

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
June 30, 2025

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met at 3:22 p.m. Eastern Time due to Council needing to form a quorum for the regularly scheduled Work Session on Monday, June 30, 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 Carter Green (in late), and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember Steve Bailey and Councilmember R. Griff Gordy were not present. 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: Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Director of Engineering/Public Works Angel Moore, Finance Director Labrita King-Copeland, Fire Chief Kristin Kennedy, Library Director Tammy Henry, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Police Chief George Staudinger and Utilities Director John Spraggins. City Professionals in attendance: Housing Property Standard Officer Christopher Smallwood, Deputy Building Official Ricky Carlson, Licensed Engineer Chris Casey, Human Resources Specialist-Recruiting Eliza Phillips-Wyatt and Assistant Police Chief Joseph Weierick.

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

Mayor Lowe led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon James Hardin with Alabama Department of Public Health to address Council as listed on the Agenda. Mr. Hardin came forward and thanked council for allowing him the opportunity. Mr. Hardin reviewed the Alabama Department of Public Health current rate and fee schedule. Mr. Hardin stated that there has been an increase and the Environmental Division is proposing a revised fee schedule that more accurately reflects the increased cost of operations. Mr. Hardin also stated many of the fees would remain unchanged. Mr. Hardin also stated this was something that the County commission would approve. Mayor Lowe inquired about the time frame for the changes. Mr. Hardin stated the time frame depends on different factors. Councilmember Day inquired if the fee changes were for Russell County only. Mr. Hardin stated that every county has different laws. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Hardin for addressing Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Director of Engineering/Public Works Angel Moore, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their June 24, 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 July 1, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
2. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2025 in observance of the Independence Day Holiday.
3. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.
4. Advised Council that the Phenix City / Russell County Library Board will meet on Friday, July 11, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

5. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session meeting to be held on Monday, July 14, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
6. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
7. Advised Council that the Downtown Redevelopment Authority, will meet on Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.
8. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals will meet on Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
9. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.
10. Informed Council that Food Truck Friday will be held on Friday, July 25, 2025 at Phenix City Lively District located at 1101 5th Street, Phenix City.
11. Advised Council of the Housing Abatement Board meeting will be held on Friday, August 1, 2025 at 9:00 am.
12. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session meeting to be held on Monday, August 4, 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, August 5, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
14. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.
15. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session meeting to be held on Monday, August 18, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
16. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
17. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals will meet on Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 5:30pm.
18. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.
19. Advised Council that Tuesday, August 26, 2025 was Election Day for the City of Phenix City and the Phenix City Russell County School Board.
20. Reviewed upcoming Board Appointments.

Councilmember Day inquired about the updates and status of Crowell Park and Meadow View Subdivisions. Director of Engineering/Public Works Angel Moore stated that their department is actively working. Ms. Moore also stated that all the debris have been removed from the bank area. Ms. Moore further stated that they are still waiting on the correspondence. Ms. Moore stated that they are waiting on the grant for FEMA. Ms. Moore also stated that once the drains were cleaned out, there have not been any complaints. Councilmember Day inquired about how the Citizens that live on Jackson Drive and how they are able to receive grant funding. Ms. Moore stated that the grant would have to be applied for by the City and that the type of grant would be for buyouts. Ms. Moore also stated that the grants would have to be approved before any funds can be disbursed and used. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the FEMA Program is in place for Alabama residents to receive assistance in known flood zone areas.

Councilmember Day inquired about the sanitary sewer line off South Railroad Street. Director of Engineering/Public Works Angel Moore stated that they had to remove some trees and then they can start their relocation project. Councilmember Day inquired about if the project should be finished by the start of school. Engineering Director Angel Moore stated that is the plan, however, it depends on the weather and work load.

City Manager Wallace Hunter called upon Director of Engineering Angel Moore to explain about the barricade. Engineering Director Angel Moore stated that on South Railroad Street they had put up barricades because the street is too dangerous for anyone to ride on.

Councilmember Day inquired about a status update on Austin Summary Park. Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Hughes stated that they are still in the planning stage with the architects. Councilmember Day asked if the Horse Arena was a part of the plans.

Councilmember Day inquired about the lights at the ball field. Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Hughes stated that it would take the company four to six weeks to fix the lights. Mr. Hughes also stated that they are waiting for most of the lights to get there before they get with the contractor. Mr. Hughes further stated that it would not be until September and October before the lights will be installed.

City Manager Wallace Hunter asked Todd Hughes to come up and provide an update of the Golf Course. Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Hughes stated that the work at the Golf Course has been completed.

Councilmember Green inquired about Edmond Estates being closed down and wanted to know what the city was going to do with the property. Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble stated that the property owner is currently in prison. Mr. Gamble further stated that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was over Edmond Estates and they filed for bankruptcy. Mr. Gamble also stated that they may be in the process of selling it to an investor. Mr. Gamble also stated that they asked HUD to lock down the property. Mr. Hunter congratulated the Phenix City Baseball Team on their championships.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

Mayor Lowe stated that there being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until July 14, 2025.