MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2025

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Friday, January 24, 2025 at 9:30 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, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember R. Griff Gordy was not present. 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.

Councilmember Bailey delivered the invocation.

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

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Lowe called upon the City Clerk Shannon Davis to read the proclamation. Mayor Lowe stated that no one came forward to accept the proclamation and therefore, the proclamation will be mailed to the Child Trafficking Solutions Project.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the January 6, 2025 Work Session Meeting and January 7, 2025 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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Manager Wallace Hunter to discuss the Phenix City Russell County ATRIP Agreement. Mr. Hunter provided an overview of the history of the Russell County and City of Phenix City Alabama Department of Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program Agreement (ATRIP). Mr. Hunter stated that he was providing this information for clarity due to the Alabama Supreme Court decision on the lawsuit to enforce Russell County to repay the taxes due to the City of Phenix City which were originally outlined in this agreement. Mr. Hunter also stated that the recent article in the Citizen News reference a quote from Russell County that indicated that they were helping the City of Phenix City with needed funds from the proposed taxes when in reality and proven in the ATRIP Agreement that the City of Phenix City was assisting Russell County with their need for funding for the match of funding that they did not have available. Mr. Hunter further stated that he wanted the citizens to understand the facts on how the City of Phenix City and Russell County governments and revenues are setup and managed. Mr. Hunter stated that the City put into place a financial plan for the funding from ATRIP and has successfully adhered to the plan.

Mayor Lowe presented Resolution No. 2025-09 to be ratified in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into and sign an agreement with Terracon Consultants, Inc., for inspections of hazardous materials at the Old Medical Park Building located at 1700 21st Court in an amount not to exceed $3,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-09

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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe stated that now was the time and place for an administrative hearing and a resolution in reference to the Revocation of On Premises Beer, On Premises Wine and On Premises Whiskey/Wine License for Chaserz Bar Lounge and Eatz LLC dba Kramers Sports Bar. Owner Shaundra Dinkins came forward to address Council. Ms. Dinkins provided information regarding the last six months of her business. Ms. Dinkins reviewed with Council her updated business plan and hours of operation to ensure that her customers are in a safe environment and that while everyone is welcomed, there is an aged limit on who can be in the establishment after 10:00 p.m. Ms. Dinkins stated that she was not aware of the ordinance pertaining to the recent violation she received around occupancy and that she wants to address the concerns around this information and that her intent was never to be in violation. Ms. Dinkins also stated that she has done her best to stay in compliance with all City and County Ordinances and that moving forward she has updated her security and safety plans for her business and she has provided that documentation to Council. Ms. Dinkins further stated that the issues with safety have been primarily in the parking lot in the late evening hours and she has hired additional security to be available during those time frames to ensure additional safety measures. Ms. Dinkins stated that she is providing her original business plan along with her updated plan to Council for review to show the changes that she is implementing and she spoke on those changes. Ms. Dinkins thanked the Council for allowing her to speak to them regarding this matter and hopefully to maintain her license. Mayor Lowe stated to Ms. Dinkins that when the Council has to revoke a license, it is because there have been more than one violation on the business. Mayor Lowe called upon Assistant Chief of Police Joey Weierick to address Council. Assistant Chief Weierick provided an overview and timeline of the violations that have been cited with Ms. Dinkins business over the last six months since the ownership has changed. Assistant Chief Weierick stated that some of the information is limited because the incidents are still under investigation. Assistant Chief Weierick also stated that the incidents have ranged from shootings, attempted murder and occupancy violations in the short amount of time and that this not only puts the customers in danger but also the police officer's that have to respond to the incidents. Assistant Chief Weierick further stated that for those reasons, they are requesting that the alcohol license be revoked from the business. Ms. Dinkins stated that to her knowledge, none of the altercations took place inside the bar but instead were in the parking lot only, which she understands was her responsibility. Ms. Dinkins also stated that she has been told by her community that she was too strict because she will not allow those types of altercations to happen in her bar and that it is not because of her negligence but as a community as a whole. Ms. Dinkins further stated that it is her forgoing effort to have additional security and that she does not want to influence that type of environment, however she has added six additional security officers for inside and outside safety. Ms. Dinkins stated that when they notice this type of behavior in the bar, they have them removed. Assistant Chief Weierick stated again that due to ongoing investigations, some of the information should not be discussed but that their reports state that the incidents started inside the bar and were then taken to the parking lot. Councilmember Day inquired as to what the City's plan was moving forward. Mayor Lowe stated that the request to revoke the licenses is the action taken by the City at this time. Mayor Lowe called upon Ms. Verna Jordan to address Council. Ms. Jordan stated that based on what she has heard in the meeting, she wanted to provide her firsthand knowledge. Ms. Jordan also stated that she has been in the bar on several occasions and understands the issue with the environment but that she knows that Ms. Dinkins has implemented additional

security measures to address the issues. Councilmember Carter inquired about the statement from Ms. Dinkins that someone approached her and stated to her that they would have her business shutdown and asked Ms. Dinkins if she had filed a report and if she had any evidence on that incident. Ms. Dinkins stated that the police were called and that within the first two weeks of having the bar, she received insulting phone calls and that it was not her desire when she purchased the bar for that kind of incidents. Ms. Dinkins also stated that since purchasing the business, she has been engaged with the community in positive ways to serve as boosters for local high school games and support the children in the community. Councilmember Bailey stated that it does take more than one complaint to get to this point and that it does sound like Ms. Dinkins is taking measures to address the issues and that it is never too little to address and correct the issues and that she is going in the right direction. Councilmember Bailey also stated that if most of the incidents occurred with a specific crowd at a specific time than he is not sure of the answer to the issue but to not be open during that timeframe. Councilmember Bailey further stated that people do tend to drink too much and that whether the incidents started in the building and then were pushed out to parking lot, that the business is still responsible but that any time they have to send the police, fire department or emergencies technicians out to respond, it takes away from other areas that need assistance and it puts all of their lives in danger. Councilmember Bailey stated that it is a bad situation and he was not sure if she could even have enough security to eliminate the issues that are occurring. Councilmember Bailey also stated that unfortunately it has become violent and that does not have any limit on how far it may travel and that a gunshot could hit innocent people, like a child and that would be the worst possible outcome. Mayor Lowe stated that Ms. Dinkins has only been the owner of the business for six months and that it does not look good and that there is no specific citizen that can cause a business to close so whoever communicated that to her was incorrect. Mayor Lowe also stated that to have so many incidents in this short timeframe, there had to be other incidents that took place and that the number one responsibility of the City Council is the safety of the citizens. Mayor Lowe further stated that this is the situation it has put them in where they must step in and consistently ensure the safety of the citizens. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Dinkins for addressing Council.

Councilmember Bailey inquired as to what the process may be for the business to address the issue and be able to re-apply for the alcohol license. Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble stated that legally the Council has the right to revoke the license and that there is a process where the business owner could appeal the decision of the Council as there are mechanisms in the law that will allow this to be done however, much weight is given to the Council on their decision. Councilmember Bailey stated that there should be an opportunity in the future for the business owner to re-apply and go through that process. Mr. Gamble stated that it is a privilege to have the license and that unfortunately it took revoking the license in order for the owner to change her business plan.

Councilmember Carter inquired if the businesses previous name was dba Kramers Sports Bar and if she ever thought about changing the name. The Owner Shaundra Dinkins stated that it was the name and that she decided to keep it the same with her business.

Mayor Lowe stated that the Council does not discuss how they will vote on the resolutions prior to voting as it is unethical and the Council has never operated that way and never will. Mayor Lowe also stated that he has heard that some citizens have said that the Council does not want anyone to have fun and that is the furthest from the truth and the first responsibility of the Council is safety for the citizens and first responders.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to the Revocation of On Premises Beer, On Premises Wine and On Premises Whiskey/Wine License for Chaserz Bar Lounge and Eatz LLC dba Kramers Sports Bar.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-10

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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to the satisfaction of an assessment on property located at 2107 12th Avenue, property owner Roderick C. Hillian.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11

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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe stated that now was the time and place for a public hearing and approval of resolution in reference to the fixing of costs incurred by the City of Phenix City for the removal of substandard structure and the establishment of special assessments upon property located at 2507 16th Place. Mayor Lowe stated anyone wishing to address Council concerning this hearing should come forward and do so at this time. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone come forward, Mayor Lowe declared the hearing closed. Mayor Lowe called upon Building Official Ray Rogers to address Council. Mr. Rogers stated that due to the inclement weather, the Council Meeting date was moved and that they were not able to contact the owner of the property to advise him on the change. Mr. Rogers asked that the vote on the resolution be tabled until such time the owner can be contacted. Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble stated that the correct procedure is that without prior notice of the public hearing, the owner has the right to attend the hearing therefore, the resolution should be tabled. Councilmember Day moved to table 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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to declaring properties a public nuisance and authorizing and directing the Housing Abatement Board to take necessary action to demolish, remove and clear all building materials, trash, and debris from the following properties:

1. 2107 Summerville Road

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12

2. 2107 A Summerville Road

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-13

Councilmember Day moved to approve the resolutions 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: 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 a contract agreement with Barry Davis Architects, P.C. to develop plans for the Phenix City Community Center.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-14

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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus pass.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign and accept a proposal from Barrett-Simpson, Inc., for surveying services for bridge replacement at Bridgewater Drive and Holland Creek in an amount not to exceed $11,400.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-15

Councilmember Bailey 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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus pass.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to approving the usage of Edmonds Cemetery Addition 2.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-16

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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus pass.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to accepting an easement from the Phenix City Board of Education for the relocation of a sanitary sewer main underneath South Railroad Street.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-17

Councilmember Carter 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, 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 make application for grant assistance from ALDOT for the resurfacing of 16th Street from South Railroad Street to Broad Street.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-18

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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus pass.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing the Mayor to virtually sign renewal documents for the Class II Receiver Permit through ADEM to continue tire pickup service.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-19

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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus pass.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to accept and sign a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with KultureCity for New Invisible Disabilities Training for Phenix City Fire Rescue Personnel.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-20

Councilmember Carter 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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus pass.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to declaring fire hoses surplus to be disposed of at the City Landfill.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-21

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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus pass.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to declaring fire hose couplings surplus to be sold as scrap.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-22

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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus pass.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing the City Manager and Human Resources Director to commence a project initiation with Evergreen Solutions, LLC to conduct a compensation study.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-23

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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to purchasing One (1) 2024 Ford Transit 150 Cargo Van upgraded to a Transit 350 XL 12 Passenger Van purchased under State Contract T191L from Stivers Ford Lincoln, Montgomery, Alabama in the total amount of $54,136.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-24

Councilmember Carter 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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to declaring gym equipment as listed on "Exhibit A" as surplus to be sold as scrap or disposed of at the City Landfill.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-25

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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with Municipal Consultants, Inc. to update the City's Solid Waste Management Plan in an amount not to exceed $8,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-26

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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing the purchase of 44,550,132 gallons of water from Columbus Water Works in an amount not to exceed $169,069.09.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-27

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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a Master Service Agreement and Task Order Number one with Hazen and Sawyer for preliminary assessment of the operation of the Water Filtration Facility in an amount not to exceed $25,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-28

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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an ordinance to Amend sections 4.16-C of the merit System rules and regulations of the City of Phenix City, Alabama.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02

Councilmember Carter 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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a Letter of Recommendation from the Planning Commission, Public Notice and Ordinance to rezone 0.69 +/- acres of land located at the intersection of Silver Lake Drive and Explorer Road from a R-1 Zone (Low Density Residential District) to an R-1B Zone (Low Density Residential District), Silver Terrace, LLC owner.

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 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: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a Letter of Recommendation from the Planning Commission and Ordinance to de-annex property out of the City of Phenix City, Alabama, a Tract of land lying in Section 9, Township 16 North, Range 30 East, Russell County, Alabama.

LETTER

ORDINANCE

Councilmember Day moved to accept the letter and 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, 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 Joshua C. Singleton for Blessed Bail Bonds, located at 127 Lee Road 2209, Salem, Alabama. Councilmember Day moved to approved the application, 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: None. The motion thus passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Loral Culpepper. Mr. Graham stated that on November 24, 2024 Ms. Culpepper was stopped at a yield sign and was hit from behind by a Phenix City Police vehicle. Mr. Graham also stated that Ms. Culpepper provided three required estimate's as required for the claim. Mr. Graham recommended approving the claim in the lowest estimate of $3,559.51. Councilmember Bailey moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to approve the claim in the lowest estimate of $3,559.51, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Carter, which upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, Bailey, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion passed.

Councilmember Bailey stated that the Council is not trying to put people out of business but rather they want to encourage new businesses in Phenix City. Councilmember Bailey also stated that they want business owners and the community to be safe and they want the businesses do prosper. Councilmember Bailey further stated that they do not want other businesses to suffer due to these issues.

Councilmember Day stated that the Council has to be consistent and treat all business owners the same.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the business plan that the owner of Kramers Sports Bar Ms. Shaundra Dinkins presented to Council was outstanding however, when a plan is initiated, it must be followed through to the completion. Mr. Hunter also stated that in this situation, the occupancy numbers for the business are too high and that she must understand that it has to be lower to avoid the kind of issues it has caused. Mr. Hunter further stated that the City has some process improvement that needs to made however, at this point they are liable and it cannot be over looked.

Mayor Lowe called for a Point of Privilege to have Reverend Grant Parker of Epworth Methodist Church to provide the benediction.

Councilmember Day moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Possible Litigations for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Carter seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 11:51 a.m.

Councilmember Day motioned to adjourn which motion was seconded by Councilmember Carter.

Council came out of Executive Session at 12:12 p.m.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until January 7, 2025.