

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2024**

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 Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 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 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, Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble, City Clerk Shannon Davis, and City Attorney Jimmy Graham. Department Heads in attendance: Building Official Ray Rogers, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, City Engineer Angel Moore, Graduate Civil Engineer Andrew Patterson, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, Fire Chief Kristen Kennedy, Golf Manager Mike Barber, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Police Captain Joseph Weierick, Public Safety Director Ray Smith, and Graduate Engineer John Spraggins.

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

Councilmember Day led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe advised there were no Requests to Address Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Angel Moore, City Engineer, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their February 13, 2024 meeting.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Clerk Shannon Davis who discussed the following with Mayor and Council:

1. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building. This meeting will be held on a Wednesday morning due to the President's Day Holiday.
2. Informed Council that a Black History Celebration will be held on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the Central Activity Center.
3. Informed Council that Fort Moore will have an Access Control Point Ceremony to be held on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.
4. Informed Council that Arbor Day Tree Give-away will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
5. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
6. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold an After Hours on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
7. Informed Council that the United Way-Power of the Purse Event will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.
8. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
9. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
10. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.

11. Informed Council that CVCC Chattahoochee Valley Community College will hold a Hall of Fame to be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, time TBA.
12. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold the Breakfast and Business on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 7:00 a.m.
13. Advised Council that the Phenix City Russell County Library will meet on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
14. Informed Council that Parks and Recreation Department will hold the St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
15. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
16. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
17. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustment & Appeals Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
18. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
19. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold an After Hours on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
20. Informed Council that Parks and Recreation Department will hold the Easter Egg Hunt on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
21. Informed Council that there were no Upcoming Board Appointments for review.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated the President of United Way, Ben Mosely wanted to thank the City for the donation and that it was going to help the United Way accomplish a lot this year and that they enjoyed working with the City of Phenix City. Mr. Hunter also stated that Mr. Mosely appreciated working with Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan and that he was doing a good job keeping the City connected with United Way.

City Manager Wallace Hunter reviewed with the Council the information on the damages that occurred due to the recent weather and the flooding issues that occurred around the City. Mr. Hunter also stated that the City was going to be utilizing funds to cover some of the damage. City Engineer Angel Moore provide Council with a report on what the City has reviewed so far including information from the State. Ms. Moore stated that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has not declared the State of Disaster for Alabama. Ms. Moore reviewed the list of priority properties for the damaged areas and the cost associated for the City which is approximately over a half of million dollars. Ms. Moore stated that she will continue to keep the Council updated on the progress. Councilmember Day inquired as to how additional issues not listed on the report will be addressed. Ms. Moore stated that once the top 5 have been completed, they will move forward with additional priorities. Councilmember Carter stated that she received a call from a citizen regarding a property with damages caused by flooding on February 19, 2024 but she is not sure of the exact address but will follow up with the City Manager's office when she receives more information. Councilmember Bailey inquired if Public Works had traveled around the City to investigate any damages that had not been reported and figured out a way to prevent it from happening. Ms. Moore stated that they have been out in the City and identified any standing water that may indicate blockages and once the water recedes they will review again for any damages. Mr. Hunter stated that the City has many projects already pending and that these new issues take

top priority. Mr. Hunter also stated that previous storms along with many years of damages on top of that are now showing the old infrastructure weakness throughout the City.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City begins preparing for the new budget in April and that it is fast approaching. Mr. Hunter also stated that there are numerous items that will need to be in the budget and more specifically with Parks and Recreations Department as well as the recent flood damage that was not anticipated. Mr. Hunter further stated that it is going to take a lot of money to repair everything and that is why it is important to have money put up in reserves for future City emergency needs. Mr. Hunter stated that it took a lot to get the City's Finances in order in spite of what the "naysayers" did or said to get him out of the office. Mr. Hunter also stated that everything he does is for the benefit of the City.

Mayor Lowe stated that there is a difference between federal, state and local officials and this Phenix City Council are thinking about the next generation and how well they prepared the City and the ones coming up to continue the good work they have done. Mayor Lowe also stated that it is a sad person that leaves behind problems that the new generation will have to deal with in the future. Mayor Lowe further stated that the City is a business and that they cannot survive if they are not doing the right things for their jobs, families and for the Citizens of Phenix City because that is their responsibility. Mayor Lowe stated that he continues to state to the City leaders that they have to have courage because people will try to put them in a corner and he has experienced it throughout his life and that they have to have courage and push back because it is not about them. Mayor Lowe also stated that they are going to have to answer on how they do things as a Council and they try to do what is right. Mayor Lowe further stated that their job as Council is serious business and their responsibility is to the future of the City of Phenix City. Mayor Lowe stated that they should be bold and continue to follow the policies, principles and the law because it will stand the test of time. Mayor Lowe also stated that they appreciate everyone and that the City has been blessed financially as things can happen to bring them to their needs if they were not prepared.

Mayor Lowe stated that there being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, March 4, 2024.