

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 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 17, 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, Planner Terry Curry, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Utilities Director Charles Woody, Library Director Tammy Henry, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Chief of Police Ray Smith, Assistant Joseph Weierick, Finance Director Labrita King-Copeland, Purchasing Agent Raisa Benson, and Revenue Account Latita Holland.

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

Councilmember Bailey led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon Reverend Doctor Clementine Warren to address council, as listed on the agenda. Reverend Warren stated to Mayor Lowe and Councilmembers that she was here to speak on the fund information that she has received through Macon-Russell Community Action and provided documentation to Mayor and Council. Mayor Lowe stated that he had a person that called him that was upset in regards to why the funds are not being used to assist citizens specifically with their water bill. Mayor Lowe further stated that he spoke with the Utilities Director Charles Woody and he stated that no one had contacted him in regard to these funds. Mayor Lowe also stated that he was told by another county person that we had funds that we did not pick up from Macon-Russell County and he stated that if they have funds, why can't we just send citizens there to apply for the funds but to clarify the funds are not only for Utilities but other assistance as well. Reverend Warren also stated that on the document she provided, it lists all of the services that can be covered with the funds and that the contact she has been speaking with stated that they made several attempts to contact someone with the city. Mayor Lowe stated that they should have reached out directly to Mr. Woody. Reverend Warren further stated that her contact told her she had a vendor agreement that she wanted to share with the City. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that they should have approached the City Council or called the City Clerk's Office. Mayor Lowe also stated that the Director of Macon Russell County needs to be the one that meets with the City and asked Reverend Warren to communicate that to her. Councilmember Day stated that it sounds like there has been some miscommunication and Mayor Lowe stated that someone was not telling the truth as this is the first the City has been made aware of this situation. Councilmember Gordy stated the question to clarify that this is a program that the citizens can go to the Macon Russell to get help and Reverend Warren replied that it is for Russell County and Phenix City and to her understanding Russell County has already been using the program but that they now want Phenix City to sign off on it as well. Mr. Hunter also stated that they should start with the City Clerk's office and go through the correct channels to get this communicated to the Mayor and City Council so that it can be addressed and the City can meet with them to discuss the next steps. Councilmember Bailey stated that by reading the list of services the funds can cover, the only portion that the City can be involved in is the Utilities/Water because the other services like rent assistance is not managed by the City. Mayor Lowe further stated that he was told that the City would not go and pick up the funds and the citizens would go directly to the program for assistance. Councilmember Bailey also stated that he didn't want any

Phenix City citizens to be penalized by not being able to receive any assistance through this program and that they should be able to take documentation to the program to show hardship and be able to receive fund assistance. Mayor Lowe stated that he appreciate Reverend Warren for stepping up to help with this program for Phenix City Citizens. Reverend Warren stated that she would pass on the phone number to her contact in Russell County.

Mayor Lowe called upon Tracie Hadaway, Economic Development Planning Director, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their April 11, 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 17, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
2. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet April 25, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
3. Advised that the 2022 Statement of Economic Interest survey is due on April 30, 2023.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Advised Council of the Fire Fighter's Graduation to be held on May 5, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
7. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet May 9, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
8. 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 voting delegate Councilmember Day will attend the convention.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet May 23, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
12. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on May 29, 2023 in observance of Memorial Day Holiday.
13. 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.
14. Requested Council review the Sales Tax Holiday information in the binder. Council advised to place on the May 2, 2023 Council Meeting Agenda.
15. Reviewed upcoming board appointments for Phenix City Housing Authority Board.

Councilmember Carter inquired how many Firefighters would be graduating. Fire Chief Kennedy stated that there are six (6) from Phenix City.

Councilmember Carter stated that she was intending to participate in the Alabama League of Municipalities CMO Regional Training however, she has to be local during that time because her sister has to have a procedure and she will need to assist with her brother. Councilmember Carter also stated if the City Clerk's office could contact Ft. Benning and let them know that she could attend the event now that she will be local.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

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

Mayor Lowe stated that there being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, May 1, 2023.