

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
June 3, 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, June 3, 2019, in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building located at 601 12th Street, Phenix City, Alabama. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr., Councilmember Vickey Carter Johnson, Councilmember Steve Bailey, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Also present were City Manager Wallace B. Hunter, City Clerk Melony Lee, and City Attorney Jimmy Graham. Department Heads in attendance were: Building Official Gil Griffith, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Director of Engineering Angel Moore, Utilities Director Stephen Smith, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, IT Director Mike Bauer, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Manager Mike Barber, Library Director Michele Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Assistant Police Chief Gail Green, 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 Jan Woodham to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Ms. Woodham inquired about acquiring the abandoned alley next to her property on 45th Street. Ms. Woodham stated that to her knowledge, the alley has never been utilized. Ms. Woodham also stated that she has maintained the upkeep of the alley since she moved in 11 years ago. Angel Moore, Director of Engineering, stated that the home owners on both sides of the alley must file a petition with the Engineering Department. Ms. Moore also stated that once the petition has been received, it will be sent to the Utilities Department and then presented to council asking for permission to vacate the right of way. Ms. Moore further stated that she would email a sample petition to Ms. Woodham. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Woodham for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Trina Herrington to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Ms. Herrington inquired about volunteers being allowed to work at the Phenix City Russell County Animal Shelter. Ms. Herrington stated that the volunteers could help by reuniting lost pets with their families and helping stray animals get adopted and find a home. Ms. Herrington also stated that by the volunteers being there for the animals it would free up time for the City Workers. Mayor Lowe stated that there are policies and procedures in place for the managing and day to day running of the Animal Shelter. Mayor Lowe also stated that adding volunteers would be a liability because the Shelter is properly staffed with City employees and inmate trustees. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that the City has been sued more than once concerning incidents that happened at the Shelter. City Attorney Graham also stated that even if the volunteers sign a waiver it would still be a liability to the City. Mayor Lowe reassured Ms. Herrington that the City does care about the animals at the shelter and the staff follows the guidelines set by the Alabama Board of Veterinary. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the Animal Shelter is handled by the Police Department and they are well capable of handling the daily affairs. City Manager Hunter suggested that Ms. Herrington look into possibly opening

another Human Society. Mayor Lowe stated that volunteers will not be able to work at the Shelter at this time. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Herrington for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Director of the Engineering Department, Angel Moore, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their May 28, 2019 meeting.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Clerk Melony Lee who discussed the following with Mayor and Council:

1. Informed Council that Ft. Benning will have a Change of Command ceremony on June 5, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.
2. Reminded Council that Troy University will have its commencement exercises June 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
3. Reminded Council that the Mayors Ball will be held June 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
4. Reminded Council that the June 18, 2019 Council Meeting will be held at the Central Activities Center at 6:00 p.m.
5. Informed Council that Councilmember Johnson will have a District 2 meeting June 18, 2019 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. before the City Council Meeting at the Central Activities Center.
6. Reminded Council that Independence Day Holiday is Thursday July 4th and a Resolution will be on the City Council Agenda if approved.
7. Informed Council that sizes are needed to order City Shirts so that they will be back before the June 18, 2019 District meeting.
8. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.
9. Reminded Council to pick a date for the Budget Work Session.

Councilmember Day stated that he would be out of the office from June 13-17, 2019.

Councilmember Johnson commended the Utilities Department on an outstanding job that they do on a daily basis. Councilmember Johnson stated that she had inquired about a liquid substance on 12th Street and at the end of last week. Angel Moore, Director of Engineering stated that the City has looked into it and it is excess ground water containing iron that is flowing on the curb.

Councilmember Day inquired about the progress of the projects on 5th Street South and Highway 431. Angel Moore, Director of Engineering stated concerning 5th Street South, ALDOT agreed with the updated prices for the needed utility work. Ms. Moore also stated that construction should begin soon on the 431 project pending the approval of the Building Permits.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about an abandoned property, 3817 Brookwood Drive, that appears to be uninhabitable. Councilmember Bailey stated that he has received several complaints from neighbors about the upkeep of the house since the owner has passed away. Gil Griffith, Building Official, stated that the house is in foreclosure and the Building Department has been unable to reach the Financial Institution that owns the property. Mr. Griffith stated that the department will continue to try and make contact with the bank before other actions are taken.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about Utility Bills that are stamped estimated. Steve Smith, Director of Utilities, stated that once the register goes out on the meter the department estimates the Utility bill. Mr. Smith also stated that over 7,000 meter registers have been replaced and the department has about 3,000 more to go and that the Utilities Department is

diligently working to complete the project. Mr. Smith further stated that once all meters have been updated a system will be set in place for the physical readings to happen once a year.

Councilmember Bailey stated that there were 83 houses built in Phenix City last year which is a 60% increase. Councilmember Bailey encouraged Department Heads to continue to work with the Developers building the houses which adds to the growth of the City.

Councilmember Bailey commended Mike Barber, Golf Course Director, on the good job that he has done thus far on the Golf Course. Councilmember Bailey stated he has received a lot of positive feedback. Mike Barber stated that his department is diligently working to keep the turf hydrated with the extreme heat and lack of rain lately.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

Angel Moore, Director of Engineering, stated that there will be a meeting held tonight at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Community Center for the residents of Hickory Heights Subdivision. Ms. Moore also stated that the residents will be informed of the date that contractors will begin repairing the roads in their neighborhood.

Angel Moore stated that the Saddlebrook Subdivision Project is about 75% complete. Ms. Moore stated that the Public Works Department has done an excellent job.

Todd Hughes reminded Mayor and Council that the Kids Fishing Rodeo takes place this Saturday June 1, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, June 17, 2019.