

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
May 1, 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, May 1, 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, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Graduate Civil Engineer Chris Casey, Planner Terry Curry, Finance Director Labrita King-Copeland, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Library Director Tammy Henry, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Chief of Police Ray Smith, and Utilities Director Charles Woody.

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

Councilmember Carter led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon Charlie and Donna Parrish to address City Council as it is listed on the Agenda. Mr. & Mrs. Parrish came forward to address Council. Mrs. Parrish stated that they are having issues with their sewage. Mrs. Parrish also stated that they spoke with a Plummer who suggested that the septic tank be pumped. Mrs. Parrish further stated in 1994, when their property was annexed into the City she was informed that the issue with the sewage would be fixed. Mayor Lowe stated that because they have a pending litigation against the City and Council cannot respond without their attorney present. Ms. Donna Parrish stated that they have sent a letter asking for their property to be un-annex from the City. Mayor Lowe stated that Council cannot communicate with serving party. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. & Mrs. Parrish for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Terry Curry, Planner, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their April 25, 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 May 2, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
2. 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.
3. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet May 9, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
4. 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.
5. Advised Council that the Ft. Benning Renaming to Ft. Moore Ceremony May 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
6. Advised Council that the Frazier Lanier Dinner will be held on May 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. CST.
7. 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.

8. 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.
9. Advised Council that Ft. Moore is having the Change of Command on May 19, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
10. Advised Council that Phenix City School Graduation on May 22, 2023 will be held at Civil Center at 7:00 p.m.
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 Ft. Moore will have a Memorial Day Ceremony on May 29, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
14. Advised Council that Troy University's Commencement will be on June 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
15. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on June 5, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
16. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on June 6, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
17. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet June 13, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
18. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on June 19, 2023 in observance of Juneteenth/Freedom Day.
19. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on June 20, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center. This meeting will be held on Tuesday afternoon due to the Juneteenth/Freedom Day Holiday.
20. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on June 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center. This meeting will be held on Wednesday morning due to the Juneteenth/Freedom Day Holiday.
21. Advised that the Mayor's Ball will be held on June 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
22. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet June 27, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
23. 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.
24. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Mayor Lowe informed Council of the VIP Reception for the Mayor's Ball contributors that is held the Thursday prior to the Mayor's Ball on June 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

City Clerk Melony Lee advised Council of the beginning of the District two Beautification Project on behalf of Councilmember Carter.

City Clerk Melony Lee informed Council that the City reached out to Angel with the Macon/Russell Community Action Partnership and held a meeting and Angel advised that she needed a copy of the City's Ordinance for Sewer & Water Rates. It was provided to her and Angel advised she would get with ADECA and then follow up with the City.

Councilmember Carter inquired about the break in the sidewalk at 12 Court and 11th Street by the Power Up Church and if the City had received any assessment on whether or not it is repairable. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that cones were placed at the area to make Citizens aware to not go into the area to give the workers time to complete. Mr. Hunter also stated that he does not have a timeframe for the repair as it is a just a small worn out area and there are other projects that take priority over this one and that is going to get repaired. Mr. Hunter further

stated that Engineering followed the proper procedures with the assessment and the correct safety measures to ensure people go around it. Councilmember Carter stated that the important thing was to ensure the cones are visible for people to see.

Councilmember Carter inquired about the Central Activity Center, and if we have a timeframe on when it will be reopened for public use and if we know when the Municipal Courts will move into the new Public Safety Building. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the chain of supply and other issues have caused delays but hopefully a definite date will be provided soon.

Councilmember Bailey stated that some residents that live on the adjoining properties across the street at South Brooke have inquired as to whether the property has been sold and or closed on so that the property can be cleaned up. Councilmember Bailey also stated that they were not sure who to contact. Councilmember Bailey further stated that he spoke with Economic Planning Manager Shaun Culligan and he stated that the builder had some issues to work through regarding the purchase of the property.

Councilmember Bailey asked if the contractor's clean-up crew was still working on the Broad Street area because he has not seen the regular crew trucks and that no one is cutting the grass. Parks and Receptions Director Todd Hughes stated that because of the lack of employees, that area has yet to be cut but it is in the lineup. Councilmember Bailey stated that he had a business contact him interested in bids for the work. Mr. Hughes stated that any company that would like to bid on work should contact the Finance Department to be added to the bid list. Councilmember Bailey inquired if it was appropriate for him to let them know and City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that they should take their business card to Finance to be added to the bid list and that is how everyone is directed.

Councilmember Bailey asked for an update on the utilities leaks throughout the City. Councilmember Bailey stated that he realizes that the leaks are prioritized by the type of leaks. Utilities Director Charles Woody stated at one point the City had around 300 leaks and are now down to under 200 and on average the crews are fixing three to four leaks per day. Mr. Woody also stated that they are triaged based on the level low is a very slow stream, medium is gushing or high is very low to no water pressure at all. Councilmember Bailey stated that he has communicated to the Citizens that the City has to fixed the worst leaks first and then move on to the others as well as address others issues that may be more critical that arise throughout the City. Councilmember Bailey also stated that he communicates to the Citizens that even though the City is still down with their number of employees, they continue to work as hard as they can and as long as they can to address and fix all issues. Mayor Lowe stated that considering the workforce, the City is doing pretty good at fixing the leaks. Mayor Lowe also stated that how many places they go where they do not have to wait and that this is not just an issue with the City workforce but all over.

Councilmember Day stated that he has noticed five properties that have been condemned and would like to know if they are part of the CDBG project. Deputy Building Official Ray Rogers stated that they grant project work has all been completed. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the grant program has ended.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on the Old Seale Road Bridge Project. Mayor Lowe stated that the State has come back to the City with additional requirements. Graduate Civil Engineer Chris Casey stated they are in the final stages with the approval of the design as ALDOT came back with some minor changes which have been completed they are waiting on approval.

Councilmember Day inquired about the 2.94 acres on Crosswind Drive that has a sign stating that is Administrative Subdivision and wants to know if the land is for housing and businesses. Graduate Civil Engineer Chris Casey stated it was one large property and it has have been divided up and listed as commercial property. Mr. Casey also stated that across from Renfroe's they are finishing up the exterior for the Wendy's restaurant.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on the landfill expansion. Graduate Civil Engineer Chris Casey stated that last week Assistant Director Engineer Mike Pattillo met with the ADEM and was given a verbal approval so they are waiting on the official paperwork for them to be able to open landfill.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

Mayor Lowe stated that there being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, May 15, 2023.