

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES August 5, 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, August 5, 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 James McKoon. City Attorney Jimmy Graham was not present. Department Heads in attendance were: Building Official Gil Griffith, Economic Development Plan Specialist Jennifer Lowman, City Engineer Angel Moore, Utilities Director Stephen Smith, IT Manager 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, Police Chief Ray Smith, and Graduate Engineer John Spraggins.

Upon a quorum being established, Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. upon the arrival of City Attorney James McKoon.

The invocation was led by Councilmember Gordy.

Mayor Lowe called upon Pastor Johnny Ellison to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Pastor Ellison came forward to address Council. Pastor Ellison informed Mayor and Council that he is the new pastor of Golden Acres Baptist Church. Pastor Ellison stated that he has members of his congregation from all districts in Phenix City and he wanted to personally introduce himself to Mayor and Council. Pastor Ellison also stated that he looks forward to working with Mayor and Council in community involvement. Each Councilmember introduced themselves to Pastor Ellison. Mayor Lowe thanked Pastor Ellison for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Engineer Angel Moore, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their July 23, 2019 meeting.

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

1. Reminded Council that the Budget Public Hearing will be held August 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
2. Reminded Council that a Promotional Ceremony for the Police Department will be held on August 9, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
3. Reminded Council that the Alabama League of Municipalities will have a Summer Saturday Training this Saturday August 10, 2019 and Councilmember Day will be attending.
4. Informed Council that she will be attending a Municipal Clerk Convention in Tuscaloosa, Alabama August 27- August 30, 2019.
5. Advised Council that City Offices will be closed on September 2, 2019 in observance of Labor Day and therefore will push the Work Session and Council Meetings over by a day.
6. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Gordy inquired about the use of portable / temporary basketball goals. Councilmember Gordy stated that he has had several citizens ask about having basketball goals in their driveways. Utilities Director Steve Smith stated that the issue for the City is a liability. Mr. Smith also stated that it is dangerous for kids to play in a public street. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that basketball goals should not be in the City's right of way.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on 5th Street South and the Highway 431 project. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that the contractors will be back on site to start on the road work next week. Ms. Moore also stated that permits have been issued for the Highway 431 project and that building and businesses are starting to be erected.

Councilmember Bailey congratulated Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director on a job well done on the Cal Ripken World Series game that is currently being held in the City of Phenix City. Councilmember Bailey stated that the baseball fields look great and the staff is very helpful.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the update on the lot adjacent to the Saddlebrook Subdivision. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that the Public Works Department has it listed as a top priority and will take care of the problem once weather permits and the area is dry.

Councilmember Bailey stated that he had received calls from concerned citizens about speeding issues in the 5th Avenue Extension and Riverchase area. Councilmember Bailey also stated that there were Speed Monitoring signs in the area. Police Chief Ray Smith stated that officers will be controlling the area and throughout the city in the morning and evening especially with the children going back to school. Chief Smith also stated that the signs will be rotated around the city to raise speed awareness.

Councilmember Johnson stated that she received calls from citizens in her district that were concerned about the re-pavement, foot traffic and littering in the 24th Street near the Hidden Hills Trace area. Councilmember Johnson also stated that their request was if the city would place signs in the area that state: Do not litter.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about drug problems and shootings in neighborhoods. Chief of Police, Ray Smith stated that it is not a simple fix and the Police Department is working diligently to survey and patrol areas regularly.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the Department heads are continuously working on concerns and or complaints from the citizens of Phenix City.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney James McKoon asked for an Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn.

Councilmember Day moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Bailey seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 4:42 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 5:11 p.m.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, August 19, 2019.