

**MEETING MINUTES  
February 19, 2020**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers within the Public Safety Building located at 1111 Broad Street, Phenix City, Alabama. Upon roll call, the following members of Council were present: Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr., Councilmember Vickey Carter Johnson, Councilmember Steve Bailey, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Also present were: City Manager Wallace Hunter, City Clerk Melony Lee, and City Attorney Jimmy Graham.

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

Reverend James A. Platt of Allen Temple AME Church was not present to deliver the invocation. Mayor Lowe called upon Councilmember Johnson to deliver the invocation

Councilmember Johnson led the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag.

Bridgette Monroe, Director of the East Alabama / West Georgia MDA, along with local Ambassadors Judith and Sophie Edwards presented the 2019 Golden Axe Award to the Phenix City Fire Department. Fire Chief Kristin Kennedy accepted the award.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the February 3, 2020 work session and the February 4, 2020 council meeting minutes for approval. Councilmember Day moved to approve the minutes, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe stated there was no unfinished business to address at this time.

Mayor Lowe presented Resolution No. 2020-51 to be ratified in reference to opposing the passage of HB124 by the Alabama Legislature.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-51**

Councilmember Johnson moved to ratify the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented Resolution No. 2020-52 to be ratified in reference to opposing the passage of SB57 by the Alabama Legislature.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-52**

Councilmember Day moved to ratify the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented Resolution No. 2020-53 to be ratified in reference to opposing the passage of SB142 by the Alabama Legislature.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-53**

Councilmember Day moved to ratify the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a previously tabled resolution in reference to the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a contract agreement with the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-54**

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to directing the Mayor and City Manager enter into a contract with Scenic Properties, LLC, for lobbyist services in an amount not to exceed \$17,500.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-55**

Councilmember Johnson moved to approve the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to accepting a 10 foot wide permanent and 10 foot wide temporary easement for Lot-9, Section One, Oakleaf Subdivision, Anne C. Jones, property owner.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-56**

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to the Satisfaction of a Special Assessment on property located at 700 Seale Road, Timothy E. Buford, owners.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-57**

Councilmember Day moved to approve the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded:

YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented three (3) Resolutions and Public Notices in reference to setting public hearing dates and fixing demolitions costs associated with the following properties located in Phenix City:

1. 711 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-58**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

2. 221 Seale Road

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-59**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

3. 1009 4<sup>th</sup> Street South

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-60**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the resolutions and public notices, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to declaring various personal items as surplus to be sold as scrap or destroyed at the City landfill.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-61**

Councilmember Johnson moved to approve the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to declaring various office items as surplus to be disposed of or destroyed at the City landfill.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-62**

Councilmember Day moved to approve the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with EastCoast Entertainment for Masters of Soul to perform at the Phenix City Art Park on April 17, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$10,200.00. (Budgeted Item)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-63**

Councilmember Day moved to approve the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to the purchase of one 2020 Chevrolet Express 15 Passenger Van from Donohoo Chevrolet in an amount not to exceed \$28,846.65. (Budgeted Item)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-64**

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to the purchase of one 2020 Ford F150 Supercab 4x2 Pickup from Stivers Ford Lincoln in an amount not to exceed \$23,909.00. (Budgeted Item)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-65**

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for first reading an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 2019-19 Authorizing the Issuance of Water and Sewer Revenue Warrants, Series 2020A.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-01**

Councilmember Day moved to suspend the rules, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Phenix City, Alabama, Chapter 70 – Solid Waste, Section 70-29 – Unlawful Deposits of Garbage and Trash, Adding Section (D) – Placement.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-02**

Councilmember Johnson moved to approve the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded:

YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented two (2) openings on the Downtown Redevelopment Authority. Mayor Lowe called for nominations. Councilmember Johnson nominated to reappoint Susan Wiggins. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Gordy moved to reappoint Susan Wiggins, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed. Councilmember Gordy moved to table the second appointment, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented twelve (12) openings on the Census Complete Count Committee. Councilmember Day moved to appoint twelve individuals,<sup>1</sup> which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented two (2) openings on the Zoning Adjustment and Appeals Board. Mayor Lowe called for nominations. Councilmember Day nominated to appoint Debbie Harris. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Johnson moved to appoint Debbie Harris, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed. Mayor Lowe called for nominations. Councilmember Gordy nominated to reappoint Richard H. Coreno. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Bailey moved to reappoint Richard H. Coreno, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, Alabama filed by Chick-Fil-A of Phenix, Alabama. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that in December, 2019 the Phenix City Utilities Department contacted Chick-Fil-A to inform them that there was a leak on Chick-Fil-A's side of the water meter. City Attorney Graham also stated that Chick-Fil-A hired a plumber to dig up the line to discover that the leak was on the City's side. City Attorney Graham recommended paying the claim in the amount of \$181.25 which was the cost of the plumbing company. City Attorney Graham further stated that in this case, Chick-Fil-A would not have three estimates due to the fact that they hired and paid a plumber as instructed by the City. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to approve the claim in the amount of \$181.25, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

<sup>1</sup> Census Complete Count Committee: Ms. Muriel Battle, Reverend KeAnthony Brooks, Mr. Michael Cox, Ms. Moneka Dixon, Mr. Charlie Few, Mr. Steve Franklin, Mr. Ray Merideth, Ms. Jasponica Moore, Pastor Steve Pace, Ms. Phyllis F. Preer, Ms. Judy Senn, and Ms. Susan Tipton

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that he is delighted to bring the information to the Council and the citizens on the amount of funds saved by refinancing the Water and Sewer Warrants. Mr. Hunter also stated that it took three City Councils to see the end of and the conclusion of the warrants. Mr. Hunter further stated that more bonds will be refinanced at a later date which will bring on additional savings.

City Manager Wallace Hunter congratulated Fire Chief Kris Kennedy and the entire Fire Department on winning yet another Golden Axe Award from MDA. Mr. Hunter stated that the history of MDA and Fire Departments started out of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Hunter also stated that the Phenix City Fire Department has always been at the top in the State of Alabama. Mr. Hunter thanked the citizens of Phenix City for their generous donations of support. Mr. Hunter also thanked City employees for their continued support of not just MDA but United Way as well.

City Manager Wallace Hunter thanked Jack Hughston Hospital in Phenix City, Alabama for doing an excellent job in serving the citizens of Phenix City. Mr. Hunter stated that they are not just a Rehab Hospital but one that services the community and takes in a lot of patients. Mr. Hunter also stated that Phenix City is doing good and on the move up.

Councilmember Bailey thanked the Department Heads for their hard work and dedication. Councilmember Bailey stated that sometimes the Department Heads go beyond the call of duty. Councilmember Bailey thanked Shaun Culligan and Jennifer Lowman of the Economic Development Department for taking time out to deliver meals to several kayakers at the Columbus River Walk last week. Councilmember Bailey thanked the W.C. Bradley Company for allowing the kayakers to train in that area. Councilmember Bailey also thanked the Council for being a part of the Riverfront team. Councilmember Bailey thanked the kayakers for their dedication to the kayaking sport. Councilmember Bailey stated that a Phenix City resident has won medals in kayaking and it is a growing sport. Councilmember Bailey also stated that a documentary on the kayaking group was being film at that time and it may be shown all over the world and Phenix City will be well represented.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that we must thank the visionary Mr. John Turner. Mr. Hunter stated that Mr. Turner invested a lot of money, time and land. Mr. Hunter also stated that there is no competition between Columbus, Georgia and Phenix City, Alabama but we are one region and work well together.

Mayor Lowe thanked the Department Heads, City employees, and CTV Beam for providing services for the citizens of Phenix City, Alabama

Mayor Lowe called upon Reverend James A. Platt of Allen Temple AME Church to close meeting out in prayer. Reverend Platt came forward with a closing prayer.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until March 3, 2020.