

**MEETING MINUTES
May 5, 2020**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 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 Johnson delivered the invocation.

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

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the April 20, 2020 Work Session and April 21, 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 declared that now was the time and place for a public hearing in reference to making application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for a Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program FY 2020 Formula Grant for financial assistance for the Police Department. Mayor Lowe stated that the phone lines were open for anyone wishing to address council concerning the grant application process should come forward and do so at this time. Mayor Lowe further stated that interested parties could dial (334) 448-2704 and speak with council. Chief of Police, Ray Smith stated that this supplemental grant will help with the unexpected expenses for Personal Protective Equipment, protective supplies and computer upgrades due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Chief Smith also stated that the grant comes from the Federal Government directly to our City. Chief Smith further stated that the public may call the Police Department at 334-448-2817 or the City Manager's office at 334-448-2702 by May 29, 2020 to make inquiries or recommendations. No one called in via phone. Mayor Lowe declared this portion of the public hearing closed. Mayor Lowe stated that concerned citizens have until May 29, 2020 to contact the City Manager's Office or the Phenix City Police Department.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to making application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for a Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program FY 2020 Formula Grant for financial assistance for the Police Department.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-125

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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with Lee County Commission acting on behalf of Lee County for the development of subdivisions within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipal Planning Commission.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-126

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 allowing a nonprofit food bank, Beyond Expectations Community Outreach to operate at 1101 1st Place South, in an R-2, Medium Density Residential Zone for a period not to exceed six months during the COVID-19 recovery.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-127

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 and directing the Mayor, City Manager, and Chief of Police to sign a contract agreement with Carfax to subscribe to Carfax investigative tools.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-128

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 and directing the Mayor, City Manager, and Chief of Police to sign a contract agreement with Spillman (Coplogic Interface) for an online reporting system in an amount not to exceed \$8,782.60.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-129

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 authorizing and directing the Mayor, City Manager, and Chief of Police to enter into an agreement with LexisNexis for an online desktop reporting system.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-130

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 Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) 2019 Annual Report.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-131

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 American Tank Maintenance and authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement for Professional Tank Maintenance Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-132

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 accept a work order from Peoples & Quigley, Inc. for professional engineering services for the 2020 AEMA Grant in an amount not to exceed \$8,500.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-133

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 for first reading an Ordinance to exempt certain items from the municipal sales and use tax during the third full weekend of July, 2020, referred to as the "Back-to-School" Sales Tax Holiday. Councilmember Day moved to place the ordinance on first reading, 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. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a Public Notice and Ordinance for first reading to amend the Code of Ordinances for the City of Phenix City, Alabama, Appendix A, Zoning; Article VI, Regulations Applying to all or Several Districts; Section 19 – Signs and Outdoor Advertising; Add Political Signs.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE

Councilmember Day moved to approve the public notice, 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 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. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that as the City grows, and adds new apartments and new subdivisions, it causes a strain on our lift stations. Mr. Hunter also stated that some lift stations will require upgrades to support the growth. Mr. Hunter further stated that the generators are necessary to maintain power and function to process waste. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that new lift stations are required to have generators installed before operations begin. Mr. Smith also stated that Commercial lift stations incur a 5% surcharge on the sewer bill so that lift stations can be maintained and offset cost. Mr. Smith further stated that the City spends a considerable amount of money to pump out lift stations when the power goes out. Mr. Smith stated that grant funds help save the City money. Mr. Smith also stated that the City is approving its services to adapt to the growth of the City.

City Manager Wallace Hunter thanked the Department Heads for their hard work as we go through this Covid-19 Pandemic.

Mayor Lowe stated that Council is following and enforcing the guidelines set by Alabama Governor Kay Ivey.

Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that a portion of South Railroad Street near Stadium Drive and 280 By-Pass will be closed due to a drainage pipe failure starting May 6, 2020. Ms. Moore stated that it may take up to two weeks to repair the pipes. Ms. Moore further stated that signs will be placed and labeled specifically for the South Railroad Street Detour and not to be confused with the detour route for the Opelika Bridge Road Project.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that Railroad Street is being repaired in certain areas. Mr. Hunter also stated that a resurfacing project is in place for certain parts of Summerville Road, Lakewood Drive and Wal-Mart area. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that the project should resume in August according to ALDOT contact.

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 19, 2020.