. Hunter further stated that as a City they need to investigate how new laws could also benefit the City's Employees and that he will be asking Ms. Lorretta Rose with CCTV Beam to assist in ensuring the information is communicated effectively to all citizens. Mr. Hunter stated that his goal for 2025 is to ensure that all citizens receive and have access to all of the correct information pertaining to the City and any programs or benefits available and to make citizens aware that the City is here working for them all. Mr. Hunter also stated that he is hopeful that everyone will continue the same path this year and stay progressive moving forward and working hard for the citizens. Mr. Hunter further stated that he would like to see more citizens attend the Council Meetings to learn more about the City and the work that is being done on their behalf and by being engaged, they will be able to understand what is being done and provide feedback. Mr. Hunter stated that as some people will not let up on the negativety, he is not going to give up on the positive.

Councilmember Day stated that as he travels to different areas, he consistently brags about Phenix City's City Manager Wallace Hunter as he and his staff continue to make the Council's job much easier with the hard work and dedication they have and that he is doing a fantastic job. Councilmember Day also stated that throughout 2024, there were several incidents where he had to reach out to Mr. Hunter duing the weekend and he was always available and willing to address any concerns. Councilmember Day thanked Mr. Hunter.

Mayor Lowe wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mayor Lowe challenged everyone to ask themselves, why were they and everyone else allowed to see another year. Mayor Lowe also challenged everyone to step up because there are so many tactives out there that are trying to conquer the City by dividing everyone and he would like to see everyone push back and don't wait in order to keep this community going forward. Mayor Lowe stated that if they don't push back and stand together that everything they have worked for will be demissed and that he wants to set a tone to ensure that those that are coming behind them will be challenged to continue to improve. Mayor Lowe also stated that we should learn how not to be influenced by bad behavior and to show more compassion and passion with all of the responsibilities that they have. Mayor Lowe thanked everyone and CCTV Beam for bringing this meeting to the citizens

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until January 22, 2025.