

## **WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES September 16, 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, September 16, 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, 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 (arrived at 3:08 p.m.). Department Heads in attendance were: Building Official Gil Griffith, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo, Utilities Director Stephen Smith, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Course Director Mike Barber, Library Director Michele Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks & Recreation Director Todd Hughes, and Police Chief Ray Smith.

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

The invocation was led by Councilmember Day.

Mayor Lowe called upon Becky Saunders with Liberty Learning Foundation to address council, as listed on the agenda. Ms. Saunders stated that Liberty Learning Foundation since 2009, has taught, inspired and empowered elementary age students also known as the next great Americans in civics, character, financial responsibility and career readiness. Ms. Saunders also stated that Liberty Learning Foundation has a program currently in 48 counties in Alabama, which will now include Phenix City, affecting approximately 5,000 students. Ms. Saunders further stated that the twelve week program kicks off with Lady Liberty who tells the students how to be a productive citizen. Ms. Saunders stated that Liberty Learning Foundation has recently started a pilot program for middle and high school students but will focus on 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in the Phenix City School System. Councilmember Gordy asked why the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders were chosen to participate in the program. Ms. Saunders stated that funding played a factor in the decision made by the Superintendent of the Phenix City School System who picked 2<sup>nd</sup> graders this year and 5<sup>th</sup> graders for next year's program. Ms. Saunders also stated that the program cost around \$29,000.00 for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level. Councilmember Johnson asked if the program served all of the elementary school in the Phenix City School System. Ms. Saunders stated that all 2<sup>nd</sup> graders of all the Phenix City Schools are involved. Ms. Saunders stated that each school has its own kick off program, mid-point checkup and finale. City Manager Wallace Hunter asked what it would take to offer the program to other grades in addition to the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. City Manager Hunter stated that Chief of Police Ray Smith and he are studying a program that works with the middle and high schoolers and thinks the Liberty Learning Foundation program will be a great compliment. Ms. Saunders stated the program will be conducted for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders next year and hopefully future programs for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Mayor Lowe thanked Becky Saunders for speaking with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Mike Pattillo, Assistant Director of Engineering, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their September 10, 2019 meeting.

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

1. Reminded Council that the September 17<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting will be held at the Youth Center on 5<sup>th</sup> Street South at 6:00 p.m.
2. Advised Council that the Public Building Authority will hold a meeting to discuss the approval of the DHR Bond and refinancing of PBA Bonds, expected date September 24, 2019.
3. Reminded Council that there will be three Work Sessions in the month of September with the last one on September 30, 2019 at the regular scheduled time.
4. Reminded Council that the City Council meeting will be held on October 1, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers.
5. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on October 14, 2019 in observance of Columbus Day and therefore will push the Work Session and Council Meetings over by a day.
6. Advised Council that the DRA meeting scheduled for October 17, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. may be cancelled due to lack of agenda items.
7. Advised Council of Octoberfest to be held October 18-20, 2019 in Ft. Benning, GA.
8. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

Councilmember Johnson congratulated Shaun Culligan and Jennifer Lowman from Economic Development and the City Manager on a job well done on the Grand Opening of the Phenix City Art Park. Councilmember Johnson stated that she received a concern on the number of dogs that were at the event. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that there were over twenty dogs at the event. City Manager Wallace Hunter also stated that a dog park may be in the City's future.

Mayor Lowe informed Council that he received an email from a Citizen concerning Phenix City having another White Water Outfitter. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that the city has completed a detail study analysis on the amount people who use the White Water Rafting and the amount of revenue it brings in. Mr. Smith also stated that until we reach 40-45,000 rafters, a second outfitter cannot be added. City Manager Hunter stated that the City will select another Outfitter when the numbers reflect the need for another one. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that if someone is operating on the river without a license and permission from Georgia, they need to be shut down.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, September 30, 2019.