

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 3, 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, April 3, 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, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Also present were City Manager Wallace Hunter, City Attorney Jimmy Graham, and City Clerk Melony Lee. Department Heads in attendance: Deputy Building Official Ray Rogers, City Engineer Angel Moore, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Planning Director Tracie Hadaway, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Library Director Tammy Henry, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resource Director Stephanie Chastain, Chief of Police Ray Smith, Assistant Chief of Police George Staudinger, Graduate Engineer John Spraggins.

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

Councilmember Gordy 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 March 28, 2023 meeting.

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 April 4, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
2. Informed Council that the Phenix City Comprehensive Visioning Community Workshop will be held on April 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the 5<sup>th</sup> Street South Youth Center.
3. Informed Council that the Utilities Department will be open on Saturday, April 8, 2023 and Sunday, April 9, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for payments and will be closed on Monday, April 10, 2023 and Tuesday, April 11, 2023 for updates.
4. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet April 11, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet April 25, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
8. Advised that the 2022 Statement of Economic Interest survey is due on April 30, 2023.
9. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on May 1, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
10. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on May 2, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
11. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet May 9, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
12. 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 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate will need to be selected out of the Councilmembers that will attend the convention.

13. Advised Council that on Thursday, May 11, 2023, Ft. Benning will hold the Fort Moore Redesignation Ceremony beginning at 9:00 a.m.
14. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on May 15, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
15. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on May 16, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
16. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet May 23, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
17. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on May 29, 2023 in observance of Memorial Day Holiday.
18. Advised Council that the Alabama League of Municipalities CMO Regional Training will be held on July 27, 2023 in Montgomery, Alabama. Voting Delegates will be Councilmember Day and Councilmember Carter with one being the delegate and the other as the alternative.
19. Reviewed upcoming board appointments for Phenix City Housing Authority Board.

Councilmember Carter stated that there have been reports of vandalism and it will get addressed by Chief of Police and they will increase patrol. Councilmember Carter also stated that she has provided the address to the Police Department.

Councilmember Carter stated that there was speeding on Ingersoll Drive. Councilmember Carter also stated that Citizens are asking about new speed limit signs. Councilmember Carter further stated that Citizens are reporting that even the bus driver is speeding. Councilmember Carter stated that she asked the Citizen to contact the School Board on that particular issue. Councilmember Carter also stated that she would like to see a speed monitor sign on Ingersoll Drive.

Councilmember Day stated that he was on Ingersoll Drive and that there were also issues with traffic being backed up and that it was dangerous during the times that children are going to and from school.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on the Circle K gas station. Deputy Building Official Ray Rogers stated that they are working on the structure now and once they are complete, they will start on the building.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on Daechang. Deputy Building Official Ray Rogers stated that they are working on completing the office space and their transition from the India plant.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on Fire Training Station. Fire Chief Kris Kennedy stated once the rain lets up they will be pouring the foundation.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on Public Safety Building.

Councilmember Day inquired if the City has had any further complaints on the Utility Billing System. Utilities Director Charles Woody provided an update.

Councilmember Day inquired about the traffic for Whitewater and the backed up traffic from Hwy 280 and down Summerville Road. Planning Manager Shaun Culligan stated it is hard to calculate the date Transient Traffic impact.

Councilmember Gordy inquired if the project on Explorer Drive by Lakewood School is being completed by the State. Utilities Engineer John Spraggins stated that the project is State funded so that they have to have a sign there stating the funding. Councilmember Gordy asked if they would need to close the road down to complete the work. John Spraggins stated they should not close the road and that they worked with the school to ensure that they took into account the school's schedule and holidays to ensure that the work did not impact the school traffic as much as possible.

Mayor Lowe inquired if Wendy's had their paperwork submitted. Utilities Engineer John Spraggins stated that it has been submitted and is in the due diligent review process at this time.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham inquired about the new business across from Renfro's. Utilities Engineer John Spraggins stated that the new business will be a Jack's Restaurant.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

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

City Engineer Angel Moore stated that grass cutting season is in progress and the department is working with crews to get up and running, however on the 280 bypass we are not allowed by ALDOT to cut the area until the red clover has died off, just in case the City receives any complaints. Ms. Moore also gave an update on the current hiring and open positions. Ms. Moore stated that with 41 full-time positions in Limbs and Debris, there are 19 of those with vacancies and the division is running at 49%. Ms. Moore also stated that these crews are the ones responsible for picking up trash and debris on right of ways, routes, side of the roads and they also cut the grass. Ms. Moore stated that as they have for the past couple of years, the concentration needs to be on safety issues on our main by pass and main areas, which means citizens will get upset that we are not in the neighborhoods maintaining the grass as often. Ms. Moore encouraged Mayor and Council if they could speak with citizens to reiterate that we are not at full working force and recommend that the citizens could assist with cutting out more into the right of ways to help the City.

City Engineer Angel Moore stated that the Streets and Drainage Division that is responsible for potholes, paving patches, fixed storm pipes, street sweepers, and fix sinkholes has 21 full-time positions and there are currently 7 vacancies so it is running at 33% however the issue is with the Asphalt Division, where we are down a Supervisor and several other employees so the patches are not getting complete quickly. Ms. Moore also stated that she has worked with City Manager Wallace Hunter to have the pavement contractor to come in to support the workload. Ms. Moore further stated she wanted the Mayor and Council to see the work they are doing to shuffle the workloads to get everything accomplished.

City Engineer Angel Moore stated that the Cemetery Division that is responsible for maintaining the City's Cemeteries has 9 full-time positions and they currently have 5 vacancies, running at only 10% and the cemeteries are hard to maintain. Ms. Moore also stated that she wants everyone to be aware of what they are up against and that Human Resources has been good at providing the applications to the department as soon as they get them in and interviews are scheduled. Ms. Moore stated that it has been difficult keeping employees and it seems when they get one hired they lose three. Ms. Moore further stated that the crews that are working are doing a good job and she is very proud of them.

Mayor Lowe stated that there being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, April 17, 2023.