

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
June 5, 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, June 5, 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, Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo, Planner Terry Curry, Finance Director Labrita King-Copeland, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Golf Manager Mike Barber, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Human Resource Director Stephanie Chastain, Library Director Tammy Henry, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Assistant Chief of Police George Staudinger, Graduate Engineer John Spraggins, 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 Request to Address Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Terry Curry, Planner, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their May 23, 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 June 6, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
2. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet June 13, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
3. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on June 19, 2023 in observance of Juneteenth/Freedom Day Holiday.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Informed Council that Councilmember Carter will hold a meeting for District Two residents prior to the regular scheduled Council Meeting on June 21, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. until 5:45 p.m. at the Central Activities Center.
7. Advised Council that the Budget Work Session will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2023 beginning at 8:30 a.m. located at the 3rd Floor Conference Room in the Municipal Building.
8. Advised that the Mayor's VIP Reception for the Mayor's Ball contributors will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
9. Advised that the Mayor's Ball will be held on Saturday, June 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
10. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet June 27, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
11. Advised Council that the Open House/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Public Safety Building will be on Friday, June 30, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

12. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on July 3, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
13. 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 Public Safety Building.
14. Informed Council that the City Offices will be closed on July 5, 2023 pending approval of the resolution and July 4, 2023 in observance of 4th of July Holiday.
15. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet July 11, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
16. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on July 17, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
17. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on July 18, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
18. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet July 25, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
19. 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.
20. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session Meeting to be held on July 31, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
21. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.
22. Reminded Council of the Board Interview for the Personnel Review Board after the work session meeting.

Councilmember Carter inquired about Summer Activity for District 2 and asked if the Splash Pad in front of the Library was working. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes stated that was working and that he has been by several times and has not seen anyone using it. Mr. Hughes also stated he will check on it to ensure it is working properly.

Councilmember Carter inquired about the ongoing dumping issues and stated that she was aware that chains were installed and placed at the Tate Furniture Warehouse and at the old theater location to prevent citizens from dumping and asked if it was on private property. Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo stated that it was private property. Councilmember Carter stated that the chains have helped and that we should continue to be creative to mitigate the dumping of furniture, tires, and any other types of trash. Councilmember Carter also stated the grass on the main streets is being cut, trimmed and taken care of and it is making it look good for the citizens and people passing through our City and thanked the Public Works Department for the good work.

Councilmember Carter inquired about the status of the city staff being fully trained in order to get back to the efficient staff numbers to cover the workload for the City. Human Resource Director Stephanie Chastain stated that as they bring on new staff, they may work a couple of weeks and then leave and that some weeks are better than others. Ms. Chastain also stated that she believes it is a little better than it was last summer but still significantly short on staff. Mayor Lowe stated that the national news has stated that there is a shortage of lifeguard's nationwide and asked if this was a problem for the City as well. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that it was a problem with the City and that they are doing their best to train employees to cover the pools. Mr. Hunter also stated that the staff has done a good job and that the City pools have been open and they are only open when it is safe for the citizens. Mr. Hunter further stated that with the hiring of the lifeguards, it is competitive with everyone needing them for the summer. Councilmember Day inquired as to how many lifeguards the city has to have to maintain the pools. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes stated that the number of lifeguards depends on how many citizens are at the pool during that timeframe. Councilmember Carter stated that with

the Splash Pads and Pools in the City, she is concerned about the opening of the Splash Pad at the Library and will let her contacts know that it is open. Mr. Hughes stated that he will check on it to make sure it is open and safe for the citizens. Councilmember Carter also stated that we all need to work together to keep the City beautiful and it is an ongoing effort for everyone in Phenix City and thanked Mr. Hughes for what he is doing. Councilmember Carter thanked the Parks and Recreations Department for all that they do.

Councilmember Bailey thanked Parks and Recreations and Limbs and Debris for working so hard around town and taking care of an entire City with limited staff. Councilmember Bailey also stated that he has stopped and spoke to City workers to tell them how much they are appreciated for their hard work with cutting the grass, picking up trash on the roads, and keeping the flower beds maintained.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the status of the Bridgewater Sewer Project. Utilities Director Charles Woody stated that the project is still ongoing.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the status of the Landfill Project. Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo stated that they are still waiting for the compactor and that it should arrive in August. Mr. Pattillo also stated that they are struggling to find a Water and Sewer contractor to work on the project due to everyone being so busy. Mr. Pattillo further stated that he has met with the Power Company to have the power available for the location.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the status of the New Fire Station Training Facility. Fire Chief Kris Kennedy stated that they are hoping to be completed before December 2023. Chief Kennedy also stated that they received notice that the Drill Tower should be tentatively delivered by August and once the contractor's get further along with the building, they can lay the concrete pad for the Drill Tower to be installed. Chief Kennedy further stated that the weather delayed the contractors but that they are moving along now with the project.

Councilmember Day inquired whether or not portions of the New Fire Station Training Facility came pre-fabricated. Fire Chief Kris Kennedy stated that the tower has to be engineered because it is a building and it consist of steel boxes and when it comes in, it will be erected onsite.

Councilmember Day inquired about the American Legion Building on Seale Road. Councilmember Day stated that the building held so much history with the City. Deputy Building Official Ray Rogers stated that he had not heard any additional information other than the owners were in the process of getting together the paperwork in order to get support for renovations. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the 13th American Legion location may be reaching out to help support the Seale Road location by reaching out to additional resources and develop new ideas for assistance. Mayor Lowe inquired if the building could be placed in the Historic District to help protect the building. Mr. Hunter stated that even if it is listed in the Historic District, if the structure is not safe and in need of major repair, the City would be responsible and it would have to come down unless there were funds provided to take care of the building.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Old Seale Road Bridge work and asked if the City was waiting on ALDOT. Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo stated that in the next couple of weeks the contractors should be bidding on the work. Mr. Pattillo also stated that ALDOT had some issues with funding and adjustments had to be made that held up the process.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Knowles Road Paving Project and if it has started. Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo stated that the work has not started. City Manager

Wallace Hunter stated that there are several projects coming up and the Knowles Road Paving Project is on the list.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Daechang Corporation Building and if they were in the new building. Deputy Building Official Ray Rogers stated that they are presently occupying the building. Councilmember Day inquired if there was going to be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Mr. Rogers stated the he was not aware of any ceremonies at this time other than the Ground Breaking Ceremony that was already held but that they may hold one in August. Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan stated they were going to be shutting down their manufacturing side and then they would transition and ship items to the other office and then move to the new offices.

Councilmember Day inquired about 165 Trail project with National Parks. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that they had worked on that a while back and that he has not received any updates. Mr. Hunter also stated that he would follow-up and provide Council with updates as soon as he receives any information.

Councilmember Day inquired about the new businesses coming located next to the Jacks Restaurant. Councilmember Day stated that they have several new businesses, Racetrack, Wendy's, and Circle K, and asked if there were any additional ones planned. Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan stated that a bar & grill will be coming next to Renfroe's. Mr. Culligan also stated that a car wash will also be coming in close to the Wendy's location.

Councilmember Day stated it was great to see the first GED Graduate, Brian Peeler from the Phenix City / Russell County Library GED Program.

Councilmember Day inquired about the new Public Safety Building and asked if all furniture was placed in and if the building was ready. Assistant Chief of Police George Staudinger stated that all the furniture has been received.

Mayor Lowe stated that there is a request on the agenda from a citizen to request a key to the City. Mayor Lowe inquired whether the City has ever given the key to someone outside of dignitaries. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that it has not been issued in the past to citizens. Mayor Lowe stated that they will follow the Ordinance that was put into place and provide a proclamation instead of the Key to the City and asked if all Councilmembers were in agreement because they had to be consistent and all Councilmembers agreed. Councilmember Carter inquired as to what the guidelines states for a Key to the City to be given. Mr. Graham stated that the Ordinance states that a Key to the City is meant to be given to elected officials, retired elected officials, or dignitaries visiting the City but not citizens.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

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

City Attorney Jimmy Graham asked for an Executive Session to discuss Economic Development for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn.

Councilmember Bailey moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Economic Development for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Carter seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 4:14 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 4:39 p.m.

Mayor Lowe stated that there being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 20, 2023.