

**MEETING MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
July 31, 2025  
PROPOSED FY 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 on July 31, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. EST, in the Council Chambers of the Public Safety Building located at 1111 Broad Street, Phenix City, Alabama. Upon roll call, the following councilmembers were present: Councilmembers Arthur L. Day, Jr., Vickey Carter Green, Steve Bailey and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember R. Griff Gordy was not present. Also in attendance were City Manager Wallace B. Hunter, Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble and City Clerk Shannon Davis. The following Department Heads were present: Code Enforcement Officer Ricky Carlson, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, City Engineer Angel Moore, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Parks, Chief of Police George Staudinger, Assistant Chief of Police Joseph Weierick and Utilities Director John Spraggins.

Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order and asked City Clerk Shannon Davis to call roll. Upon calling roll, the following members answered present: Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr., Councilmember Steve Bailey, Councilmember Vickey Carter Green, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe.

Mayor Lowe delivered the invocation.

Mayor Lowe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

City Manager Wallace Hunter thanked Mayor and Council, Department Heads, especially the Finance Department for their hard work on the budget.

City Manager Hunter called upon Finance Director Labrita King-Copeland to present the proposed 2025-2026 Budget Message to Council and the audience. Finance Director Labrita King-Copeland reviewed the Budget Message

**BUDGET MESSAGE**

Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Copeland.

City Manager Hunter stated that there is a lot of growth that is going on in the City of Phenix City. Mr. Hunter also spoke on as a recruiting effort and the conversation he had with the Executive out of Buford, Georgia and how they just built a 62 million dollar High School Football Stadium, which is the most expensive high school football stadium in Georgia. Mr. Hunter stated the Executive spoke on how when he traveled to Florida he would travel through Phenix City and he mentioned how much it has changed for the good.

Mr. Hunter further stated that there is a lot of negative things that are said coming out of Positively Phenix and that if they would just come to the meetings and get the facts instead of trying to use false information to try to crucify people. Mr. Hunter also stated that the revenue of the City of Phenix City has increased over the years and that is proven.

Mr. Hunter stated that citizens should try to understand what Congress is trying to do with the infrastructure throughout the State of Alabama. Mr. Hunter further stated that the Mayor and himself were able to meet with Congressman Figures and they received information that there are more cities that have worse infrastructure and water issues throughout the State of Alabama. Mr. Hunter stated that we do not live in a world where nothing ever happens.

Mayor Lowe stated that when you look at the numbers (Reserves, Ratings, Assets and Debt Coverage) for the budget you will notice that the numbers are not false. Mayor Lowe further stated that the City is very transparent and if anyone wants to see the numbers they can come to the City and view them. Mayor Lowe stated that all Elected Officials must have ethics, values and integrity and they should not be sitting in the seats without those core values. Mayor Lowe further stated that it is always about the people, the community and trying to make a difference. Mayor Lowe further stated that if any Council try to make decisions based off of their desire they need to reconsider. Mayor stated that he feels like Council has the judiciary responsibility to stand up for one another.

Councilmember Day stated that the City of Phenix is located by major Interstates and the City has come a long way compared to where it used to be.

Councilmember Bailey spoke on the longevity of the Department Heads and how they are doing a great job at what they do. Councilmember Bailey stated that it shows that they care about the City. Councilmember Bailey apologized for being late.

Mayor Lowe stated that at the beginning of the Budget Public Hearing the audience consisted of City Employees and as the meeting progressed, Citizens entered the meeting. Mayor Lowe declared that now was the time to open the Public Hearing and advised if anyone wanted to come forward and address council regarding the 2025-2026 Proposed Budget, now is the time to come forward and do so at this time.

Neither hearing nor seeing anyone come forward, Mayor Lowe closed the Public Hearing.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting thus adjourned at 7:33 p.m.