

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
May 15, 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 15, 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 Steve Bailey, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember Vickey F. Carter was not present. 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, City Engineer Angel Moore, Planner Terry Curry, Finance Director Labrita King-Copeland, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Library Director Tammy Henry, Chief of Police Ray Smith, and Utilities Director Charles Woody.

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

Councilmember Day led the invocation.

Councilmember Carter joined the Work Session at 3:10 p.m.

Mayor Lowe called upon Tim Hatch, District Administrator for the Alabama Department of Public Health Tim Hatch to address City Council as it is listed on the Agenda. Mr. Hatch came forward to address the Council. Mr. Hatch stated that he has 11 counties and 12 clinics under his direction. Mr. Hatch also stated that he was in attendance today to speak to the Council regarding Phenix City and Russell County's public health. Mr. Hatch further stated that the government ended the National Emergency and Public Health Emergency Declarations on May 11, 2023, related to the three years long COVID Pandemic. Mr. Hatch stated that they are not inventing public health but revitalizing public health with what has been learned from the pandemic. Mr. Hatch also stated that he has provided for Council, the Annual Report and the new services brochure for their review and for discussion. Mr. Hatch further stated that Phenix City is the largest Municipality in Russell County and that their Health Department is in the City of Phenix City. Mr. Hatch stated that he wanted to thank the Council for their support however, last year they did not receive any appropriation from the Council but they will be requesting an appropriation for this year. Mr. Hatch also stated he wanted to provide Council with an overview of the work that they have completed in Phenix City during the pandemic and sadly reports that there is a very large STD population which is known as STI because it is an infection and not a disease. Mr. Hatch further stated that they are working with local community partners, disease specialist and universities much like they did when the County had the Monkey Pox breakout. Mr. Hatch stated that last year they saw a large increase of STI's at 332 in Russell County and therefore they are working on prevention and treatment. Mr. Hatch also stated that another important program is the WIC (Women Infant and Children) Program which did not decrease during the COVID-19 and that the numbers for enrollment increased in Russell County. Mr. Hatch further stated that they have 1600 enrollees in the program in Russell County and that the participants receive \$750 in annual benefits and \$750 x 1600 is about 1.2 Million. Mr. Hatch stated they hope that the participants are spending in Russell County. Mr. Hatch also stated that they are working with East Alabama Medical Center, Piedmont Hospital and Jack Huston Hospital to help identify all of the women and children that are eligible for the program. Mr. Hatch further stated that during the formula shortage, no child enrolled in the WIC Program in Russell County had to do without formula. Mr. Hatch stated that with their Environmental Health Program they have several things going on with over 600 restaurant inspections and over 400 sewage system permits which is all

good news as it relates to additional tax income for Russell County and Phenix City. Mr. Hatch also stated they investigated over 100 dog bites last year. Mr. Hatch further stated that reviewing their Family Planning numbers for last year, they had around 2900 ladies come in for Family Planning and that the Public Health Department does not require any payments however, if the individual is covered under any insurance or payment program, they do try to recoup some of the funds through those organizations and that they are at 47% reimbursement. Mr. Hatch stated that there were 2900 visits and 1300 of those visits were uncompensated and with each visit costing about \$350.00 which equals about \$455,000.00 that Public Health has extended to provide these services. Mr. Hatch also stated that they rely on other services, counties, appropriations and federal grants to help with covering these cost. Mr. Hatch further stated that their Home Health staff had 1100 home visits within Russell County. Mr. Hatch stated that he hopes that the Council will notice that the Crawford Health Department is in the middle of getting renovations and updated landscaping. Mr. Hatch also stated that they will host a community event "Don't Wait To Vaccinate" on June 16, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mr. Hatch further stated that he is leaving his contact information with the City Clerk's Office in case anyone needs to contact him. Councilmember Day stated that he received all four of the COVID shots at the Health Department and asked if they are providing any additional COVID shots. Mr. Hatch stated that they will continue to test for COVID by appointment only.

Mayor Lowe called upon Terry Curry, Planner, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their May 9, 2023 meeting. Mr. Curry 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 May 16, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
2. Advised Council of the Jake's Grand Opening to be held on May 17, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
3. Advised Council that Ft. Moore is having the Change of Command on May 19, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
4. Advised Council that the Phenix City School Graduation on May 22, 2023 will be held at Civil Center at 7:00 p.m.
5. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet May 23, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
6. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on May 29, 2023 in observance of Memorial Day Holiday.
7. Advised Council that Ft. Moore will have a Memorial Day Ceremony on May 29, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
8. Advised Council that Troy University's Commencement will be on June 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet June 13, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
12. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on June 19, 2023 in observance of Juneteenth/Freedom Day.
13. 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.

14. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on June 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Activities Center or the Phenix City Russell County Library (to be confirmed). This is the bi-annual District 2 location meeting. This meeting will be held on Wednesday due to the Juneteenth/Freedom Day Holiday.
15. Advised that the Mayor's Ball will be held on June 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
16. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet June 27, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
17. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on July 3, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
18. Informed Council that due to the July 4th Holiday the regular scheduled Council Meeting will be held of July 3, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
19. Informed Council that the City Offices will be closed on July 4, 2023 in observance of 4th of July Holiday.
20. Advised Council that during the Council Meeting scheduled for June 6, 2023 the Resolution for the extra holiday for July 5, 2023 will be presented to Council.
21. 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.
22. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

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

Mayor Lowe stated that the City had a News Press Release regarding a new company coming to Phenix City and that the Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan and City Manager Wallace Hunter have done a great job bringing this business to the City. Mayor Lowe also stated that the company is Sierra Pacific Industries and that this is a top premier company investing over 60 million into the community with over 300 jobs to start and more in the future. Mayor Lowe further stated that the pay range is close to \$20 to \$30 an hour and will create over 600 jobs in the next two years and that this is huge for the City.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

Police Chief Ray Smith provided an update on the municipal building renovations. Chief Smith stated that this week they are completing the punch list and other various follow-up items. Chief Smith also stated that in order to move the court, they require a two week timeframe to wrap up any cases and therefore the court has been suspended for the next two weeks. Chief Smith further stated that they can have their cabinets, files and equipment moved into the new offices and courtroom so that the court can officially move in the first of June and their new furniture will be in this week. Chief Smith stated that they are still waiting on some of the new Council furniture to arrive therefore they are not bringing the Council back into the building until July 1, 2023. Chief Smith also stated that he and City Manager Wallace Hunter have discussed scheduling an Open House for the public to come in and tour the new additions and that they will provide a small presentation and refreshments and that it will be held around the June to July 1st timeframe.

Mayor Lowe stated that there being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, June 5, 2023.