APPROVED AS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL 02/19/25

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2025

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, February 3, 2025, 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, City Attorney Jimmy Graham and City Attorney James McKoon. Department Heads in attendance: Building Official Ray Rogers, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Director of Engineering Angel Moore, Graduate Civil Engineer Chris Casey, Finance Director Labrita King-Copeland, Fire Chief Kristen Kennedy, Golf Manager Mike Barber, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Library Director Tammy Henry, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Police Chief George Staudinger, Assistant Police Chief Joseph Weierick, and Utilities Director John Spraggins.

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

Councilmember Gordy led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon Tammy Glover, Westminster Subdivision Home Owners Association, to address Council as listed on the agenda. Ms. Glover came forth to address Council. Ms. Glover stated that she wanted to address Council to discuss the possibility of building a covered shelter at the bus stop in their Westminster Subdivision. Ms. Glover also stated that the reason to add the shelter was for the safety of the children so that they are not standing in the road and for shelter when it is raining. Mayor Lowe inquired if this was something that the School System should review. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that even if the School System needed to approve it, it would still need to go through the Engineering Department to review it because it would be on the City's right of way. Director of Engineering Angel Moore explained the process to follow to submit the request to the Engineering Department. Councilmember Gordy inquired to Ms. Glover if the Home Owner's Association for her neighborhood were planning to pay for the shelter. Ms. Glover stated that they do plan to pay the total cost. Councilmember Day inquired as to if they plan to install a solar light. Ms. Glover stated that they wanted to have a light placed at the shelter as well. Ms. Moore explained the requirements for adding a solar light at the shelter location. Councilmember Carter inquired as to the exact location and if it was at the intersection of Dobbs Drive and Auburn Road. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that it was at the offset. Councilmember Carter stated that it was a good thing that the residents were doing for the children but that she wanted to make sure that the traffic would have good sight of the shelter. Mr. Hunter stated that the Westminster Subdivision was not directly across the street from Dobbs Drive. Ms. Glover inquired as to the measurements needed for the shelter. Ms. Moore advised Ms. Glover to contact the Engineering Department for the exact measurements materials that must be used. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Glover for presenting the information to Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Director of Engineering Angel Moore, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their January 28, 2025 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, February 4, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
2. Advised Council that the State of the City Address will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
3. Advised Council that the Housing Abatement Board will meet on Friday, February 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
4. Advised Council that Parks and Recreations will be holding the Mother and Son Ball on Friday, February 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
5. Advised Council that Parks and Recreations will be holding the Father and Daughter Ball on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
6. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.
7. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2025 in observance of President's Day Holiday.
8. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building. This meeting will be held on Tuesday afternoon due to the President's Day Holiday.
9. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building. This meeting will be held on Wednesday morning due to the President's Day Holiday.
10. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals will meet on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
11. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.
12. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
13. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
14. Informed Council that CVCC will hold their Hall of Fame Event on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
15. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.
16. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, March 17, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
17. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Community Center.
18. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals will meet on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
19. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.
20. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, March 25, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
21. Informed Council that there were no upcoming Board Appointments.

Councilmember Carter stated that she is receiving calls regarding the new trashcans that are being distributed. Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble provided an overview of Waste Management's contract end date of January 31, 2025 and the process of replacing the trashcans. Mr. Gamble stated that during the last couple of weeks in their contract, Waste Management failed to or refuse to pick up multiple routes and that this put the City in a bind. Mr. Gamble also stated that they had six trucks that ran for the City and they laid off five of the drivers, which left them with one driver to run all of the City routes for the last couple of weeks. Mr. Gamble further stated

the City's new vendor, 121 Disposal Company volunteered outside of their contract obligations to assist the City, even on Saturday with picking up the routes. Mr. Gamble stated that the Utilities Department sent communications in the monthly billing statements regarding the issues as well as the new vendor 121 Disposal Company also sent out information directly to the citizens describing the process to them. Mr. Gamble also stated that some citizens did not read the communications therefore; there was some confusion on when they should place out the trashcans. Mr. Gamble also stated that the information that he has received today was that the majority of the trashcans that were put out as directed were picked up. Mr. Gamble stated that they are receiving calls now regarding the number of cans that the citizens still have and that 99% of these issues are due the citizens that had multiple cans but were only paying for one trashcan. Mr. Gamble also stated that he could not say enough about 121 Disposal's customer service and their willingness to help. Mr. Gamble further stated that the new trashcans have RFID Chips in them and that they will be scanned each time the can is picked up and dropped off as well as video camera footage for each of the drop-offs so that moving forward when they receive complaints, they are able to review the footage. Mr. Gamble stated that 121 has provided a customer service dedicated phone line so that citizens will be able to speak to customer service regarding questions or issues and that they have been very responsive. Mr. Gamble also stated that there over 16,000 Utilities accounts and that it will take a little time to ensure all of the accounts are up to par. Councilmember Day inquired if the scheduled day for trash pickup would stay the same. Mr. Gamble stated that the schedule would remain the same as it has been for the routes and if anything should change, it will be communicated to the citizens well in advance. Mr. Gamble encouraged the citizens to call 121's customer service number or go to their website for any questions. Mayor Lowe inquired if 121's information has been shared with the citizens. Mr. Gamble stated that it has been communicated through the City's website, all social media sites that the City has and in the utility statements mailed directly to the citizens. Mayor Lowe inquired if the trashcans are the same size as the previous ones and Mr. Gamble stated that they were. Councilmember Day stated that he noticed a citizen that had a green trashcan but that he did not see the 121 trashcan. Mr. Gamble stated that the 121 trashcan might have been behind the home. Mr. Gamble also stated that it might be the case that the particular residents may not fall within the Phenix City limits. Councilmember Day inquired if the old trashcans are going to be picked up. Mr. Gamble stated that at this time they have finished picking up what they have planned to pick up this week, but that 121 will be picking up all of the older green cans that are set out for them. Councilmember Carter stated that she has noticed in the 2nd District and throughout the City that the cans have been picked up and that she understood due to the recent snow that there was a weather delay in service. Mr. Gamble stated that the Waste Management Company was obligated to complete their service once the roads were safe for travel. Councilmember Day inquired as to the future with trashcans that may be damaged. Mr. Gamble stated that citizens should call the 121-customer service number for a replacement and our contract states that they will replace the can within 48 hours. Councilmember Day inquired as to how many trucks would run and Mr. Gamble stated that they have six trucks for the City.

Councilmember Carter stated that the citizens were pleased with the safety measures that the City took by placing salt/sand on the bridges during the recent snow and asked if it would be cleaned up. Director of Engineering Angel Moore stated that the street sweeper would be cleaning it up.

Councilmember Bailey inquired as to the status of the new Human Resources building project. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that they should be in the building within the next two weeks.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the status of the water leaks throughout the City. Director of Utilities John Spraggins stated that they had worked on more leaks in December than they had in November and that they will complete around 40 in January. Councilmember Bailey stated that the list of water leaks are worked based on the priority of the leak. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that it is constantly changing because a new leak that is much worst may happen and that will need to be addressed. Councilmember Bailey wanted to ensure he is communicating the correct information to the citizens. Mr. Hunter stated in reality, with the age of the system and amount of the City's plumbing, the City would never be leak free.

Councilmember Day stated that a specific citizen continues to contact him about a leak and he stated that he spoke to the citizen and explained how the list of leaks are prioritized and inquired as to how they should communicate that it is ongoing. Utilities Director John Spraggins stated that all they can do is to continue to explain that they are working on fixing all of the leaks.

Councilmember Day inquired about the water meter replacements. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that they would be working on it for a while. Utilities Director John Spraggins provided an overview of the 100 Year Cycle Study.

Councilmember Day inquired if there was a plan in place to improve Meadow Lane and Southside Parks. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that in the City's five-year plan, Southside Park would be resurfaced. Councilmember Day inquired about the ballfield and bathrooms at Meadow Lane Park. Mr. Hunter stated that those items will be funded in the next budget and that there were many items that will be on the list but that the City cannot afford to take care of everything at one time. Mr. Hunter stated that the most recent issue with the pool at Southside was that they had to provide lifeguards in order to have the pool open and that he would not allow the citizens to use the pool without proper lifeguards. Councilmember Day inquired as to the timeframe to train the new lifeguards and Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes stated that they have the positions posted to fill. Mr. Hughes also stated that they have a contractor working on replacing all of the electric wires that have been stolen from Southside Park.

Councilmember Day stated that three individuals asked that some pine trees could be removed from Austin Sumbry Park because they were a safety hazard and a hole in the pavilion and that he has turned in these issues to the proper department.

Councilmember Day inquired about the plans to replace dams throughout the City and at Lakewood and Rosemont Parks. Director of Engineering Angel Moore stated the surveys have been completed on the dams and that the work is planned to start next year. Ms. Moore also stated that currently they are working on the Bridgewater Drive bridge replacement. Ms. Moore further stated that ALDOT does not supply any funding for these replacements. Councilmember Day inquired if there were any possible grants. Ms. Moore replied that they are working on applying for FEMA funding for the Bridgewater Drive at this time however there are only certain projects that can be used with FEMA funds. Councilmember Day inquired about the number of dams that have been targeted for updates. Ms. Moore stated that there were six.

Councilmember Day inquired about the status of the $300,000.00 Study for 13th Street. Director of Engineering Angel Moore stated that Sain Associates are consulting with them on this study. Councilmember Carter inquired if there were any plans to include sidewalks in the study. Ms. Moore stated that they are trying to include them. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that with the new president in office, they have had to revisit the grants to see if any have been paused or effected.

Councilmember Day inquired about the status of the Live Entertainment District. Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan stated that as they were making updates to some of the City owned buildings as part of the plan. Mr. Culligan also stated that it is moving quicker than expected, which is a good thing however; they want to make certain that the plan is solid to ensure success. Mr. Culligan further stated that at the next Council Meeting they would be bringing some property information for discussion. Councilmember Day inquired about having shops on the Riverfront. Mr. Culligan stated that was part of the plan to have commercial buildings with park and green space surrounding them. Councilmember Day stated that he like that fact that citizens could walk through the area with a wristband to allow them to access. Mr. Culligan clarified that the plan is for them to be able to purchase a special cup with a sticker to be able to walk through the area with a purchase beverage and that their hope is that more businesses will participate like restaurants and nightlife.

Councilmember Day inquired about the status of changing the fleet vehicles with the Police Department. Police Chief George Staudinger stated that it is still challenging to be able to purchase vehicles due to the low inventory but that they have budgeted to purchase some this year. Councilmember Day inquired about what happens to the vehicles that they no longer need. Chief Staudinger stated that generally the vehicles are sold at the auction.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

Councilmember Day moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Potential Litigation for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Gordy seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 5:07 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 5:27 p.m.

Mayor Lowe stated that there being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until February 18, 2025.