

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
December 4, 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, December 4, 2023, in the Council Chambers located within the Public Safety Building at 1111 Broad Street, Phenix City, Alabama 36867. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Councilmember Vickey F. Carter, Councilmember Steve Bailey, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr., was not present. Also present were City Manager Wallace Hunter, Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble, City Clerk Melony Lee, City Attorney Jimmy Graham, and City Attorney James McKoon. Department Heads in attendance: Building Official Ray Rogers, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Assistant City Engineer Michael Pattillo, Graduate Civil Engineer Chris Casey, Fire Chief Kristen Kennedy, Assistant Fire Chief Kerry Bragg, Golf Manager Mike Barber, Human Resource Director Stephanie Chastain, Library Director Tammy Henry, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Police Chief George Staudinger, Public Safety Director Ray Smith, and Graduate Engineer John Spraggins.

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

Mayor Lowe led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon Graduate Civil Engineer Chris Casey to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their November 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 Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
2. Informed Council that Parks and Recreation Department will hold the Night of Lights on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Phenix City Amphitheatre.
3. Informed Council that Parks and Recreation Department will hold A Night in Candyland on Friday, December 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
4. Informed Council that Parks and Recreation Department will hold the Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
5. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
6. Informed Council that Parks and Recreation Department will hold the Night with Grinch on Friday, December 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the 5th Street South Youth Center.
7. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
8. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
9. Informed Council that the Retirement Celebration for City Clerk Melony Lee will be held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
10. Informed Council that the Annual Christmas Luncheon for the City Manager's office will be held on Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

11. Informed Council that City Offices will close on Friday, December 22, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. in observance of Christmas Holiday.
12. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on Monday, December 25, 2023 in observance of Christmas Holiday.
13. Informed Council that City Offices will open on Tuesday, December 26, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. in observance of Christmas Holiday.
14. Advised Council that the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 26, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. has been cancelled due to the Christmas Holiday.
15. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024 in observance of New Year's Day Holiday.
16. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building. This meeting will be held on a Tuesday afternoon due to the New Year's Day Holiday.
17. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building. This meeting will be held on a Wednesday morning due to the New Year's Day Holiday.
18. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
19. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2024 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.
20. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building. This meeting will be held on a Tuesday afternoon due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.
21. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building. This meeting will be held on a Wednesday morning due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.
22. Advised Council that the State of the City is scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. located at the Public Safety Building. Mayor Lowe asked that the meeting be changed to the 18th due to a scheduling conflict. Council agreed to hold the State of the City meeting on January 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
23. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
24. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the status of the new Fire Training Facility. Chief Kristen Kennedy stated that the contractors are in the process of going over the punch list and that the project should be completed this soon.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the status of the Old Seale Road Bridge. Assistant Director of Engineering Michael Pattillo stated that the project is in progress and moving forward.

Councilmember Bailey inquired on the status of the landscape maintenance on Broad Street. Parks and Recreations Director Todd Hughes stated that at this time they have not had any contractors respond.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the status of the City's new-hire employment numbers for the last 60 days. Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain stated that they have hired 26 full-time employees and that the numbers are better now than they have been in the last couple of years during the same period. Ms. Chastain also stated that the City is still in a staff shortage, however, it is slowly getting better. Councilmember Bailey stated that it is good that we are a little ahead of where they were in regards to the new hire numbers.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

Councilmember Carter thanked the City and the staff for the acts of kindness shown during the passing of her father and that the Carter family appreciates everything. Councilmember Carter stated that her father's funeral service was held on Saturday, December 2, 2023 and the love and gratitude they received was so widespread and she thanked everyone. Councilmember Carter also stated that her mother always stated that if you don't have anything to say, you should thank someone. Councilmember Carter further stated that she appreciated all of the love that was shown, the phone calls and the visits.

Councilmember Carter stated that a citizen that had attended Council Meetings in the past Mrs. Betty LeBlanc has passed away. Councilmember Carter also stated that Ms. LeBlanc's daughter informed her about her mother's passing. Councilmember Carter asked that everyone keep her family in their prayers and thoughts.

Mayor Lowe thanked Councilmember Carter and stated that he knows it is not easy and that a family member passing is one of the hardest things we all have to deal with at some point.

Mayor Lowe asked to go into Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character for one hour, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Carter moved to go into Executive Session, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 3:33 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 4:23 p.m.

Mayor Lowe stated that there being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, December 18, 2023.