

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 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, May 4, 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 Vickey 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 James Graham. Department Heads in attendance: Chief Building Official Ray Rogers, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Finance Director Labrita King-Copeland, 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, Assistant Chief of Police Donnie Thomas, 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 Florence led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon William W. Randle to address Council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Randle requested that his property located at 1816 Pierce Road be considered for annexation into the City of Phenix City for Utilities, Fire, and Police services. Mr. Randell stated that the homes on either side of his property are within the City limits and that the additional taxes would generate additional revenue for the City. Mr. Randell also stated that based on Resolution #2025-291 the Moratorium ended on March 3rd. Mayor Lowe inquired as to how long Mr. Randell has owned the property. Mr. Randell stated that he has owned the property for 11 years. Mr. Randell also stated the he purchased the property for his daughter and now that she has children, he is requesting the annexation; the school district is another reason for the request. Mr. Randell further stated that at the time of the sale, the agent did not disclose that the property was not in the Phenix City School District. All of the properties around his property are in the district, so it was an assumption that his was as well. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the previous property owners did not chose to annex into the City when the ones around that property were annexed. Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble stated that although a Moratorium is in place, there are previsions in place if the property will be covered by the City's Police and Fire Departments. Councilmember Bailey inquired as to what the difference would be for the City if Mr. Randell's property was not annexed when all of the properties touching his property are annexed into the City. Councilmember Bailey stated that it does not make sense that all of the children in the homes around his property are picked up by the bus, but his property, being in the middle of the area, would not be allowed to be picked up. Councilmember Bailey also stated that Mr. Randell's property is surrounded by the City limits. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Randell for addressing Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Licensed Engineer Chris Casey to discuss the actions taken at the Planning Commission Meeting for April 28, 2026.

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, May 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
2. Informed Council that the Chattahoochee Valley Community College will hold their Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 8, 2026 at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center at 10:00 a.m.
3. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.
4. Informed Council that the Chattahoochee Valley Community College will hold the Business and Industry Luncheon at Key Hall on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
5. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, May 18, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
6. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
7. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026 has been cancelled.
8. Advised Council that the City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2026 in observance of Memorial Day.
9. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.
10. Informed Council that Parks and Recreation will hold a Summer Camp on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at the Phenix City Youth Center and Roy Martin Center.
11. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, June 1, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
12. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
13. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.
14. Informed Council that Parks and Recreation will hold an Annual Youth Fishing Rodeo on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at the Idle Hour Park Moon Lake.
15. Informed Council that Parks and Recreation will hold The Summer Fun On 5th Event at the Phenix City Youth Sports Complex on Saturday, June 13, 2027 starting at 10:00 a.m.
16. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, June 15, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
17. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Activities Center.
18. Advised Council that the City Offices will be closed on Friday, June 19, 2026 in observance of Juneteenth/Freedom Day Holiday.
19. Informed Council that Parks and Recreation will hold the Core H.O.R.D.E Festival Revival on Friday, June 19, 2026 at 8:00 p.m. at the Phenix City Amphitheater.
20. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.
21. Informed Council of the upcoming Board Appointments.

Councilmember Green stated that a Citizen has advised that the Popular Springs Park located off 12th Street needed to be cleaned up. Councilmember Green inquired about the status of manpower to clean up debris on 28th Street and Dillingham Street. Licensed Engineer Chris Casey stated the Dillingham Street location has been cleaned up. Mr. Casey also stated that the remaining addresses are commercial properties and need to be cleaned up by the owners.

Councilmember Day inquired about the limbs that are located at 9th Place and 20th Avenue. Licensed Engineer Chris Casey stated that they would investigate.

Councilmember Green inquired about the status of hiring summer employees for Parks and Recreation. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes stated that they have been conducting interviews and have hired some staff. Mr. Hughes also stated that the pools are scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend and that all pools will open when they are sufficiently staffed. Mr. Hughes further stated that both of the Summer Camps are at full capacity. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the South Side Pool is in bad shape and needs to be completely redone and that they may propose a large splash pad in its place.

Councilmember Florence inquired about an update on the Moon Lake Project. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes stated that the project is still in progress and provided an update and stated that one of the fishing platforms on the west side had some issues and the Engineers had to go back to the plans to determine what caused the problem in order to determine a resolution. Mr. Hughes also stated that the pavilion and the fishing platform on the east side are coming along fine.

Councilmember Green inquired about the project on 21st Court and the demolition on the old medical buildings. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that they are in the process of working on that demolition project now.

Councilmember Bailey stated that as they attended the Alabama League of Municipalities Conference in Birmingham, they were able to network with several mayors and council members from different parts of Alabama. Councilmember Bailey also stated that many of the issues that the City of Phenix City is experiencing are also being experienced by the other municipalities. Councilmember Bailey further stated that the most common issue shared with all of the Cities is the rising cost of Utilities. Councilmember Bailey stated that the workforce shortages are affecting all of the other cities to a degree and everyone is experiencing the same issues with hiring and retaining employees.

Councilmember Bailey stated that a couple of Citizens asked him about items that they own that is on the City's property at the Miracle Field. Councilmember Bailey also stated that he informed them that it should be on their property and not the City's and one of the items is a gazebo. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes stated that the citizen that owns the gazebo has been great to work with on the issue, and that he has met with them. Mr. Hughes also stated that engineering has marked for the property lines.

Councilmember Florence inquired about the 4th Avenue Project. Licensed Engineer Chris Casey provided an overview of the remaining timeline and stated that the project was in the final stages.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Arthur Sumbry Park Project. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that they have received a preliminary cost estimate and that it was very high at 9 million and that they must make some modifications to the plan to bring down the cost.

Councilmember Day inquired about homes being built on 20th Avenue and 9th Place. Licensed Engineer Chris Casey stated that the builder's preliminary plots and construction plans have been approved, but they are still pending additional approvals with the City. Councilmember Day inquired about the approximate number of homes to be built. Mr. Casey stated around 14 homes but that they need to be confirmed by the builder. Councilmember Day stated he was concerned about the traffic the new subdivision may cause. Mr. Casey stated that the entrance will be off 9th Place which will help with any traffic issues.

Councilmember Day inquired about Building Permits costs on the monthly report. Chief Building Official Ray Rogers provided an overview of the permit requirements and costs.

Mayor Lowe stated that he prepares his questions in advance and provides those to Mr. Hunter, who calls on the Department Heads for additional clarification.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

Councilmember Day moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character for 45 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Green seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 4:40 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 5:22 p.m.

Mayor Lowe stated that there being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until May 18, 2026.