APPROVED AS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL 02/19/25

MEETING MINUTES
February 4, 2025

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 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 R. Griff Gordy and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember Steve Bailey 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.

Pastor Greg Hyche of Ladonia Baptist Church delivered the invocation as it was listed on the agenda.

Councilmember Gordy 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 Brian Hatcher – 5 years, Christopher Jakes, - 5 years, Christopher Johnson – 15 years.

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Arbor Day.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Lowe called upon Jennifer Davidson with the Russell County Extension Office and Tommy Ware, Tree Commission Board Member to come forward to accept the proclamation.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the January 24, 2025 Work Session Meeting for approval. Councilmember Carter moved to approve the minutes, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Councilmember Gordy. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the January 24, 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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Councilmember Gordy. 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 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 resolution should come forward and do so at this time. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone come forward, Mayor Lowe declared the hearing closed.

Mayor Lowe presented a 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-29

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, 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 accept a two-year extension agreement with DRC Emergency Services, LLC for cleanup of debris and related items in the event of a federal or state declared emergency.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-30

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, 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 enter into and sign an agreement with Pratt Recycling, Inc., for disposal of certain recyclable materials for a fee of $130.00 (one hundred thirty dollars and zero cents) per ton.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-31

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

Mayor Lowe presented an ordinance for second reading 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-03

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Carter. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, 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 rezone 3.07 +/- acres of land located at the intersection of 1st Place and 16th Avenue from a C-4 Zone (Highway Commercial District) to an R-1 Zone (Low Density Residential District), Phenix Girard Bank owner.

LETTER

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE

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

Mayor Lowe presented three openings on the Zoning Adjustment and Appeals Board. Mayor Lowe stated that current members, Roderick Howard, Steve Jourdan and Ralph Morris are willing to serve another term. Councilmember Day moved to re-appoint Roderick Howard, Steve Jourdan and Ralph Morris, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, 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 Steven McGarr. Mr. Graham stated that on October 30, 2024 there was a water main break along Lynn Drive and that the claim states that the water caused damage to the supports of Mr. McGarr's storage building. Mr. Graham also stated that Mr. McGarr provided three estimate's as required for the claim. Mr. Graham further stated that the estimate amounts were very high for the amount of repairs needed. Mr. Graham recommended to negotiate the amount of the claim with Mr. McGarr. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to negotiate the claim, 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Michael Kimber. Mr. Graham stated that the claim alleges that a tree on City property fell into Mr. Kimber's fence damaging his property. Mr. Graham also stated that the tree was on City property, however, the City had no knowledge of the tree being diseased or damaged prior to this event and under Alabama Law, the City has no obligation to pay for damages. Mr. Graham recommended denying the claim. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to deny the claim, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy, which upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Councilmember Carter. The motion passed.

Councilmember Carter stated that it is always good to have people in the community that want to serve and that they want to remind them that they appreciate their willingness to volunteer on the various boards. Councilmember Carter also stated that their assistance helps the Council to get things done for the City to keep moving in the right direction.

Councilmember Carter stated for those employees that are celebrating their employment anniversary they want to congratulate each of them and thanked them. Councilmember Carter also stated that the City does have one of the best retirement plans and encouraged others to apply.

Councilmember Day congratulated City Employees for their years of service to the City. Councilmember Day stated that the City has many job openings and encouraged citizens to consider employment with the City.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the new vendor 121 Disposal Company is now taking care of garbage pickup and that he encouraged citizens to review their customer service information and contact them directly for any questions or issues concerning trash pickup or they may call the Utilities Department for guidance.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble will be holding a press conference to address the City's Utility Meter current Court Case and the actions that are being taken to ensure the Citizens of Phenix City are aware and knowledgeable. Mr. Hunter encouraged all citizens to watch the conference or listen to it later to ensure they all know the facts. Mr. Hunter stated that the citizens have the right to lose faith in the City when they do not communicate effectively and that he wants to ensure that all citizens have the opportunity to receive the information and that it is the City's responsibility to ensure the communications are available to them.

Mayor Lowe thanked the Department Heads and everyone for attending the meeting. Mayor Lowe stated that it takes them all whether they work for the City or a Citizen, to do what it takes for the City. Mayor Lowe also stated that the Council has always stepped up to be transparent and that they have approached their work correctly and honestly. Mayor Lowe further stated that they take responsibility and are in the process of fixing some of the responsibilities and asked that the citizens keep faith in them as everything that they do will be explained and the facts will be shared. Mayor Lowe stated that when the current Council is no longer there, they want the citizens to place people on the Council that are honest and hold the best interest for the community.

Mayor Lowe stated that the State of the City will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. and invited everyone to attend.

Mayor Lowe thanked everyone in the community and stated it was a great place in spite of what some people may say and that the City is on the move. Mayor Lowe thanked CTV-Beam for bringing the council meeting to the citizens of Phenix City, Alabama. Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to be a lifter and not a leaner.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until February 19, 2025.