

**MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
AUGUST 8, 2019
PROPOSED FY 2019-2020 BUDGET**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met for a public hearing on the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 on August 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. EST, in the Council Chambers located within the Public Safety Building at 1111 Broad Street, Phenix City, Alabama. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Councilmembers Arthur L. Day, Vickey Johnson, Steve Bailey, R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. Also in attendance were City Manager Wallace B. Hunter and City Clerk Melony Lee. The following Department Heads were present: Chief Building Official Gil Griffith, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Director of Engineering and Public Works Angel Moore, Utilities Director/Assistant City Manager Stephen C. Smith, Finance Director Labrita Copeland, Fire and Rescue Services Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Course Manager Mike Barber, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Phenix City Russell County Library Director Michelle Kilday, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, and Police Chief Ray Smith. Members of the media were present.

Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order.

City Clerk Melony Lee called roll.

Mayor Lowe opened the floor to City Manager Wallace Hunter to begin the meeting.

City Manager Wallace Hunter thanked everyone for their hard work on the budget.

City Manager Hunter called upon Utilities Director/Assistant City Manager Stephen Smith to present the proposed 2019-2020 Budget Message to Council and the audience.

BUDGET MESSAGE

Utilities Director/Assistant City Manager Stephen Smith spoke on one of the worst recessions that the City has ever gone through ten years ago. Mr. Smith stated that Phenix City was one of two cities of any size in the State of Alabama that did not have any furlough days and did not lay anyone off. Mr. Smith further stated that the City has worked these past ten years approving the infrastructure to recruit industries to bring business to the City. Mr. Smith stated that this year the City is seeing the fruition of their efforts. Mr. Smith stated that the sales tax revenue with the City is up 7.8 % year to date, which is phenomenal growth. Mr. Smith further stated that in the past five years over 5,000 new jobs were created in the Columbus/Phenix City area and 2,374 of the jobs were in Phenix City. Mr. Smith stated that this is the largest budget that the City of Phenix City has ever had. Mr. Smith spoke on the upcoming jobs and went over the budget message with Council and the audience.

In addition to the budget message, Mr. Smith also discussed that the City will be working with the Phenix City School System to save them almost a million dollars in their debt service cost. Mr. Smith stated that the City would also be looking at saving almost \$2,000,000 in the

cities debt service over the next six months by refinancing. Mr. Smith stated that all of this is due to the City's great credit rating. Mr. Smith also informed everyone that a copy of the budget is available in the City Clerk's Office and a copy of the Budget Message is on line.

Mayor Lowe opened the Public Hearing and advised if anyone wanted to come forward and address council regarding the 2019/2020 Proposed Budget, now is the time. No one came forward. Neither seeing nor hearing anyone come forward, Mayor Lowe closed the Public Hearing.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting thus adjourned at 7:42 p.m.