APPROVED AS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL 03-18-25

MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 2025

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, March 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 Green, 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.

Reverend Karen Seifert of Summerville United Methodist Church delivered the invocation as it was listed on the agenda.

Councilmember Day 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 Larry Baldwin – 5 years, Justin Johnston – 5 years, David Niles – 5 years. Ms. Chastain stated that Hakari Draco – 5 years, and Jason Arnold – 15 years, were not able to attend.

Mayor Lowe stated that the Central High School Girls Flag Football Team were not able to attend the meeting therefore, the proclamation will be given to them at the April 1, 2025 Council Meeting.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the February 18, 2025 Work Session Meeting and February 19, 2025 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, Green, 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 a Resolution No. 2025-38 to be ratified in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to submit an application to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) for the Alabama Recycling Fund Grant.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-38

Councilmember Green 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, Green, 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 Chief Building Official Ray Rogers to enter into and sign a contract agreement with Terracon Consultants, Inc., for inspections of hazardous materials located at 1004 North Railroad Street in an amount not to exceed $800.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-39

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, Green, 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. 2025-40

Councilmember Green 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, Green, 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 a contract with M & M Staging for a roofing system lease at the Phenix City Amphitheater April 1, 2025 through December 15, 2025 in an amount not to exceed $60,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-41

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, Green, 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 a contract with William Morris Endeavor Entertainment, LLC, for Sammy Kershaw to perform at the Phenix City Amphitheater on May 9, 2025.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-42

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing the Chief of Police George Staudinger to enter into and sign an agreement with the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police Accreditation Program Commission.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-43

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to accepting and approving the proposed settlement in the claim against Master Meter, Inc., and Empire Pipe and Supply Company Inc., in the amount of $1,250,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-44

Councilmember Day moved to approve the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Green. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Green, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe declared that now was the time and place for a public hearing in reference to an Ordinance to rezone 0.69 +/- acres of land located at the intersection of Silver Lake Drive and Explorer Road from an R-1 Zone (Low Density Residential District) to an R-1B Zone (Low Density Residential District), Silver Terrace, LLC owner. Mr. Tilden Robinson owner of a property on Silver Lake Drive came forward to speak to Council and stated that he was opposed to the rezone. Mr. Robinson stated that he and other residents did not want the properties to change the look of the neighborhood. Mr. Ray Smith property owner on Silver Lake Drive came forward to oppose the rezone as well. Councilmember Bailey stated that the Council is not against Phenix City being developed however, it has to be done right and that this particular property was designated for a two home property due to the size. Councilmember Bailey also stated that the homes in the neighborhood have been there a long time and that the older generation of residents can not pick up and move like the younger generations can when they do not approve of the property changes that are allowed. Councilmember Bailey further stated that he hopes in the future that consideration is given to the current residents prior to these types of decisions being made. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone else come forward, Mayor Lowe declared the hearing closed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Ordinance to rezone 0.69 +/- acres of land located at the intersection of Silver Lake Drive and Explorer Road from an R-1 Zone (Low Density Residential District) to an R-1B Zone (Low Density Residential District), Silver Terrace, LLC owner. Councilmember Gordy moved to deny the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Green, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: Councilmember Day. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a Letter of Recommendation from the Planning Commission, Public Notice and Ordinance to rezone 0.28+/- acres of land located at 3700 South Railroad Street from an A-O Zone (Apartment and Office District) to a C-4 Zone (Highway Commercial District), R & R, LLC, owner.

LETTER

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE

Councilmember Gordy moved to accept the letter, approve the public notice, and place the ordinance on first reading, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Green. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Green, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Application for an On-Premise Beer License and On-Premise Whiskey Wine License, submitted by LYB 1995, LLC dba Acapulcos Mexican Restaurant located at 3844 US Highway 80 West Suite C, 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, Green, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Application for an Off-Premise Beer License, submitted by Crawford Market Inc., dba The Short Stop located at 5005 Summerville Road, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Gordy moved to deny 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, Green, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented an Itemized Statement of Expense for City Clerk Shannon Davis in the total amount of $8.80. Councilmember Green moved to approve the Itemized Statement of Expense in the total amount of $8.80, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Green, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe stated that he appreciated the Council and thanked them for their forthrightness and consistentency. Mayor Lowe thanked the Department Heads for their consistentency and hard work. Mayor Lowe stated that the Council and the City leads with intergrity and good morales.

Councilmember Day congratulated the City employees for their milestone of 35 years of combined service to the City.

Director of Engineering Angel Moore came forth and spoke to Council regarding the resurfacing and restriping of Broad Street in Phenix City and asked that citizens have patience with them as they improve the roads. Mayor Lowe inquired about a timeframe that the work will need to be completed. Ms. Moore stated that the resurfacing should not take long however, the restriping will take a longer period of time to complete. Ms. Moore also stated that they have been working to resurface roads and she thanked City Manager Wallace Hunter for securing the funds for the improvements. Councilmember Day inquired if the crews work on the weekends. Ms. Moore stated that it is at the contractor's decision but that they do follow the guidelines established by the City. Mayor Lowe inquired about why it is has taken extra time to get the project started. Ms. Moore stated that the project is an ALDOT (Alabama Department of Transportation) Project and that there are additional steps that have to take place with the State. Ms. Moore also stated that by going through the additional steps, the State will cover 80% of the work and those funds come back to the City.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that they have so many projects going on through out the City in all three of the districts. Mr. Hunter also stated that he met with Economic Development in regards to several more projects and grand openings that will be coming up soon. Mr. Hunter further stated that the City is full with a lot of activities and that the City still remains short of workers and that he wants the citizens to understand and be patient for what is going on and the timeframes around the activities. Mr. Hunter stated that the City continues to grow and so many citizens have been able to move here and build private businesses. Mr.

Hunter also stated that with the new administration in office, there will be more changes that will filter down from the State and the City will need to be prepared for them and encouraged the citizens to stay informed of all of the news. Mr. Hunter wished Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Hughes a Happy Birthday. Mr. Hunter thanked everyone for what they do for the City.

Mayor Lowe stated that there are comments on social media at this time regarding the closing of the Troy University Campus in Phenix City. Mayor Lowe clarified that the City of Phenix City has nothing to do with Troy University's building. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the article states that other universities with satillite offices like Troy University are closing some of their campuses because many students are taking classes online. Mr. Hunter also stated that it is not the fault of anyone but it is a convenience for students to take online classes and that it has to do with the changes in technology. Councilmember Bailey stated that since the COVID pandemic and people working from home has affected college students in the same manner.

Mayor Lowe thanked CTV Beam for bringing the meeting to the citizens. Mayor Lowe thanked everyone for being apart of the community and encouraged everyone to be apart of the solutions and not the problems. Mayor Lowe thanked God for the community.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until March 18, 2025.