

MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 2020

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 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 Robert Goodman of Summerville Baptist Church delivered the invocation.

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

City Manager Wallace Hunter and Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain presented employee service recognitions to Christopher Johnson - 10 years, Shelia Brooks - 20 years, and Karl Taylorson - 25 years.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the February 18, 2020 work session and the February 19, 2020 council meeting minutes for approval. Councilmember Johnson moved to approve the minutes, 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 stated there was no unfinished business to address at this time.

Mayor Lowe presented Resolution No. 2020-66 to be ratified in reference to approving the final settlement in the matter of a claim filed by Curtis Bishop (for Shiloh Baptist) in the amount of \$3,824.86.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-66

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. 2020-67 to be ratified in reference to approving the final settlement in the matter of a claim filed by Willie Ingram (for Shiloh Baptist) in the amount of \$426.03.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-67

Councilmember Gordy 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. 2020-68 to be ratified in reference to authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with Alabama Power to install power for the Lift Station on Summerville Road in an amount not to exceed \$12,974.69.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-68

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. 2020-69 to be ratified in reference to directing and authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign Change Order No. 2 with Constantine Engineering in the amount of \$8,205.63 for the Summerville Road Sanitary Extension Project.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-69

Councilmember Bailey 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 a resolution in reference to granting a tax abatement to JVL Laboratories, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-70

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 approving the final settlement in the matter of a claim filed by Kenneth S. Nugent on behalf of Joel Barlow in the amount of \$20,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-71

Councilmember Day 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 approving the final settlement in the matter of a claim filed by Kenneth S. Nugent on behalf of Pearl Barlow in the amount of \$29,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-72

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 approving the final settlement in the matter of a claim filed by Kenneth S. Nugent on behalf of Matilde Luevanos Franco in the amount of \$36,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-73

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 a resolution in reference to rejecting bids received for the demolition of structures at the property located at 2113 9th Avenue.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-74

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 awarding a bid to J&J Land Development for the demolition and removal of a structure located at 308 16th Avenue South in the amount of \$4,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-75

Councilmember Johnson 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 five (5) resolutions in reference to awarding bids for the demolition and removal of structures on the following properties:

1. 1305 7th Avenue – Great Southern Furniture - \$2,200.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-76

2. 401 15th Avenue South - Great Southern Furniture - \$2,950.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-77

3. 2407 16th Court - Great Southern Furniture - \$1,800.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-78

4. 2409 16th Court - Great Southern Furniture - \$1,400.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-79

5. 707 8th Street – J&J Land Development - \$3,800.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-80

Councilmember Day moved to approve the resolutions, 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 authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign Change Order Number 1 with Budget Blinds & BCS of River City in the amount of \$3,660.20 to replace additional blinds on the 2nd and 3rd Floor of the Phenix City Municipal Building.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-81

Councilmember Day 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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to renew the bid with Hot Mix Asphalt Paving Bid Number E17-02.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-82

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 declaring one 2010 Ford F750 as surplus to be sold at auction or as scrap.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-83

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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with Midwood Entertainment for Seth Walker to perform at the Phenix City Art Park on April 17, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00. (Budgeted Item)

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-84

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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with Red 11 Music for Jaime Wyatt to perform at the Phenix City Amphitheater on April 24, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00. (Budgeted Item)

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-85

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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with Arcartist for Isaiah Sharkey to perform at the Phenix City Art Park on May 22, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00. (Budgeted Item)

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-86

Councilmember Day 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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with Intrepid Artist for Selwyn Birchwood to perform at the Phenix City Amphitheater on July 4, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00. (Budgeted Item)

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-87

Councilmember Bailey 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 rescinding Resolution No. 2020-47 in reference to the purchase of one 2020 Chevrolet Suburban.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-88

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 Tahoe from Donohoo Chevrolet in an amount not to exceed \$34,722.57. (Budgeted Item)

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-89

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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a contract with Thornton, Musso & Bellemin, Inc., for Sulfuric Acid and Purate, for a period of three years.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-90

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 one opening on the Downtown Redevelopment Authority. Councilmember Johnson moved to table the appointment, 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 two (2) openings on the Historic Preservation Commission. Mayor Lowe called for nominations. Councilmember Johnson nominated to reappoint Anthony Goodwin. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Gordy moved to reappoint Anthony Goodwin, 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 called for another nomination. Councilmember Bailey nominated to reappoint Jeremy Suchman. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Johnson moved to reappoint Jeremy Suchman, 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 an application for a Bonding Company License submitted by Moses Harper for Authority Bail Bonds, Inc. located at 123 Lee Street, Montgomery, AL 36104. Councilmember Day moved to place the application on first reading, 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 an application for an Off Premise Beer License and Off Premise Wine License submitted by Troy Marshall and Terry PfortMiller for Aldi Inc. Alabama dba Aldi # 106 located at 3670 Marketplace Drive, Phenix City, Alabama. 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 Johnson moved to approve the applications, 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 quote from e'GPS SOULUTIONS for new GPS equipment in an amount not to exceed \$26,073.25.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-91

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.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that he has received several calls from the media and the community concerning the Coronavirus. Mr. Hunter called upon Fire Chief Kris Kennedy to explain what the community can do to prevent the spread of the disease. Chief Kennedy stated that the COVIP-19 better known as the Coronavirus, is a viral respiratory infection similar to the SARS Virus of 2003 and the MERS Virus of 2019, it is contagious. Chief Kennedy also stated that if a person is experiencing: coughing, shortness of breath, fever, or flu like system, to please seek medical attention. Chief Kennedy further stated that preventive measures include: avoiding sick people, avoiding large crowds of people, washing hands constantly, using alcohol based hand sanitizers, and coughing in tissue or elbow and not hands. Chief Kennedy suggested that if a person is running a fever and if their kids are sick and running a fever, to stay at home and avoid contact with people. Chief Kennedy encouraged everyone to not get offended if medical response dispatchers may ask additional questions when responding to certain calls. Chief Kennedy stated that the additional information will ensure the safety of the response workers and the community. Chief Kennedy also stated that the virus and outbreak are similar to viruses in the past.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the 2020 Census is very important and everyone needs to be counted. Mr. Hunter stated that the numbers will affect State and Federal Grants and programs allotted to the City based on population.

City Manager Wallace Hunter called upon Angel Moore, City Engineer, to discuss the Opelika Bridge project. Ms. Moore stated that Opelika Road and Cutrate Road will be closed for bridge replacement. Ms. Moore also stated that after utility work is complete, AT&T and cable lines have been moved, and then a start date can be determined. Ms. Moore further stated that a detour map will be placed on City's web site. Ms. Moore encouraged the travelers that use that route on a daily basis to go ahead and start taking alternate routes. Ms. Moore stated that the project will take approximately six to nine months depending upon the weather. Ms. Moore also stated that once complete, the new bridge will be three lanes wide and a lot higher to decrease flooding. Mr. Hunter stated that he wanted to make citizens aware of the upcoming bridge closure in the next few weeks.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that there are several different projects going on throughout the City. Mr. Hunter also stated that one of which is the Miracle Park, a park that will be a place for all of the community to enjoy with playground equipment that is handicap accessible. Mr. Hunter further stated that the committee as of right now, consist of himself, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Councilmember Griff Gordy, and Realtor Rodney Niles. Mr. Hunter stated that the committee will be expanding within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Hunter also stated that the park will be a community effort, funded by the city and public donations. Mr.

Hunter further stated that all kids will be able to enjoy themselves at the beautiful park. Mr. Hunter stated that the city is scouting out a neutral site for a dog park. Mr. Hunter also stated that the dog park will have rules and regulations that participants must follow as far as cleanup and safety. City Manager Wallace Hunter further stated that the weather has played a major part on the completion of some of the projects that are already in the works. Mr. Hunter stated that when it rains twenty out of thirty days in one month, the sun comes out, the ground is not dry and it causes delays. Mr. Hunter asked the community for patience during this season. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that City Manager Hunter has had a vision for a long time for the City to have a park that all can enjoy no matter the age or disability. Mr. Hughes also stated that the Miracle Park is going to take a lot of monetary support to bring such a quality project, the first of its kind to the area. Councilmember Bailey asked if the park will be assessable for just Phenix City or if Lee and Russell County residents and Columbus kids that may be disabled, be able to enjoy the park as well. Mr. Hunter stated that the park will be available for all under the umbrella of our region. Mr. Hunter also stated that Phenix City will have to be a leader so that other cities will follow.

Councilmember Johnson congratulated the employees that were recognized for over five years of service. Councilmember Johnson stated that it shows that the opportunity for job longevity exist in Phenix City. Councilmember Johnson thanked the Human Resources Department, for an outstanding job of recruiting dedicated employees. Councilmember Johnson stated that job retention for over twenty and thirty years is awesome and she looks forward to employee recognitions each month.

Councilmember Johnson stated that March 3, 2020 is voting day in Phenix City, Alabama for Primary Elections. Councilmember Johnson encouraged everyone to exercise their right to vote. Councilmember Johnson stated that elections have consequences and if you don't vote then your voice may not be heard.

Councilmember Johnson thanked City Manager Wallace Hunter for the work he does for the city and leading by example. Councilmember Johnson stated that Phenix City is on the move in a positive direction.

Councilmember Bailey thanked all the Department Heads, City employees and the citizens for making Phenix City a great city to live and work in. Councilmember Bailey stated that last year this time was a terrible time for our area. Councilmember Bailey also stated that everyone should take the time to remember the families of the twenty three lives lost in Beauregard and the citizens of Smiths Station, Alabama, Talbotton, Georgia and all that were affected by the storm on March 3, 2019. Councilmember Bailey further stated that Bubba Copeland, Mayor of Smiths Station, has asked if everyone at 3:03 p.m. could take a moment of silence and prayer to remember those who were affected by the storm and how far we have come in one year. Councilmember Bailey stated that people from our local communities and people all over who had no connections with the states of Alabama and Georgia pulled together to help those in need. Councilmember Bailey also stated that it is a great testament of what God does and bring triumph over tragedy. Councilmember Bailey further stated that everyone should love each other and lift each other up because it could be the last time that you have that opportunity.

Mayor Lowe stated that in order for a city or community to get ahead, they have to build the people up around them.

Mayor Lowe thanked CTV Beam for providing services for the citizens of Phenix City, Alabama.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until March 17, 2020.