

MEETING MINUTES
April 7, 2020

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m by the way of Zoom Video Conferencing. 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 by the way of Zoom Video Conferencing. Also present were: City Manager Wallace Hunter, City Clerk Melony Lee, and City Attorney Jimmy Graham by the way of Zoom Video Conferencing.

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

Reverend Tommy Poole of North Phenix Baptist Church was not present to deliver the invocation. Councilmember Gordy delivered the invocation.

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

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the March 16, 2020 Work Session for approval. Councilmember Day moved to approve the minutes, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Councilmember Bailey. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the March 17, 2020 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the minutes, 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 stated there was no unfinished business to address at this time.

Mayor Lowe presented Resolution No. 2020-104 to be ratified in reference authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with Earth-Scapes, Inc. to improve ADA and pedestrian accessibility along 14th Street between 5th Avenue and Broad Street in the amount of \$425,328.75.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-104

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. 2020-105 to be ratified in reference to authorizing Alabama Power Company to provide electrical power for the newly installed traffic signal located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 431 South and College Drive.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-105

Councilmember Gordy 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 resolution in reference to emergency responders under the provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Act (FFRCA).

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-106

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 purchase of insurance from the Flowers Insurance Agency through American Zurich Insurance Company.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-107

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 adopting the policy for Public Records Request.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-108

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 and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Girard Partners, LP for the Ladonia Commercial Development.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-109

Councilmember Bailey 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 accepting the lowest quote from Line Men's Supply to purchase a Hydraulic Pruner and Pole Saw in an amount not to exceed \$1,540.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-110

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 the lowest quote from Ag-Pro to purchase a John Deere Z930 ZTrak Lawnmower in an amount not to exceed \$8,489.99.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-111

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 purchase of a 25 Lamp Wanco Arrowboard from Columbus Barricade and Safety in an amount not to exceed \$4,990.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-112

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 accepting the lowest quote from Northern Tools to purchase an Open Bay A/C Cooler in an amount not to exceed \$1,999.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-113

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 a resolution in reference to accepting the lowest quote from Advance Auto to purchase an A/C Cart in an amount not to exceed \$4,691.57.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-114

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 accepting the lowest quote from O'Reilly's to purchase a 6000 lb. Floor Crane in an amount not to exceed \$9,708.99.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-115

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 for first reading an Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Phenix City, Alabama, Chapter 22 – Elections, Section 22-1 (a) (1) – Districts of the City; Voting Places – District 1 – Change Voting Place. Councilmember Bailey moved to place the ordinance on first reading, 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. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented one opening on the Downtown Redevelopment Authority. Councilmember Day moved to table the appointment, 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 Phenix City Board of Education. Mayor Lowe called for nominations. Councilmember Day nominated to reappoint Mesha Ramsey Patrick. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Gordy moved to reappoint Mesha Ramsey Patrick, 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 called for another nomination. Councilmember Johnson nominated to reappoint Fran Ellis. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Day moved to reappoint Fran Ellis, 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 one opening on the Planning Commission for the position of Secretary / Administrative Official of the City, Shaun Culligan. Councilmember Gordy moved to table the opening, 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 Itemized Statement of Expense from Richard N. Carlson, Jr., Building Department, in the amount of \$211.03. Mayor Lowe called for a vote approving the Itemized Statement of Expense. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the Itemized Statement of Expense, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmember Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented an Itemized Statement of Expense from Ray Rogers, Building Department, in the amount of \$197.80. Mayor Lowe called for a vote approving the Itemized Statement of Expense. Councilmember Day moved to approve the Itemized Statement of Expense, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmember Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented an application for an On Premise Beer License, On Premise Wine License, On Premise Whiskey/Wine License, Billiards/Pool License, Dancing/Live Band License, and Dancing/Juke Box License submitted by Adriane M. Haines for Haines Entertainment, LLC dba Aces on 80 Bar and Grill located at 3928 Highway 80, Suite A and B, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Day moved to place the application on first reading, 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 an application for an On Premise Beer License, On Premise Wine License, Off Premise Beer License, and Off Premise Wine License submitted by Robert Renfroe for Renfroe, Inc. dba Renfroe's Market – Phenix City located at 3482 Crosswinds Road, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Gordy moved to suspend the rules, 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. Councilmember Day moved to approve the applications, 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.

City Manager Wallace Hunter asked all citizens to adhere to the instructions and guidelines of the Stay At Home Order, issued by Alabama's Governor Kay Ivey. Mr. Hunter stated that some people are following the guidelines and some are not which may lead to a City wide curfew. Mr. Hunter also stated that following the guidelines will be the only way to get the Coronavirus under control. Mr. Hunter further stated that First Responders, Fire Fighters, Police Officers, Doctors, Nurses and all hospital workers are putting their lives at risk to protect and serve. Mr. Hunter encouraged everyone to be safe, wear mask and gloves, and only go out of the house when necessary.

Councilmember Day thanked the Public Works Department and other City employees that are out in the community daily, putting their lives at risk also. Councilmember Day encouraged everyone to follow guidelines in place to help decrease the spread of the Coronavirus.

Councilmember Johnson thanked the IT Department for working diligently to ensure that the Council meeting would be available for the citizens.

Councilmember Johnson thanked the citizens who are following the guidelines to keep themselves and everyone safe during this time of crisis. Councilmember Johnson encouraged everyone to practice social distancing. Councilmember Johnson thanked all of the Health Care Providers, First Responders and all that are on the front line that are making sacrifices to maintain our safety. Councilmember Johnson stated that we don't know what the future holds concerning the Pandemic, but we do know who holds the future, and that is God. Councilmember Johnson encouraged everyone to continue to pray for our City, State, Country and World.

Councilmember Bailey stated that we do not know the exact number of people who have tested positive for the Coronavirus due to test being performed and possibly counted in other areas. Councilmember Bailey encouraged citizens not to let their guard down simply because Phenix City / Russell County recorded numbers are low. Councilmember Bailey stated that he doesn't want the community to panic either, but continue to follow the guidelines in place. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone to stay at home if they feel sick, or seek medical care, and not be out around others. Councilmember Bailey also stated that we all must do our part to not only save our lives but the lives of our loved ones and community. Councilmember Bailey reminded everyone that no amount of money is worth a person's life. Councilmember Bailey stated that we will become a stronger community after the crisis has passed.

Mayor Lowe stated that this is a time of assessment and we should think of others before we think of ourselves.

Mayor Lowe thanked the Citizens for trusting the leadership and for being obedient in following the guidelines to decrease the spread of the Coronavirus.

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

Mayor Lowe asked God to bless our City, State and Country.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until April 21, 2020.