APPROVED AS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL 05/06/25

MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 2025

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 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 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 Adrian Chester of Greater Bealwood Church delivered the invocation as listed on the agenda.

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

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Building Safety Month.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Lowe called upon Building Official Ray Rogers and Fire Chief Kristin Kennedy to accept the proclamation for Building Safety Month.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the March 31, 2025 Work Session Meeting. 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, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Councilmember Green. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the April 1, 2025 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the minutes, 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 stated that there was no unfinished business.

Mayor Lowe presented Resolution No. 2025-67 to be ratified in reference to authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to hire Warr Grading Contractor, Inc., to perform emergency work on the US 431 water main in an amount not to exceed $42,680.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-67

Councilmember Day 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 and directing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a contract agreement with Ben Gordy Construction Company Inc., for renovations to the Phenix City Information Technology Building located at 1211 7th Avenue in an amount not to exceed $1,665,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-68

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 accepting the dedication of public utilities and easements dedicated by the Final Plat of Summerville and Lakewood Subdivision, Warr Development Company, Inc., owner.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-69

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 awarding a bid to Columbus Quarry for E25-01 Aggregates.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-70

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 the General Fund Insurance proposal from Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation authorizing the purchase of Property, Automobile, Inland Marine, General Liability and Cyber Insurance coverage.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-71

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 enter into and sign an agreement with Time Clock Plus, LLC for a time and attendance system for a term of sixty (60) months with an automatic renewal unless terminated in accordance with the agreement.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-72

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 office chairs as listed on "Exhibit A" as surplus to be sold as scrap or disposed of at the City Landfill.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-73

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 change Orders No. 3, 4, 5 and 6 with P. F. Moon and Company, Inc., for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Primary Clarifiers Upgrade and Improvements Project.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-74

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 presented a resolution in reference to the purchase one (1) 2024 Ford F-250 Super crew 4x4 pickup truck purchased under State Contract T191 from Stivers Ford Lincoln, Montgomery, Alabama, in the amount of $56,123.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-75

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 and enter into an agreement with 120Water for continuing services of the Resident Notification Program with survey and the Customer Request Sampling Program in an amount not to exceed $47,001.90 for twenty four (24) months.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-76

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 the Mayor and City Manager to enter into and sign an agreement with ADS Environmental Services for calibration,

operation and maintenance of sanitary flow monitors and rain gauges and data collection, storage and reporting in an amount not to exceed $13,115.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-77

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 stated that now was the time and place for a public hearing in reference to an 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. Mayor Lowe stated anyone wishing to address Council concerning this ordinance 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 an 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-06

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the ordinance, 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. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented an opening on the Phenix City Housing Authority Board. Mayor Lowe stated that current member, Tychell Sanders is willing to serve another term. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Day moved to reappoint Tychell Sanders, 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 for first reading an application for an On-Premise Beer License, On-Premise Wine License and On-Premise Whiskey License submitted by Outback Steakhouse of Florida LLC dba Outback Steakhouse 1275 located at 3531 US Highway 280/431, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Day moved to approve the applications, 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.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a Notice of Claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by ALFA Insurance on behalf of Ruth Corbitt. Mr. Graham stated that on November 27, 2023, a City owned vehicle backed into Ms. Corbitt's vehicle and caused damage. Mr. Graham also stated that he has attempted to renegotiate this claim as the original amount of $10,812.20 does not seem appropriate for the repairs. Mr. Graham further stated that ALFA Insurance has refused to acquire any additional estimates and that he and Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble have discussed and determined that they would acquire the additional estimates that are needed. Mr. Graham's recommendation was to table the claim. Councilmember Day moved to approve the

City Attorney's recommendation to table the claim in the which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey, which 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 passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a Subrogation Claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Geico on behalf of Endira Pittman. Mr. Graham stated that on March 26, 2024 a City owned vehicle struck Ms. Pittman's vehicle and caused damage and the claim was originally denied because the estimates where not submitted as required. Mr. Graham's recommendation was to approve the claim in the of $1,922.75. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to approve the claim in the amount of $1,922.75, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day, which 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 passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a previously tabled claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Steven McGarr. Mr. Graham stated that the claim alleges that the City is liable for Mr. McGarr's property damage due to a water main break that occurred on October 30, 2024 and flowed into his property. Mr. Graham recommended approving the claim in the amount of $3,854.82. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to approve the claim in the amount of $3,854.82, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day, which 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 passed.

City Manager Wallace Hunter addressed Council regarding the workforce. Mr. Hunter encouraged everyone to watch the news to see for themselves that businesses around the world are experiencing the same workforce challenges as the City of Phenix City. Mr. Hunter stated that one of the largest companies in the United States is in the news regarding their decision to move some of their facilities overseas due to the fact that there are not enough workers in the United States. Mr. Hunter also stated that when large projects with the railroad or government get delayed by workforce changes, it does effect the City.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that 5th Street South is a 1.2 million dollar road project where the City placed storm drains from one end to the other end to help with the major rain storms. Mr. Hunter also stated that there are areas like Crowell Park that are designated as flood zones and that someone can build on them but that it does not mean that they should be building homes in those areas and if they do build they will stand a chance of flooding during major storms. Mr. Hunter further stated that the only way to solve the problem is to return the area to its natural state.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that he has instructed the City Engineer Angel Moore to begin speaking to a contractor regarding cleaning up the City's systems starting from Highway 431 South and that they will stay in constant communication with the Core of Engineering to ensure they have a timeline for them to come back to fix any issues. Mr. Hunter also stated that the City has the support to fight for the Citizens and will continue to reach out to the State's Congressmen to have them fight for what they have going on throughout Phenix City. Mr. Hunter also stated that the City is doing all they can to make sure the citizens are safe and that the City is dealing with the Chattahoochee River when the gates are open and Atlanta has released the water that flows down to Phenix City which causes additional issues for the backup of water running from the City to get to the Chattahoochee River.

Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble addressed Council regarding the Utilities Job Fair Event that took place at Troy University in Phenix City on April 3, 2025. Mr. Gamble stated that many of the positions require pre-employment testing and the candidates were tested and provided on the spot. Mr. Gamble provided an overview of the number of attendees and out of the 143 candidates that attended they hired 12 field crew members, one administration person, one for Public Works for a skilled driver and four Parks and Recreation positions. Mr. Gamble estimated that 133 attendees were interviewed. Mr. Gamble stated that they now have a number of applicants that have been interviewed to pull from for additional workforce needs. Mr. Gamble also stated that it was a lot of work and coordination and that he thanked Director of Human Resources Stephanie Chastain, Manager of Economic Development Shaun Culligan and Economic Development Specialist Jennifer Lowman for all of their hard work. Mr. Gamble further stated that many of the Utilities Department including Director of Utilities John Spraggins was there throughout the day as well. Mr. Gamble stated that there were young, older and some people that have been out of the workforce for a period of time that attended. Mr. Gamble also stated that they now have a good rough draft of a road map for further events. Mr. Gamble further stated that the event was a success and a great learning opportunity for the City. Mr. Gamble stated that all of the advertising paid off and provided a positive image for the City.

Councilmember Day inquired as to whether the City worked with the Russell County Sheriff's Department for the Phenix City Work Release Program. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City of Phenix City works in conjunction with the Russell County Sheriff's Department on the program which provides the inmates the opportunity to work a full time job when it is feasible. Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble stated that they have had inmates that have worked with them and some that were able to stay on after being released so the program has seen some success. Councilmember Day inquired if the inmates have to volunteer to work. Mr. Gamble stated that they do volunteer and then the Sheriff goes through a process to approve them.

City Manager Wallace Hunter thanked Troy University for allowing the City to use their facilities for the Utilities Job Fair Event. Mr. Hunter stated that they continue to receive calls and have to communicate that we are still facing workforce shortages and it is the goal of the City to continue to try and hire qualified employees to fill the vacancies. Mr. Hunter also stated as citizens see that we are holding these events and advertising to attract potential employees, their hope is that the citizens will rest assured that the City is doing all that they can. Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan stated that when asked how the candidate heard about the Job Fair Event, social media and the Facebook advertisements were the number one answer.

Councilmember Bailey stated that among the citizens that attended the Work Session Meeting, most of them could understand the situation with the flooding however, with the City Manager and Council providing direct responses and taking action to evaluate the problems provided the citizens with more trusted assurance that the City is doing all that they can do. Councilmember Bailey also stated that the Job Fair Event shows that the City is doing their due diligence to hire additional workforce.

Mayor Lowe thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mayor Lowe stated that this was the last meeting of the month and that they are grateful for another month. Mayor Lowe thanked all of the Department Heads, Citizens and CCTV Beam for bringing the meeting to the Citizens. Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to do at least one act of kindness.

Mayor Lowe stated that there being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until May 6, 2025.