

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 2026

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, January 5, 2026, 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 Vickie Carter Green, Councilmember Steve Bailey, Councilmember Jasponica G. Florence, 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, Golf Manager Mike Barber, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, IT Director Mike Bauer, Library Director Tammy Henry, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Police Chief Joseph Weierick and Director of Utilities John Spraggins. City Professionals in attendance: Licensed Engineer Chris Casey.

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

Councilmember Green led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon Ms. Patricia Bowman to address Council as listed on the agenda. Ms. Bowman stated that her family has been in Phenix City for 26 years. Ms. Bowman also stated that she is addressing Council in order to request that her property be annexed into the Phenix City Limits so that her grandchildren may continue to the Phenix City School District. Ms. Bowman stated that her daughter previously drove her children to school however, due to her job status, she is not able to take them any longer and they need to be able to ride the bus. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Bowman for addressing Council. Mayor Lowe stated that the properties around Ms. Bowman's property have not been annexed into the City. Mayor Lowe also stated that the Council is always consistent with their procedures and that they have had other similar requests for annexation that they will not be able to approve. Mayor Lowe recommended that Ms. Bowman go to the Phenix City Russell County School Board and discuss the issues with them directly. Councilmember Bailey inquired as to if Ms. Bowman has communicated with the Phenix City Russell County School Board. Ms. Bowman stated that she was told it was up to them to transport. Mayor Lowe stated that it was not the correct process and that Ms. Bowman should reach back out to the board.

Mayor Lowe stated that the Planning Commission meeting on December 23, 2025 was cancelled due to the Christmas holiday.

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

1. Advised Council of a scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
2. Informed Council that the Assistant Chief of Police Promotional Ceremony for Donnie Thomas will be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.
3. Informed Council that on Friday, January 9, 2026 Ft. Benning will hold a New Year's Reception at 6:00 p.m.

4. Advised Council that the Phenix City Russell County Library Board will meet on Friday, January 9, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
5. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.
6. Advised Council that the Downtown Redevelopment Association will meet on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
7. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals will meet on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
8. Informed Council that the City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2025 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.
9. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
10. Advised Council of a scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
11. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.
12. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, February 2, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
13. Advised Council of a scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
14. Advised Council that the State of City Address will be held on Thursday, February 5, 2026.
15. Advised Council that the Housing Abatement Board Meeting will be held on February 6, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
16. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.
17. Informed Council that the City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 16, 2025 in observance of the President's Day Holiday.
18. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, February 17, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
19. Advised Council of a scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
20. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals will meet on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
21. Informed Council that the Elected Officials Luncheon will be held on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.
22. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.
23. Reviewed upcoming Board Appointments.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that there had been a variance dispute with the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals that has put the City in an unfair position. Mr. Hunter asked Assistance City Manager Chan Gamble to provide an overview of the issue.

Councilmember Green inquired about meeting with the Tree Commission and recommend that the board be decommissioned and then create a new board for Keeping Phenix City Beautiful. Mayor Lowe inquired as to if Councilmember Green has communicated her recommendations to Janice Snead and she stated that she has discussed it with her. Mayor Lowe stated that his

recommendation would be to incorporate the Keep Phenix City Beautiful into the existing Tree Commission.

Councilmember Green stated that she has received feedback from Citizens in regards to the clean-up of the dumped tires and that they have noticed a reduction and thanks the City for their efforts. City Manager Wallace Hunter asked Engineering/Public Works Director Angel Moore to review her recommendation on additional tire clean-up efforts. Ms. Moore recommended that the City have a tire recycle day to encourage Citizens (residential only) to bring the tires to be recycled at a centralized location.

Councilmember Green inquired about the current staffing statistics and whether the City has staffing to begin running the street sweeper more often. Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain stated provided an overview of the hiring numbers and stated that the hiring forecast is on the increase. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the new street sweeper vehicle is over a half of a million dollars. Councilmember Florence inquired if the City utilizes temporary employees. Ms. Chastain stated that it one of the resources that they use and provided an overview of the process to bring in a temporary employee. Ms. Chastain also stated that it is more costly for the City to use a temporary agency versus hiring a permanent employee. Councilmember Day inquired as to the length of time a temporary employee has to work before being brought on to permanent and Ms. Chastain stated 720 hours. Mr. Hunter stated that it is still challenging to hire and retain good employees that are willing to work. Councilmember Florence inquired if the hiring numbers reflected temporary employees and Ms. Chastain stated that it did not include temporary.

Engineering/Public Works Director Angel Moore provided an overview of the 22 vacancies that she has within her department. Ms. Moore stated that on a daily basis, she will have an average of five callouts. Councilmember Day inquired if they are allowing overtime for the employees that are willingly to work. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that they do allow them overtime but that at a point, they get burned out. Mr. Hunter stated that other cities across the region and country have the same issues.

Councilmember Bailey inquired as to the status of the Moon Lake Project. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes stated that if the weather continues to cooperation the project should remain on schedule.

Councilmember Bailey inquired as to the status of the Miracle Park Project. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes stated that they have had one issue with a water line that they need to investigate to determine how much to drop it in order to continue the construction. Engineering/Public Works Director Angel Moore stated that they have engaged a surveyor to conduct the investigation. Mr. Hughes stated that they discovered a sewer line that also will need to be lowered.

Councilmember Bailey inquired as to the status of the South Side Park lighting. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes stated that the work has been on schedule. Councilmember Bailey inquired as to the timeframe for completion. Mr. Hughes stated that it should be completed within a couple of weeks due to the holiday delays.

Councilmember Bailey inquired as to the status of the 4th Avenue Project. Engineering/Public Works Director Angel Moore stated that they are submitting the final information to ALDOT and that if there are any changes, those will need to be completed. Ms. Moore stated that the Bid should go out in a March or April timeframe.

Councilmember Day inquired about the status of the project around 13th Street. Engineering/Public Works Director Angel Moore stated that they are submitting a resolution for the 16 parcels and she will be further discussing with the City Manager.

Councilmember Florence inquired about the Abatement process and communication for the 10 properties. Chief Building Official Ray Rogers provided an overview.

Councilmember Day inquired about the American Legion Building on Old Seale Road. Chief Building Official Ray Rogers stated that he spoke with Mr. Alexander and that they are having issues with attracting new members that they need in order to move forward with any plans. Councilmember Day inquired if the State currently owns the building. Mr. Rogers stated that it is owned by the American Legion Post and governed by a local chapter.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Crowell Park ongoing work. Engineering/Public Works Director Angel Moore stated that they are still monitoring the drainage systems to ensure they are clear and not stopped up. Ms. Moore also stated that they were denied for one of the grants but they are still working with NRC and they are continuing the work. Councilmember Florence inquired if there are any additional grants they could apply for. Ms. Moore stated that the NRC is a grant and that they are consistently searching for more grant opportunities.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Meadow Lane and Austin Sumbry Park Projects. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes stated that for Austin Sumbry Park they are currently working on the plan for the water lines. Ms. Hughes also stated that the Meadow Lane Park work is ongoing. Mr. Hughes further stated that if Citizens would like to use the fields, they need to request that the lights be cut on.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Entertainment District. Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan stated that the designs are being finalized and once they are completed there will be a review and if no changes, they can develop the construction plans.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

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