

MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2020

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 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.

Councilmember Bailey delivered the invocation.

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

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing April as National Donate Life Month.

PROCLAMATION

The proclamation was read by City Clerk Melony Lee on Zoom Video Conferencing. Mayor Lowe stated that the official proclamation was mailed to the designated person and read for community awareness of the benefits of being an organ donor.

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

PROCLAMATION

The proclamation was read by City Clerk Melony Lee on Zoom Video Conferencing. Mayor Lowe stated that the official proclamation was mailed to the designated person and read for community awareness on sexual assault.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the April 6, 2020 Work Session and April 7, 2020 Council Meeting 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 a resolution in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Inc. to improve ADA and pedestrian accessibility along 14th Street between 5th Avenue and Broad Street in the amount of \$64,076.03.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-116

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 authorizing the Mayor, City Manager, and Fire Chief Kristin H. Kennedy to sign an MOU Agreement with Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-117

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 and Public Notice in reference to making application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for a Coronavirus Emergency Supplement Funding Program FY 2020 Formula Grant for financial assistance for the Police Department.

RESOLUTION PUBLIC NOTICE

Councilmember Day moved to place resolution on first reading and approve the public notice, 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 purchasing one Holmatro SR 20 PC2 gasoline power unit, one Holmatro CU 5160 Combination Tool, and two Holmatro 32' hydraulic hoses for Fire/Rescue Services Engine One from NAFECO in an amount not to exceed \$15,022.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-118

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 the purchase of two Holmatro SR 20 PC2 gasoline power units, two Holmatro CU 5160 Combination Tools, and two Holmatro 32' hydraulic hoses for Fire/Rescue Services Engine Three and Engine Four from NAFECO in an amount not to exceed \$30,837.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-119

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 a proposal from Constantine Engineering, Inc. and authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign Task Order 23 for the proposed Professional Engineering Services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$675,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-120

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 accepting a proposal from Constantine Engineering, Inc. and authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign Task Order 24 for the proposed Professional Engineering Services for the Wastewater Collection System Upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$495,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-121

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 accepting a proposal from Constantine Engineering, Inc. and authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign Task Order 25 for the proposed Professional Engineering Services for Bridgewater Drive Sewer Upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$130,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-122

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 accepting a proposal from Constantine Engineering, Inc. and authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign Task Order 26 for the proposed Professional Engineering Services for Saddlebrook Sewer Upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$89,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-123

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 accepting a proposal from Constantine Engineering, Inc. and authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign Task Order

27 for the proposed Professional Engineering Services for Summerville Road Water Main Extension in an amount not to exceed \$180,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-124

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 second 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-03

Councilmember Bailey 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. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading 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 Gordy moved to approve the applications, 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 Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, Alabama filed by Michael Scavone. Mr. Graham stated that on March 18, 2020 a vehicle owned by Mr. Scavone was involved in an automobile accident involving a police vehicle. Mr. Graham also stated that upon investigation the officer was at fault. Mr. Graham recommended paying the claim in the lowest estimate of \$6,498.45. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to pay the claim in the lowest estimate of \$6,498.45, 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 Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a subrogation claim against the City of Phenix City, Alabama filed by Equian Event, as assignee of ACCC Insurance Company, as subrogee of Lashanta Valentine-Adams. Mr. Graham stated that on December 20, 2019 Lashanta Valentine-Adams' parked and unoccupied vehicle was struck by a City vehicle in the parking lot of Wells Fargo Bank on 13th Street. Mr. Graham also stated that upon investigation, it was discovered that the City's vehicle jumped out of gear, rolled down an incline, and struck Ms. Valentine-Adams' vehicle. Mr. Graham further stated that the damages to the vehicle were considered a total loss and the three estimates required for a claim does not apply in this case. Mr. Graham recommended paying the subrogation claim in the amount of \$5,210.46 submitted by Equian. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to pay the subrogation claim in the amount of \$5,210.46 submitted by Equian, 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 the Utilities Department had a few resolutions on the Agenda today that have been in the works for years. Mr. Hunter also stated that it takes a lot of planning and preparation to maintain and update the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Water Filtration Plant that covers hundreds of miles underground throughout the city. Mr. Hunter further stated that the Utilities Department not only serves Phenix City for water and sewage needs, but also has contract agreements with Smiths Station for sewage treatment, Russell County Water Authority for water and sewage, and Ft Mitchell Water Jurisdiction for water and sewage and lines underneath the Chattahoochee River in Columbus, Georgia for water emergencies. Mr. Hunter stated that it is because of the City's credit rating that we are allowed to refinance debts and save funds to help pay for changes and upgrades. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that the City is in the process of refinancing the City's debt with a saving of three and a half million dollars over the next few years. Mr. Smith also stated that over half of the improvement projects will be financed with the funds saved from refinancing and grants from the federal government. Mr. Smith stated that Phenix City has the lowest water and sewer rates in the region with at least thirty five percent below the average rate.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City has a great team that is constantly looking for ways to save the City money. Mr. Hunter also stated that Fire Chief Kris Kennedy is diligently researching for available grants to help offset and or recover funding for Covid-19 precautionary expenses and hazard pay for frontline operators. Mr. Hunter further stated that all of the Department Heads are working together, to help save the City money and to look out for the safety of City Employees and citizens during this Pandemic. Mr. Hunter stated that he is very proud of the essential workers of the City, health care professional, and all who put their lives on the line to help others. Mr. Hunter thanked Mayor and Council for their patience and understanding as we all go through this Pandemic. Mr. Hunter also thanked the citizens who are abiding by the rules and regulations that have been set by the Local, State and Federal Government and for their patience as well.

Councilmember Johnson stated that she has received several phone calls concerning flooding in certain areas in District Two. Councilmember Johnson also stated that with the down pour of rain of over six inches on this past Sunday, water may be a little higher in some areas than others. Councilmember Johnson asked everyone to precede with caution when approaching these roadways. Councilmember Johnson stated that the City has one of the best drainage systems and the water should be receding soon.

Councilmember Johnson encouraged everyone to complete the 2020 Census. Councilmember Johnson stated that it is very important that everyone participates to ensure funding for schools, healthcare programs, roadways and improvement projects throughout the City. Councilmember Johnson also stated that the Census can be completed online, by phone or by mail.

Councilmember Johnson stated that the Coronavirus Pandemic has had an effect on all of us in one way or another. Councilmember Johnson also stated that this Pandemic is one that we have never seen before and prayerfully will not see again in our lifetime. Councilmember Johnson encouraged everyone to continue to practice social distancing, and wear a mask when going out in public, to not only protect ourselves but others as well. Councilmember Johnson thanked the City leaders, essential workers and all that are out daily making sure we all have a safe place to live.

Mayor Lowe stated that things may be tough right now but giving more of yourself relieves a burden off someone else. Mayor Lowe also stated that true humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less. Mayor Lowe further stated that we must remember that God is always in control.

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

Mayor Lowe thanked the Citizens for their understanding as we go through this together.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until May 5, 2020.