

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
June 1, 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, June 1, 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 McKoon. 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, IT Director Mike Bauer, Library Director Tammy Henry, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Chief of Police Joseph Weierick, and Director of Utilities John Spraggins. City Professionals in attendance: HR Specialist Eliza Phillips-Wyatt and 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 Licensed Engineer Chris Casey to discuss the actions taken at the Planning Commission Meeting for May 26, 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, June 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
2. Informed Council that the Phenix City Russell County Library will hold the Unearth A Story-Summer Reading Program on Thursday, June 4, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.
3. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.
4. 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, 2026 starting at 10:00 a.m.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Advised Council that the District Two Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the Central Activities Center.
8. Advised Council that the City Offices will be closed on Friday, June 19, 2026 in observance of Juneteenth/Freedom Day Holiday.
9. 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.
10. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.
11. Informed Council that the Phenix City Mayor's Education and Charity Ball will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2026 at the Columbus Trade Center at 7:00 p.m.

12. Advised Council that the City Offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2026 in observance of the 4th of July Holiday.
13. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, July 6, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
14. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
15. Advised Council that the Library Board Meeting will be held on Friday, July 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
16. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.
17. Advised Council that the Downtown Redevelopment Authority will meet on Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
18. Informed Council that the Phenix City Russell County Library will hold the Unearth A Story-Summer Reading Program Finale on Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
19. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, July 20, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
20. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
21. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 5:15 p.m.
22. Informed Council of the upcoming Board Appointments.

Councilmember Green inquired about the timeframe for the Phenix City Russell County Library's Unearth A Story-Summer Reading Program. Library Director Tammy Henry stated that the program begins on June 4, 2026 and runs through July 16, 2026.

Councilmember Green inquired about the Skate Center Redevelopment Project. Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan stated that it is currently going through the budgeting process and that the owners are very excited for the opportunity. Mr. Culligan provided an additional status on the next steps for the project. Mr. Culligan stated that the location would be in the same building as the previous Skate Center.

Councilmember Green inquired about the grant funding received for the resurfacing projects. City Manager Wallace Hunter provided an overview of all of the repairing projects. Mr. Hunter referred to a project list that he previously provided with all of the repaving projects listed for Council to review along with the City's cost and the grants received.

Councilmember Green inquired about the intersection of Highway 280 and 16th Avenue and the lane that has been shut down. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that ALDOT (Alabama Department of Public Transportation) is responsible for that intersection. Councilmember Green inquired about redefining the lines to ensure drivers can see the route. Mr. Hunter stated that they can reach out to ALDOT and asked about the timeline for that completion.

Councilmember Green inquired about Parks and Recreation full-time youth employment. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City has many job openings especially with Parks and Recreation. Mr. Hunter also stated that last year they developed a youth program that would include several of the City's departments which would have youth partnering with them to work on the weekends. Mr. Hunter further stated that they worked diligently to build the program with local businesses and churches to have a well-defined, multi-cultured program for the youth that would teach them about jobs in the City; however, they had hardly no interest in participation. Mr.

Hunter stated that the youth that are at the most disadvantaged are the ones that need the program and they would be paid for their work while learning. Mr. Hunter also stated that they do have plans to continue to work on the program. Mr. Hunter further stated that the Citizens have to be willing to get their kids involved in these opportunities and that the City is willing to do what they can to ensure that they are successful. Mr. Hunter stated that they need the assistance of the entire Community and all of the churches to bring the youth to the program.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the status of the 14th Street Project. Licensed Engineer Chris Casey stated that the reports from the appraiser have been submitted to ALDOT and that they are waiting on their feedback. Councilmember Bailey also inquired as to how many property owners were involved. Mr. Casey stated that there are 15 property owners.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the orange ribbons on various telephone poles and survey stakes along Riverchase Drive. Licensed Engineer Chris Casey stated that City Manager Wallace Hunter asked that they review the lighting and to add lighting as needed to ensure Citizens Safety.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about a status update on the Moon Lake Project. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes provide a status updated on the work currently being completed.

Councilmember Florence inquired about the process a Citizen should follow if they hit a pot hole in the City. Licensed Engineer Chris Casey stated that the Engineering Department may receive a call from the City Clerk's Office if a Citizen calls in to report a pot hole. Mr. Casey stated that the Citizen can submit a claim to the City Clerk's Office for damage that may have received by hitting the pot hole. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that it is a State Law that if the City has not been notified of the pot hole prior to someone hitting it, the City is not liable for the damage. Councilmember Day inquired that once the pot hole has been reported to the City and then another Citizen hits it, is the City then liable for the damage. Mr. Hunter stated that the City has to have time to go out and investigate as quickly as possible and place cones or block it off around the pot hole to ensure drivers are then aware of the issue.

Councilmember Day inquired about the American Legion building on Old Seale Road and stated that the grass on the property is becoming overgrown. Chief Building Official Ray Rogers stated that the owners have been contacted several times about cleaning up the property. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the building is a historic building and that he recommends that Citizens that are military or veterans should come together to assist with the building as it has been in the past. Mr. Hunter also stated that he would work with Mr. Rogers to follow-up with on the issue along with Councilmembers that are involved over District Three to assist with engaging the Citizens.

Councilmember Day inquired about the status of any development on Crosswinds Drive Traffic Study. Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan stated that the Traffic Study has been completed and they have taken the recommendations from the study to the developers and they provided the estimate on the costs to the property owners. Mr. Culligan also stated that they are waiting on the property owner's response before they can move forward.

Councilmember Day inquired about the status of the Sporting Goods Store proposed development and why the project was put on hold. Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan stated that the proposed business was going to locate in an existing building but the property owners could not come to an agreement with the potential investors.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Arthur Sumbry Park Project. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that due to the issues with costs associated with the water lines for the project, he has been meeting with Building, Utilities and Fire on an updated plan to ensure that they can get the sufficient amount of water for the new building. Mr. Hunter also stated that they are working to update the plan for the building size due to the costs and that they will be able to present a new plan in the near future.

Councilmember Day inquired about the reason for the low number of new hires. HR Specialist Eliza Phillips-Wyatt stated that the low number of new hires is related to the applicants not passing the drug testing. Ms. Phillips-Wyatt also stated that applicants not showing up for interviews is another ongoing issue. Ms. Phillips-Wyatt provided an overview of the process that they follow when going to job fairs and receiving applications and then providing the resumes to the various departments to set up interviews. Ms. Phillips-Wyatt stated that many of the applicants also fail background checks.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on the 9th Place and 20th Avenue Housing Development. Licensed Engineer Chris Casey stated that the builder has approved construction plans and the City has completed all of the approvals that need to be approved.

City Manager Wallace Hunter provided a copy of the 1996 report published by the Phenix Citizen titled "Forward", a comprehensive report on a city in crisis. Mr. Hunter stated that he is using this report to lay the groundwork for a later presentation on how far the City has come since 1996 and moving forward. Mr. Hunter also stated that many of the current City employees have been here since 1996 and can see the positive changes that have occurred since this article. Mr. Hunter encouraged everyone to read the information and they will be able to see what has been accomplished to address the issues that were documented in the article. Mr. Hunter stated that the City has progressed tremendously since that time and have a lot more planned for future improvements.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

Mayor Lowe stated that there being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until June 15, 2026.