APPROVED AS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL 07/15/25

MEETING MINUTES
July 1, 2025

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building located 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 and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember 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.

Reverend Pastor Rich Wright of Trinity United Methodist Church delivered the invocation as listed on the agenda.

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

Mayor Lowe called upon City Manager Wallace Hunter and Human Resources Generalist Eliza Phillip Wyatt to present employee service recognitions to Angel Moore – 20 years. Donnie Thomas – 20 years was not able to attend.

Councilmember Day inquired about the cost of scheduled projects in the Utilities Department. Mr. Gamble stated that the projects would be done in phases so the cost will be spread out over time.

Councilmember Green congratulated the Utilities Water Filtration Plant team. Councilmember Green stated the Phenix City is an aging City. Councilmember Green asked Citizens to be patient during the transition and repairs to the City Street.

Mayor Lowe stated there was no unfinished business to address at this time.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the June 16, 2025 Work Session meeting for approval. Councilmember Day moved to approve the minutes, 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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the June 17, 2025 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Green moved to approve the minutes, 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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe called for a Point of Privilege for the Utilities Department. City Manager Wallace Hunter called upon the Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble to speak to Council in regards to the overhaul and changes in the Utilities Department. Mr. Gamble came forward to speak to Council. Mr. Gamble introduced, the Director of Utilities John Spraggins, Office Manager Elizabeth Lane, Water Distribution / Water Collection Superintendent Denorris Williams, WWTP Superintendent John (JD) Jackson, and Water Filtration Plant Superintendent Barrett Crain. Mr. Gamble discussed the changing of the meter registers, the water leaks and other major issues in the Utilities Department. Mr. Gamble reviewed the five-year plan for the Utilities Department.

Mayor Lowe declared that now was the time and place for an administrative hearing for the revocation of a business license for Smiley's Appliance Repair. Mayor Lowe stated that anyone wishing to address council on this item should come forward and do so at this time. Curtis Brundidge the owner of Smiley's Appliance Repair came forward to address Council. Mr. Brundidge stated that he had his business for over 10 years and for the last 2 years; there were a lot of vandalism to his business. Mr. Brundidge also stated that he has caught Citizens dropping off trash on his property. Mayor Lowe also stated ever since 2016 Mr. Brundidge has had care of premise violation notices issued from 2016 to 2020. Mr. Brundidge also has had Citations issued and been found guilty from 2021 to 2025. Mr. Brundidge stated that he was doing the best he can with taking care of his mom. Mayor Lowe stated he was sorry to hear about his mom. Mayor Lowe called upon Building Deputy Official Ricky Carlson. Mr. Carlson stated that they have been dealing with Mr. Brundidge for the last 10 years and have been giving a care of premise violation notice every six months. Mr. Carlson stated Mr. Brundidge has failed to keep his property cleaned. Mayor Lowe informed Mr. Brundidge that the Council does have sympathy for him. Mayor Lowe asked Mr. Brundidge did he ever correct the problem after the citation was given. Mr. Brundidge stated that he has corrected the problem every time. Councilmember Bailey recalled Mr. Brundidge stating that people drop stuff off at his business, which is beyond his control. Mayor Lowe stated we have a responsibility to enforce the law. Councilmember Day inquired if Mr. Brundidge placed no dumping signs up at his business. Mr. Brundidge stated he placed the signs up in May. Code Enforcement Officer Christopher Smallwood stated that the code required the City to give a three-day notice. Mr. Smallwood also stated that the notices states that they would be back in five or seven days. Mr. Smallwood also stated when they went to court the judge gave Mr. Brundidge a chance to clean up his business.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to the Revocation of Business License for Smiley's Appliance Repair.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-124

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to accepting the proposed settlement in the claim against Sierra Pacific Industries, for twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000.00).

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-125

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to issuing a certificate of election to Eddie N. Lowe for the office of Mayor for such term pursuant to the provisions of section 11-46-25, as amended.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-126

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to issuing a certificate of election to Donald Steve Bailey for the office of Councilmember District One for such term pursuant to the provisions of Section 11-46-25, as amended.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-127

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to issuing a certificate of election to Steve Pace for the office of School Board Member District One Place One for such term pursuant to the provisions of Section 11-46-25, as amended.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-128

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to issuing a certificate of election to Jonathan Taylor for the office of School Board Member District One Place Two for such term pursuant to the provisions of Section 11-46-25, as amended.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-129

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to issuing a certificate of election to James Elliott Patrick for the office of School Board Member District Two Place One for such term pursuant to the provisions of Section 11-46-25, as amended.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-130

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to issuing a certificate of election to Katrina Collier-Long for the office of School Board Member District Three Place One for such term pursuant to the provisions of Section 11-46-25. as amended.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-131

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to issuing a certificate of election to Yolaunda Daniel for the office of School Board Member District Three Place Two for such term pursuant to the provisions of Section 11-45-25, as amended.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-132

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution and public notices in reference to setting public hearing dates and fixing demolition costs associated with the following property located in Phenix City: 1004 North Railroad Street.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-133

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to and directing the Mayor and City Manager to accept Change Order No. 1 with Ben Gordy Construction Company Inc., in an amount not to exceed $38,482.00 for renovations to the Phenix City Information Technology Building located at 1211 7th Avenue.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-134

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: Councilmember Day, Green, Bailey, 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 proposal from Neal, Kendust & Murray, P.C. Architects for professional services for preliminary design and construction plans for additions to the Municipal Building in an amount not to exceed $95,250.00 (ninety five thousand two hundred fifty dollars).

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-135

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to a one time compensation of $500.00 to the Phenix City Youth Baseball 7U, 8U, and 9U All Star teams for entering into the 2025 USSSA World Series in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-136

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: Councilmember Day, Green, 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 hire Southern Rewinding, Inc., for the repair and installation of a water pump at the Brandywine Pump Station in an amount not to exceed $11,100.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-137

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: Councilmember Day, Green, Bailey, 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 5.09+/- acres of land located at 222 Martin Luther King Jr., Parkway from an R-3 Zone (High Density Residential District) to a C-4 Zone (Highway Commercial District). Bobwhite Investments, 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 5.09+/- acres of land located at 222 Martin Luther King Jr., Parkway from an R-3 Zone (High Density Residential District)to a C-4 Zone (Highway Commercial District), Bobwhite Investments LLC, owner.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-10

Councilmember Green 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, Green, Bailey 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 5.16+/- acres of land located on Opelika Road and Newsome Drive from an A-1 Zone (Low Density Residential and General Agriculture District), to an R-2 Zone (Medium Density Residential District), EEH Holdings, 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 for second reading an Ordinance to rezone 5.16+/- acres of land located on Opelika Road and Newsome Drive from an A-1 Zone (Low Density Residential and General Agriculture District), to an R-2 Zone (Medium Density Residential District), EEH Holdings, LLC, owner.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-11

Councilmember Day moved to approve the ordinance, 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 and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Ordinance to amend sections 1.0441 and 1.0443 of the Merit System Rules and Regulations of the City of Phenix City, Alabama.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-12

Councilmember Day 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, Green, 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 Chuck Walton. Mr. Graham stated that the claim alleges that the City of Phenix City is liable for the damage to Mr. Walton's yard and house. Mr. Graham also stated that Mr. Walton stated every time there is substantial rain in his yard; his house becomes flooded due to an improper water pump system operated by the City. Mr. Graham further stated that Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble has attempted to contact Mr. Walton by phone and there has been no answer or voicemail. Mr. Graham also stated that Mr. Gamble has tried to contact Mr. Walton through email, but has not received a response. Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble has agreed to have the City acquire their own estimates. Mr. Graham requested to table this claim until the next City Council Meeting held on July 15, 2025. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to table the claim, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Green, which upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Green, Bailey 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 Wendy Birmingham. Mr. Graham stated that the claim states that on May 31, 2025 Phenix City Police Officer Reginald Wallace backed into Ms. Birmingham's parked vehicle. Mr. Graham recommended approving the claim for $3,376.86. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to approve the claim in the amount of $3,376.86, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Green. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmember Day, Green, Bailey, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Councilmember Bailey stated that this is a great City and a great Country, but evil is always surrounding us. Councilmember Bailey also stated that the killing of the two firefighters was intentional and evil. Councilmember Bailey further stated many of our public safety members are being killed all over the world for no apparent reason. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone to look out for one another.

Councilmember Green stated that she wanted to congratulate the Utilities Department. Councilmember Green also stated that she could not wait to see those projects come to life. Councilmember Green also stated she wanted to congratulate Engineering Director Angel Moore on her 20 years and Patrol Commander Captain Donnie Thomas on his 20 years of service to the city. Councilmember Green congratulated Mayor Lowe and Councilmember Steve Bailey on another four years of service on City Council.

Councilmember Day encouraged the Citizens to keep our City clean. Councilmember Day further stated he wanted to congratulate Mayor Lowe on another four years.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated he wanted to congratulate Mayor Lowe and Councilmember Steve Bailey on another four years of service on City Council. Mr. Hunter stated that we have to keep our workers and Council safe. Mr. Hunter further stated that he wants to see people grow and move forward with their career.

Mayor Lowe stated at the end of the day it is all about people and how you build other people up. Mayor Lowe also stated sometimes you have to think about others before you think about yourself.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until July 15, 2025.