

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 4, 2019**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time for the regularly scheduled work session on Monday, March 4, 2019, in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building located at 601 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Phenix City, Alabama. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr., Councilmember Vickey Carter Johnson, Councilmember Steve Bailey, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember R. Griff Gordy was not present. Also present were City Manager Wallace B. Hunter, City Clerk Office Manager Shannon Davis, and City Attorney James McKoon. City Attorney Jimmy Graham and City Clerk Melony Lee were not present. Department Heads in attendance were: Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo, Utilities Director Stephen Smith, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Library Director Michele Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Police Chief Ray Smith, and Graduate Engineer John Spraggins.

Upon a quorum being established, Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order.

The invocation was led by Councilmember Bailey.

Mayor Lowe called upon Haley Ramey with the Phenix City Housing Authority to speak on behalf of the East Alabama Chamber 2019 Leadership Group to address council, as listed on the agenda. Ms. Ramey presented to Mayor and Council an interactive mural for a community-based art project. Ms. Ramey stated that the group has already secured the location approval and would like to add to the legacy of Phenix City by using the Phoenix wings in the project. Ms. Ramey further stated that the art project will be located on the retaining wall of the Russell County Courthouse. Ms. Ramey passed out flyers with the contest details and deadline dates. Ms. Ramey stated a contest will be held to select a local artist to draw the mural. Mayor Lowe asked if they could add the words Positively Phenix City in front of the mural. Ms. Ramey stated she would discuss it with the group and get back with him. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Ramey for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Assistant Director of the Engineering Department, Mike Pattillo, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their February 26, 2019 meeting.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Clerk Office Manager Shannon Davis who discussed the following with Mayor and Council:

1. Advised council that the City Council Meeting will be held at the Martin Idle Hour Community Center on March 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
2. Advised council of the CMO Session 61 with the Alabama League of Municipalities and the meeting with the Legislatures on March 19, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
3. Advised council that the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 7:00 am at the Martin – Idle Hour Community Center.
4. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.
5. Informed council of the Alabama League of Municipalities Voting Delegate registration form deadline. Councilmember Day stated he will be the Voting

- Delegate and Councilmember Johnson stated that she will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate Voting Delegate.
6. Informed council of the Improvement District of the City of Phenix City Grand Reserve Project meeting on March 6, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.
  7. Informed council of the Fountain City Mardi Gras on March 9, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.
  8. Informed council of the Planning Commission Meeting on March 12, 2019 at 5:15 p.m.
  9. Informed council of the American Legion Post 135 Birthday Ball on March 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
  10. Reminded council that Councilmember Day will be out March 18<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup> for Jury Duty with the exception of March 19<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Day will be in Montgomery on March 19, 2019.
  11. Reminded council that Reginald Stephens cancelled his 5:15 p.m. interview for the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the projected finish date of the Central Activity Center. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that this is a work in progress and there are several steps that need to take place before the center is open. Todd Hughes, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated that the center is being completed in stages. Councilmember Johnson stated that citizens in her district were inquiring about the completion date.

Councilmember Day inquired about the 431 / College Park Drive project. Mike Patillo, Assistant Director of the Engineering Department, stated that there are no current updates and the project is still in progress. Councilmember Day also inquired about 5<sup>th</sup> Street South. Mike Patillo stated that they are still waiting to hear back from the consultants. He further stated they ran into utility issues; and as of last week they had submitted a preliminary design. He advised that once it is approved, work will resume.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Alabama Power LED light project. Mike Patillo projects that it should be complete within six months. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the time line is controlled by Alabama Power and that the six months could turn into seven or eight months.

Councilmember Day inquired about the number of prospective employees hired and tested in February. Stephanie Chastain, Director of Human Resources, stated that nine total were hired in February, six full-time, two part-time and one seasonal. Councilmember Day also asked about testing for positions. Stephanie Chastain stated that each department may have its own test. There is no generic test given.

Councilmember Day inquired about the mud around Austin Sumbry Park. Todd Hughes, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated that paving will be scheduled; however weather conditions have not been favorable lately. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that it is a process.

Councilmember Day inquired about the horseshoe area at Southside Park. Todd Hughes stated that it will also be scheduled as soon as weather permits.

Councilmember Bailey asked for an update on the replacement of the Utilities Meter Regulators. Stephen Smith, Utilities Director, stated that 9,116 meters have been replaced and that 1,534 more are scheduled with work orders. He projected 3,649 will need to be replaced in the future.

Councilmember Bailey also inquired about the trees that are down in Lakewood Park. Stephen Smith commented that the Utilities Department is waiting on bids to get them removed.

Mayor Lowe called upon Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White to go over Departmental Review. City Manager Wallace Hunter asked Ms. White to present her Departmental Review at the March 18, 2019 Work Session.

Mayor Lowe called upon J. W. Brannen to discuss Senate Bill 23. Mr. Brannen advised Senate Bill 23 does away with the Police Jurisdiction in every county in Alabama. A resolution may be needed opposing Senate Bill 23. Mr. Brannen requested the Resolution before the next City Council meeting.

Stephen Smith, Director of Utilities, discussed a request from Lee-Russell Council of Governments to increase their appropriation. Mr. Smith stated that the amount allocated for the Lee, Russell, Auburn, and Opelika funding is increased to \$4335.00 and that all other areas have agreed on this amount.

Stephen Smith, Director of Utilities, requested a resolution to approve expenditures for emergency repairs to the damaged Lift Station in an amount not to exceed \$149,900.00. Council asked that a resolution be added to tomorrow's agenda.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney James McKoon reviewed agenda claims with Council.

Mayor Lowe advised Council that there needs to be a 25 to 30 minutes Executive Session to discuss Economic Development and good name and character.

Councilmember Day moved to go into a 30 minute Executive Session to discuss Economic Development and good name and character. Councilmember Bailey seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 5:00 pm.

Council came out of Executive Session at 5:45 pm.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, March 18, 2019.