APPROVED AS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL 04/01/25

MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2025

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center, 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 Dr. Wendell Jones of Nichols Chapel AME 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 presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the March 3, 2025 Work Session Meeting and March 4, 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 Resolution No. 2025-45 to be ratified in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to hire JWC Environmental for emergency repairs to Bar Screen #1 at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed $48,328.20.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-45

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 the satisfaction of an assessment on property located at 1824 1st Avenue, Comis Realty LLC, owner.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-46

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 the satisfaction of an assessment on property located at 607 7th Place, Charles Vann Thompson, owner.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-47

Councilmember Gordy 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 presented a resolution in reference to accepting and approving a proposed settlement regarding personal injuries claimed by Nefertiti Allure in the amount of $62,500.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-48

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 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 structures and the establishment of special assessments upon properties located at 2001 6th Avenue and 1608 8th Avenue. Ahmed Ahmed owner of the property located at 2001 6th Avenue was on the phone to address Council. Mr. Ahmed stated that he purchased the property in 2022 and that the building on the property burnt several months after he purchased the property. Mr. Ahamed also stated that the Fire Department was not able to determine how the fire started. Mr. Ahamed further stated that he did not receive any demoliation information from the City and that he has been paying all of his taxes on the property. Mr. Ahmed stated that he updated his address in October 2023 and that he was in the process of selling the property. Mr. Ahmed also stated that the first time he received any notification was when he received the Special Assessment Letter from the City in March 2025. Mr. Ahmed further stated that if he had known about the request for demoliation from the City, he would have taken care of it at that time and due to the fire, the only option he has was to place the property for sale. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Ahmed for speaking to Council. Mayor Lowe stated that the City's Building Department has a lenghtly process that they must follow and that the it takes some time to get to the point in the process where it is today. Mayor Lowe also stated that the Building Department has all of the documentation for the certified letters that have been sent to Mr. Ahmed regarding this matter and that it gets to the point where they can not stop the process. Mayor Lowe further stated that Mr. Ahmed can still sale the property and that he can come and see all of the documentation that was sent out by the Building Department. Mayor Lowe stated that Building Official Ray Rogers can call and provide all of the information including costs to him. Mayor Lowe also stated that unfortunately there was nothing the Council could do for the matter because of the length of time. Mr. Ahmed thanked the Mayor and Council and stated that he believes that the City followed the correct process however, he wanted to know what address was used for the precious communications that he did not received. Mr. Ahmed inquired about any financial assistance he could have for the assessment costs. Mayor Lowe stated that there was no financial assistance that the City can provide on the assessment fees. Mayor Lowe advised Mr. Ahmed that his property is located in an low to moderate income level and that banking institutions may offer a lower interest rate that he could take advantage of to help with the fees. Mr. Ahmed stated that he could not afford the fees and inquired what the next steps would be for the City. Mayor Lowe reinterated that he could sell the property but that the assessment and lien fees would have to be paid. Mayor Lowe stated that Chief Building Official Ray Rogers would speak to him and provide him with the timeline for the process that they followed. Mr. Rogers stated that the Building Department goes by the Russell

County Tax Office and pulls the tax record in order to mail the information out to the owners and therefore, the address listed on the tax record was the address used and that he did see where Mr. Ahmed changed his address in 2024 and that would be why he did receive the last letter sent out by the City. Mr. Ahmed thanked Mr. Rogers for explaining the mailing process to him. Mr. Ahmed stated that he updated his mailing address with the Russell County Tax Office in September 2023 and that he still did not receive all of past letters during that timeframe. Mr. Rogers stated that the first letter was mailed in April 2023 and that he should have received that one at his previous address. Mayor Lowe stated that the first letter was mailed out almost two years ago. Mr. Ahmed stated that he would like to see the timeline information and that if there was any assistance that can be recommend because he could not afford the fees and that he wants to make sure the assessments fees are satisfied. Mayor Lowe stated that the City does not have any programs in place but banks do have to comply with the Community Investment Act and that his property is in the area that meets the critiera and that the bank could possible provide a loan for him at a favoriable rate. Mayor Lowe furher stated that the lien would have to be paid prior to the property being release back to Mr. Ahmed. Mr. Rogers stated that Mr. Ahmed can contact the Russell County Tax Office to receive the exact information. Mr. Rogers also stated that the assessment fee was not due until 2026 which gives him more time. Mr. Ahmed confirmed that he will need to reach out to Russell County beause they do the assessment on the taxes for his property. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone else come forward, Mayor Lowe declared the hearing closed.

Mayor Lowe presented two resolutions in reference to the fixing of costs incurred by the City of Phenix City for the removal of substandard structures and the establishment of special assessments upon properties located at:

1. 2001 6th Avenue

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-49

2. 1608 8th Avenue

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-50

Councilmember Day moved to approve the resolutions, 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 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 at the vacant commercial structure located at 1002 280 Bypass in an amount not to exceed $3,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-51

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to declaring a vehicle surplus to be sold to the highest bidder at a public auction or sold as scrap if no one purchases it.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-52

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 accepting the audited financial statement as presented by Robinson, Grimes and Company, P.C. for Fiscal year ending September 30, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-53

Councilmember Green 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, 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 an agreement with Regions Bank for Commercial Credit Card and Payment Processing Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-54

Councilmember Gordy 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 Pyrotecnico Fireworks, Inc., for a fireworks presentation at the Phenix City Amphitheater July 4, 2025 in an amount not to exceed $22,500.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-55

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 the purchase of ten (10) 2025 Ford Explorer vehicles purchased under State Contract T191L from Stivers Ford Lincoln, Montgomery, Alabama, in the total amount of $654,320.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-56

Councilmember Green 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 purchasing three (3) 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe LS vehicles from Buster Miles Chevrolet, Heflin, Alabama, in an amount not to exceed $171,931.50.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-57

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 authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into and sign an agreement with Matrix Imaging Solutions for utility bill printing and presentment services for a term of three (3) years with an automatic one (1) year renewal unless terminated in accordance with the agreement.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-58

Councilmember Gordy 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 presented a resolution in reference to authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into and sign Task Order 2025-02 with Hazen and Sawyer for the Phase 2 assessment of the Water Filtration Plant in an amount not to exceed $98,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-59

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 declared that now was the time and place for a public hearing in reference to an 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. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone else come forward, Mayor Lowe declared the hearing closed.

Mayor Lowe presented an 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.

ORDIANCE NO. 2025-04

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 an opening on the East Alabama Mental Health – Mental Retardation Board. Councilmember Day moved to re-appoint Reverend Clementine Warren, 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 an opening for the Alabama League of Municipalities Voting Delegate. Councilmember Day moved to appoint Councilmember Carter as active delegate, 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 an opening for the Alabama League of Municipalities first alternate Voting Delegate. Councilmember Gordy moved to appoint Councilmember Day as first alternate Voting Delegate, 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 first reading an Application for an Off-Premise Beer License, submitted by NVSM Management LLC dba Marathon 106 located at 1221 East 280 Bypass, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Gordy moved to place the application 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 thanked Council and all of the attendees and CTV Beam for bringing the meeting to the citizens. Mayor Lowe thanked God for the community.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until April 1, 2025.