

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
October 6, 2025

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met at 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time for the regularly scheduled Work Session on Tuesday, October 6, 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, Councilmember 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: Chief Building Official Ray Rogers, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Engineering/Public Works Director Angel Moore, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Library Director Tammy Henry, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Acting Police Chief Joseph Weierick, and Utilities Director John Spraggins. City Professionals in attendance: Licensed Engineer Chris Casey.

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

Councilmember Bailey led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon NaKeitha Jackson Cobb to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Ms. Cobb stated that she wanted to speak to Council regarding an accident she had in September 2023 on Whitewater Avenue. Ms. Cobb also stated that she had the right of way and a green light but that she hit the other vehicle because he pulled out in front of her. Ms. Cobb further stated that the Phenix City Police Officer that took their statements was belligerent and mean to her. Ms. Cobb stated that her vehicle had most of the damage but the officer took the statement of the other driver first and she did not think that was right. Ms. Cobb also stated that the paramedics and the fire personnel came to her and took her statement first. Ms. Cobb read the report of the accident to Council. Ms. Cobb stated that right after the accident she looked at the light and it was yellow and that it had to be green when the accident occurred. Ms. Cobb also stated that she had to have the traffic accident report corrected several times due to incorrect information. Ms. Cobb further stated that neither her or the other driver received citations for the accident. Ms. Cobb stated that she attempted to speak to the Chief of Police on many occasions but that she was always told he was busy and she did not receive a call back when leaving her contact information. Ms. Cobb also stated that she was not treated fairly and she read the October 2023 amended statement to Council. Mayor Lowe clarified with Ms. Cobb that the accident occurred in September of 2023 and inquired as to why she was just now coming to Council to address the issue. Ms. Cobb stated that she had attempted to address the issue with her attorney and the court system but due to the way the traffic report was handled it did not work out and that is why she is stating that the Police Department is at fault for the issues. Mayor Lowe inquired if her attorney ever contacted the City's attorney and Ms. Cobb stated that they did not. Mayor Lowe asked what the outcome was with the attorney and Ms. Cobb stated that once she lost the case, she never heard from the attorney again. Ms. Cobb stated that instead of doing an appeal, she decided to address Council. Ms. Cobb is asking for financial reimbursements for her time away from work and repairs on the vehicle. Mayor Lowe stated the Council cannot approve what she is requesting and he is not certain but the statute of limitations may have run out. Mayor Lowe asked Acting Chief of Police Joseph Weierick to address Ms. Cobb. Chief Weierick reviewed with Ms. Cobb the circumstances of the accident and provided her with the next steps to appeal the report findings.

Mayor Lowe stated that the Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for September 23, 2025 was canceled due to no agenda items.

Mayor Lowe stated that Council would review the calendars for October 2025 and November 2025 in their agenda books and asked for any questions.

1. The regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
2. The Phenix City and Russell County Library Board will meet on Friday, October 10, 2025.
3. The City Offices will be closed on Monday, October 13, 2025 in observance of the Columbus Day Holiday.
4. The Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.
5. The Downtown Redevelopment Authority will meet on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.
6. The Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals will meet on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
7. The regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, October 20, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.
8. The regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
9. The South Girard High School Class of 1965 will have their 60th Class Reunion to be held on Friday, October 24, 2025 at Hampton Inn by Hilton in Phenix City.
10. The Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.
11. The Parks and Recreation will hold the 3rd Annual Sensory Friendly Truck or Treat on Thursday, October 30, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Garrett-Harrison Stadium.
12. The regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, November 3, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.
13. The regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
14. The City Offices will be closed on Tuesday, November 11, 2025 in observance of the Veterans Day Holiday.
15. The Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, November 12, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.
16. The regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.
17. The regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
18. The NLC Convention is to take place Wednesday, November 19, 2025 through Saturday, November 22, 2025.
19. The Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals will meet on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
20. The Planning Commission for Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. has been canceled due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.
21. The City Offices will be closed on Thursday, November 27, 2025 and November 28, 2025 in observance of the Thanksgiving Day Holiday.

Mayor Lowe reviewed upcoming Board Appointments. City Clerk Shannon Davis came in late due to an unforeseen circumstance.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the status of the 14th Street Project. Engineering/Public Works Director Angel Moore provided an update on the progress and stated that they are in the appraisal process.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the status of water leaks through out the City. Utilities Director John Spraggins reviewed previous list of water leak issues and at what stage of completion it was in the process. Mr. Spraggins stated that they have contractor's working on the issues ongoing.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the status of the Moon Lake Project. Engineering/Public Works Director Angel Moore stated that they are pending feedback from the contractor before providing the updated information to Council.

Councilmember Gordy inquired about the Utilities Department billing delays and requested that they provide an overview of the issue and how the process is working with Citizens. Utilities Director John Spraggins provided an overview of the circumstances that led to the delay in Utility Billing. Mr. Spraggins stated that the recent Munis System migration caused a two-week delay in the system which delayed the readings to be uploaded for the bills. Mr. Spraggins also stated that the department is working diligently to bring the billing up to date. Mr. Spraggins further stated that they prepared in advance for the migration however, there were unexpected issues. Councilmember Gordy clarified that due to the issues, the Citizens are being billed later than normal for the services and that the two-week delay does not go against the Citizen in terms of shutting off their services. Mr. Spraggins confirmed that the Citizens still have the same amount of time to pay their bills. Mayor Lowe encourage Mr. Spraggins to ensure that when they speak to the Citizens, that they communicate that the bill amounts may be different than normal due to the longer time-frame within the billing cycle but that they will even out and they will only be billed for what they use. City Manager Wallace Hunter reiterated migration timeframe in reference to Utilities and the Finance Department.

Councilmember Gordy inquired about the enhancements to the Munis System with the upgrade. Utilities Director John Spraggins provided an overview of several enhancements in the process in the billing system, automation and time efficiencies. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the new system will be beneficial in the upcoming project to update the water meters through out the City.

Councilmember Day inquired about water leaks and what are the percentages based on the work that has been completed and what is currently still pending. Utilities Director John Spraggins stated that they are working the list and that the leaks that are severe are the priority. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that some of the water leaks are on the customer's side of the meter and others are coming from other companies causing damage to the underground. Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble provided an overview of the work that the IT Department is currently working on with GIS Technology to be able to see the correlation between underground installations movement and the leaks and that while this would not be the cause of all the leaks, it can be a percentage. Councilmember Day inquired about the contractor's returning to fix the leak if it should leak again. Mr. Gamble stated that for the contractors that the City has hired to perform the work, they do have a guarantee on their work.

Councilmember Day inquired about the status of the Arthur Sumbry Park Project and if it will be possible to place the plan up in the area for Citizens to view. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that as soon as they have a confirmed plan, they will post it for Citizens to view.

Mayor Lowe reviewed the agenda items.

Mayor Lowe stated that there being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until October 20, 2025.