

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
December 2, 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 Monday, December 2, 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, City Clerk Shannon Davis, and City Attorney Jimmy Graham. Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble was not present. Department Heads in attendance: Building Official Ray Rogers, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Director of Engineering Angel Moore, Graduate Civil Engineer Chris Casey, Fire Chief Kristen Kennedy, Golf Manager Mike Barber, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, IT Director Mike Bauer, 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 Utilities Director John Spraggins.

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

Councilmember Carter led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe advised there were no Request to Address Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Director of Engineering Angel Moore, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their November 26, 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 Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
2. Informed Council that Fort Moore will hold their Holiday Reception on Friday, December 6, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.
3. Informed Council that the City's Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
4. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
5. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold the Breakfast and Business Meeting on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 7:00 a.m.
6. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, December 16, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
7. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
8. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold an After Hours Business Meeting on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
9. Informed Council that the Annual Christmas Luncheon for the City Manager's office will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
10. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals will meet on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
11. Advised Council that the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 24, 2024 at 5:15 p.m. will be cancelled due to the Christmas Holiday.

12. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2025 in observance of the New Year's Day Holiday.
13. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, January 6, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
14. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
15. Advised Council that the Phenix City Russell County Library Board will meet on Friday, January 10, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
16. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.
17. Advised Council that the Downtown Redevelopment Authority will meet on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.
18. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals will meet on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
19. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2025 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.
20. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 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 held on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 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 Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.
23. Reviewed upcoming Board Appointments.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that he would be meeting with the Department Heads to discuss the possibility of adding a half-day on December 26, 2024 or January 2, 2025. Mr. Hunter also stated that he would follow-up with Mayor and Council.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the renovation project at the Golf Course and when it may be starting. Golf Manager Mike Barber stated that the work has started and that the driving range will be completed by the end of the day. Mr. Barber provided an overview of the remaining work and the timeline for completion. Mr. Barber stated that the Golf Course will remain open during the renovations and that they are closing the portions that are being worked while ensuring the safety of the citizens.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the contractors working on the Golf Course renovations should take their time to complete the work to ensure that they are finished correctly as these updates are expensive.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about an update on the work to fix the leaks throughout the City. Councilmember Bailey stated that he has been receiving positive feedback from his Citizens on the leaks that have been repaired. Director of Utilities John Spraggins provided an overview of the leak repairs taking place.

Councilmember Day inquired about a water leak on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Director of Utilities John Spraggins stated that he would gather the correct information and follow-up with Councilmember Day on this particular leak.

Councilmember Day inquired about a tire plant on Downing Drive. Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan stated that the current owner has collaborated with a recycling plant that will be on the site by 2026. Mr. Culligan provided an overview of how the recycling process will work for the tires and that it will be a more efficient and cleaner process for the environment.

Councilmember Day inquired about the new RaceTrac gas station on Highway 431 and when it would be open. Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan stated that the stores liquor license was on the Council Meeting Agenda.

Councilmember Carter stated that the Second District is still experiencing issues with tires that are being dumped. Councilmember Carter also stated that during the winter months, it is more visible through the woods and they can see the amount of tires and furniture that has been dumped out in those areas.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes provided an update on the Idle Hour Park Project and the Miracle Park Project. Mr. Hughes stated that they are currently in the planning stages.

Police Chief George Staudinger provided an overview of the history of the issues and complaints around the Budget Inn Hotel's previous owners and business license application for a new Banquet Hall. Chief Staudinger stated that the owners of the property have not managed the events held on the property appropriately to ensure safety of the Citizens attending events and that there have been many complaints with residents around the property.

Building Official Ray Rogers played a video of a meeting with the Building Department in reference to the Blessed Hands new Business License Application.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that there are issues ensuring attendance with the Planning Commission Board meetings. Mr. Hunter also stated that there is an opening that is vacant and several other members have conflicts with employment and health issues. Mr. Hunter further stated that the Planning Commission Board is extremely important to the City's Planning and even though the Planning Department completes the work, the Board is in place to review and vote on the projects and those members needed to be vested and knowledgeable in regards to all processes to follow and the decisions that they are asked to vote on.

Mayor Lowe stated that each member of the Council should research for quality candidates' for the Planning Commission Board.

Mayor Lowe stated that being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, December 16, 2024.