

**MEETING MINUTES
December 1, 2020**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 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. Also present were City Manager Wallace Hunter, City Attorney Jimmy Graham, and City Clerk Melony Lee.

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

Reverend Steve Pace with Summerville Baptist Church delivered the invocation by way of ZOOM Video Conferencing.

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

City Manager Wallace Hunter and Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain presented employee service recognitions by the way of Zoom Video Conferencing to: Jared Hall - 5 years, Angela Lumpkin - 10 years, Angel Howard – 15 years, Stanley Williams – 20 years, Thomas Childers – 5 years, Casey Hoover – 10 years, Adam Avery – 10 years, Carolyn Smith – 10 years, Stephanie Chastain - 20 years, Randy Dubberly - 20 years, Jerome Randolph – 5 years, Timothy Jackson – 5 years, and Otis Mitchell - 30 years.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the November 16, 2020 Work Session and the November 17, 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 the Compensation and Benefits Agreement between the City of Phenix City and City Manager Wallace B. Hunter.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-289

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 Police Chief to sign an MOU Agreement with Central Alabama Crimestoppers.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-290

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 permanent drainage easement on Lot 24, Section One, Saddlebrook lying in Section 33, Township 18 North, Range 30 East, Phenix City, Lee County, Alabama.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-291

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 J C Construction to construct parking spaces for the Police Precinct on 5th Street South in an amount not to exceed \$16,301.25.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-292

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 Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with J C Construction to make sidewalk and parking improvements meeting ADA requirements at the Art Center in an amount not to exceed \$20,736.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-293

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 Forestry Consultants, Inc. to manage the harvest of trees located in the Industrial Park in an amount not to exceed ten percent of the gross timber sales receipt.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-294

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 declaring three Tasers as surplus to be destroyed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-295

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 for second reading an ordinance to exempt certain items from the Municipal Sales and Use Tax during February, 2021, referred to as the Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-11

Councilmember Day 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. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for first reading an ordinance in reference to the Departments or Offices of the City of Phenix City, Alabama. 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. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented two (2) openings on the Phenix City-Russell County Library Board. Mayor Lowe advised each appointment will be taken separately because the first appointment is an opening that is terminating this month; the second appointment is an opening caused from a board member who has resigned and the new appointed member will finish out the remainder of the resigned member's term. Mayor Lowe called for a motion on the first appointment. Councilmember Bailey moved to reappoint Gabriella Dubose, 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 nominations on the second appointment. Councilmember Johnson nominated Wanda Phillips. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe closed nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion to appoint Ms. Wanda Phillips. Councilmember Johnson moved to appoint Wanda Phillips, 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.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a Notice of Claim filed by Kenneth S. Nugent, P.C. on behalf of Andrew Klementovich. Mr. Graham stated this claim needs to be filed with the Russell County Sheriff's Office and not the City of Phenix City. Mr. Graham recommended denying the claim. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to deny the claim, 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 a one-time compensation for full time employees.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-296

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 a one-time compensation for retirees, pensioners and beneficiaries.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-297

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 thanked CTV-Beam for bringing the council meeting to the citizens of Phenix City.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until December 15, 2020.