

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2023

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 6, 2023, at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center located at 3743 Moon Lake Drive, Phenix City, Alabama 36867. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr., Councilmember Vickey F. Carter, Councilmember Steve Bailey, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember R. Griff Gordy was not present. Also present were City Manager Wallace Hunter, City Attorney Jimmy Graham, and City Clerk Melony Lee. Department Heads in attendance: Code Enforcement Officer Ricky Carlson, Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Planning Director Tracie Hadaway, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Manager Mike Barber, Library Director Tammy Henry, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Kristi Coggins, Human Resource Director Stephanie Chastain, Chief of Police Ray Smith, Assistant Chief of Police George Staudinger, and Utilities Director Charles Woody.

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

Mayor Lowe led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe advised there were no Requests to Address Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Tracie Hadaway, Economic Development Planning Director, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their February 28, 2023 meeting. Ms. Hadaway stated that the meeting was canceled due to no agenda items.

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

1. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on March 7, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
2. Informed Council that the 2023 Alabama League of Municipalities Advocacy Day will be held on March 8, 2023 in Montgomery, Alabama.
3. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet March 14, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
4. Informed Council that Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be held on March 16, 2023 at 7:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
5. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on March 20, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
6. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on March 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
7. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet March, 28, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
8. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on April 3, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
9. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on April 4, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
10. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet April 11, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
11. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on April 17, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
12. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on April 18, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.

13. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet April 25, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
14. Informed Council that the 2023 Alabama League of Municipalities Convention will be held May 10, 2023 through May 13, 2023 in Birmingham, Alabama. Ms. Lee stated that a voting delegate and 1st or 2nd alternate will need to be selected out of the Councilmembers that will attend the convention.
15. Advised Council that the Alabama League of Municipalities CMO Regional Training will be held on July 27, 2023 in Montgomery, Alabama.
16. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Carter inquired about an update on the renovation of the Public Safety Building. Chief of Police Ray Smith gave an update on what has been completed and what remains to be done. Chief Smith stated that he could not give an exact date but goals and meetings are conducted weekly.

Councilmember Carter stated that on 16th Avenue, there was water running underneath the road. Utilities Director Charles Woody stated that the markings are line locators and a crew is scheduled to work on that area this week.

Councilmember Bailey stated that he has received a few phone calls concerning the 14th Street Sidewalk project. Councilmember Bailey asked if there was an expected completion date. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the project will be completed in two stages. Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo stated that the sidewalk project is an Alabama Department of Transportation project and ALDOT runs on their own schedule.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about an update on the new Fire Department Training building. Fire Chief Kris Kennedy stated that the contractors worked on the water main this past Saturday which also affects neighboring businesses, Board of Realtors and the Russell County Health Department.

Councilmember Bailey stated that he received a few phone calls about installing Pickle Ball Courts on the North part of the City. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that he spoke with Alabama State Representative Chris Blackshear who will be constructing a meeting up soon. Mr. Hunter also stated that the focus will not just be on one part of the City but the City as a whole. Mr. Hunter reflected on a time where certain people did not go to certain parts of the City because of racism. Mr. Hunter stated that Phenix City has come a long way but still has a way to go. Mr. Hunter also stated that some people want things to stay the same but the world is changing.

Councilmember Day inquired on an update of purchasing additional property at the Edmonds Cemetery. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the property owner that was going to sell the property to the City has passed away. Mr. Hunter also stated the heirs of the property are going through the process of settling her estate. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that they have been communicating with the heirs of the property and they both must agree to sell the property before it can be sold.

Councilmember Day inquired about the new landfill project. Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo, stated that the land field itself is complete. Mr. Pattillo also stated that a new scale house is being installed. Mr. Pattillo further stated that the holdup is with the arrival of the new trash compactor which is on backorder.

Councilmember Day inquired about the building permit process. Councilmember Day asked if the fee is paid in full at the purchasing of the permit or in installments as the project is

completed. City Manager Wallace Hunter called upon Code Enforcement Officer Ricky Carlson to review the building permit process. Mr. Carlson stated that plans are submitted for review, once approved the building permit can be purchased. Mr. Carlson also stated that there are commercial and residential permits and the cost of the fees vary depending on the type of project. Mr. Carlson further stated that the fees are due upfront.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update of new businesses opening on Crosswinds Drive. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated an opening date will be provided as soon as the project is complete.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on the Old Seale Road Bridge Project. Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo stated that an ALDOT (Alabama Department of Transportation) project takes more time to complete than a City project because it is on ALDOT's time and schedule. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City is not the place that is experiencing workforce shortage and it may take longer for projects to be completed. Mr. Hunter also stated that he has spoken to Representative Blackshear about certain projects ran by the State of Alabama.

Councilmember Day stated that he also noticed that street lights were still out near Mother Mary Mission. Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo stated that the lights will be replaced with LED lights. Mr. Pattillo also stated that lights on the bridge will be replaced with LED lights as well.

Councilmember Day thanked Mr. Hunter and the Parks and Recreation Department for repairing the horseshoe bends at Southside Park. Councilmember Day asked if the parks were still being vandalized. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that vandalism has decreased some with the installation of cameras and increase of police patrol.

Councilmember Day stated that there is a lot of trash on the streets throughout the City but especially on 280 By-Pass and the J. R. Allen Expressway. Councilmember Day asked if cameras can be installed on those areas to catch and fine violators. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that City cannot install cameras on the highway because they are maintained by the State of Alabama. Mr. Hunter also stated that there are a lot of complaints on the cameras and red light cameras that have been installed in the City. Mr. Hunter further stated that if people don't run the light they will not get a ticket. Mr. Hunter stated that the red light cameras should have zero revenue if people stop breaking the law. Councilmember Bailey stated that cameras are installed for protection and safety of everyone. Mr. Hunter stated that he wants everyone to understand that they are in place for safety and not profit.

Councilmember Day inquired about a big steel plate that is at the corner of 7th Street and 20th Avenue. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the gas company, Spire, was working in the area. Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo stated that he would look into it and follow up with Council.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that there were no agenda claims to review with Council.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, March 20th, 2023.