

**MEETING MINUTES
June 2, 2020**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 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.

Mayor Lowe delivered the invocation.

Mayor Lowe led the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the May 18, 2020 Work Session and May 19, 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. 2020-143 to be ratified in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign documentation to enter into a contract with Ronald S. Head for the sale of property located at 4206 Silver Terrace Court in the amount of \$85,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-143

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 a resolution in reference to authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to proceed with the purchase of wetlands and streams credits through Mitigation Solutions Midcreeks, LLC in the amount of \$93,500.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-144

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 the dedication of a drainage easement from Jordan and Stephanie Sewell.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-145

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 the dedication of drainage easement from Willie H. McCall, Jr. and Zelda Howard.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-146

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 authorizing Alabama Power Company to install one street light near 517 21st Avenue.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-147

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 the Mayor and City Manager to sign necessary documents granting an easement to Alabama Power Company on Opelika Road to provide underground electrical power for the new Russell County Department of Human Resources building.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-148

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 three (3) 2020 Chevrolet Tahoe from Donohoo Chevrolet, Fort Payne, Alabama, in the total amount of \$96,885.00. (Budgeted Item).

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-149

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 declared that now was the time and place for a public hearing regarding amending 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. Mayor Lowe stated that anyone wishing to address Council in reference to the ordinance should come to the Council Chambers within the Public Safety Building located at 1111 Broad Street, Phenix City, Alabama and do so at this time. Mayor Lowe also stated that the phone lines were open for anyone wishing to address Council via teleconference could dial (334) 448-2704. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone come forward, either by phone or in person, Mayor Lowe declared the hearing closed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Ordinance 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-06

Councilmember Johnson moved to approve the ordinance, 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. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented one (1) opening on the Downtown Redevelopment Authority. Mayor Lowe called for nominations. Councilmember Day nominated Wylee Toms. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Day moved to appoint Wylee Toms. No one seconded said motion. The motion failed due to lack of a second. Mayor Lowe called for nominations. Councilmember Gordy nominated Joe Lewis. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Gordy moved to appoint Joe Lewis, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: Councilmember Day. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented two (2) openings on the Industrial Development Board. Mayor Lowe called for nominations on the first opening. Councilmember Gordy nominated to reappoint Willie Thomas. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Gordy moved to reappoint Willie Thomas, 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 called for nominations for the second opening. Councilmember Bailey nominated Charles Norman White. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Gordy moved to appoint Charles Norman White, 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 one (1) opening on the Phenix City Housing Authority Board. Mayor Lowe called for nominations. Councilmember Johnson nominated to reappoint Tychell Sanders. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Day moved to reappoint Tychell Sanders, 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 (1) opening on the Planning Commission. Mayor Lowe called for nominations. Councilmember Gordy nominated to appoint Eliza Phillips. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Day moved to appoint Eliza Phillips, 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.

Councilmember Day stated that both candidates that interviewed for the Industrial Development Board were excellent candidates. Councilmember Day stated that he has known Ms. Wylee Toms for years and it was nothing personal against Mr. Joe Lewis. Councilmember Bailey stated that it is a blessing to have multiple people that want to serve, willing to serve and qualify for a board position. Councilmember Bailey thanked both candidates.

Councilmember Johnson stated that the Phenix City Board of Education will host Curbside Grab and Go breakfast and lunch for students 18 years of age and younger. Councilmember Johnson stated that the program starts on June 3, 2020 and runs through July 29, 2020 from the hours of 12:00 p.m. until 12:30 p.m. at various locations around the City. Councilmember Johnson further stated that more information and pick up locations can be found on the Board of Education website.

Councilmember Johnson extended her condolences to the family of Brandon Lee Van Dyke who was killed in a wood chipper accident at a local Lumber Company. Councilmember Johnson stated that was a tragic accident and prayers go out to his family.

Councilmember Johnson stated that our country is facing many challenges with the COVID-19 Pandemic and the death of George Floyd. Councilmember Johnson also stated that as a country, we should be fed up with unbalanced justice. Councilmember Johnson further stated that she supports, purposeful and peaceful demonstrations and protest. Councilmember Johnson stated that is time to come together in unity. Councilmember Johnson encouraged the citizens of Phenix City to stay positive and be safe in all that they do. Councilmember Johnson extended her condolences and prayers to the family of George Floyd and the nation.

Mayor Lowe thanked City Manager Wallace Hunter, Police Chief Ray Smith and Fire Chief Kris Kennedy for being proactive and having a plan of action in place involving the entire community.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that he is very passionate about Phenix City and proud of its growth. Mr. Hunter encouraged everyone to stay safe during the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, recent riots, protest and demonstrations. Mr. Hunter stated that the demonstration that happened last week in Columbus, Georgia was very peaceful with no disorderly conduct. Mr. Hunter also stated that it will take himself, Chief of Police Ray Smith and Fire Chief Kris Kennedy working with the Russell County Sherriff Department to maintain the safety of the citizens of Phenix City. Mr. Hunter further stated that both Chiefs are Veterans and are good at what they do. Mr. Hunter stated that with the tragic death of George Floyd, it's time for the United States of America to come together in unity and peace. Mr. Hunter also stated that the spread of the Coronavirus is not over and everyone needs to be very careful if they are out in the protest and demonstrations.

Mayor Lowe thanked Council and the Department Heads for giving of themselves. Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to love each other the way that God loves us.

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 June 16, 2020.