

**MEETING MINUTES  
December 15, 2020**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 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 Alan Griffith with Emmanuel Baptist Church delivered the invocation by way of ZOOM Video Conferencing.

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

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the November 30, 2020 Work Session and the December 1, 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 to be ratified in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to make application to AEMA/FEMA Hazard Mitigation for grant funds to purchase (6) six electrical power generators for the Waste Water Collection system.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-298**

Councilmember Johnson moved to ratify 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 audited financial statement as presented by Robinson, Grimes and Company, P.C. for Fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-299**

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 Alabama Power Company to install (1) one LED Roadway Fixture 5000-8500 Lumens street light at the end of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue on pole #6-024357.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-300**

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 a proposal from Thompson Power Systems in an amount not to exceed \$23,802.00 for preventative maintenance services for emergency generators.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-301**

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 and directing the Mayor and City Manager to accept a proposal from Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, Inc. to resurface South Railroad Street from Summerville Road to US 280/431 S and Brickyard Road from Dillingham Street to the City Limits.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-302**

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 adding an additional day to be observed for the 2021 New Year's Holiday.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-303**

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 declaring personal property as surplus and disposing of for the nominal sum of \$1.00 and other valuable considerations to Battalion Chief Karl Taylorson in recognition of his 25 years of public service.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-304**

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 a one year Agreement with RecDesk, LLC for Program Management and Online Registration Software in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-305**

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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with Alabama Power Company to hang holiday lighting temporarily on power poles owned and maintained by APCO.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-306**

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 Raymond Smith to enter into an agreement with Russell County E-911 for a multi-agency system administration contract for Spillman Computer System for a one-time fee of \$8,650.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-307**

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 Chief of Police Raymond Smith to enter into an agreement with Russell County E-911 in the amount of \$30,332.36 for a multi-agency software agreement and support contract for Spillman Computer system.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-308**

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 documentation with ADEM to appoint the Acting Director of Utilities Charles D. Woody II as the Representative to ADEM to provide State Revolving Fund Drinking Water Loans.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-309**

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 documentation with ADEM to appoint the Acting Director of Utilities Charles D. Woody II as the Representative to ADEM to provide State Revolving Fund Wastewater Loans.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-310**

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 for second reading an ordinance in reference to the Departments or Offices of the City of Phenix City, Alabama.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-12**

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 one opening on the Historic Preservation Commission Board. Mayor Lowe called for nominations. Councilmember Day nominated to appoint Chief Raymond Smith. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Day moved to appoint Chief Raymond Smith, 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 extending a moratorium on all annexations through December 31, 2021.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-311**

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.

Councilmember Johnson stated that 2020 has not only been a year of changes and challenges but a year of opportunities as well. Councilmember Johnson also stated that the City of Phenix City despite the challenges has finished strong and is looking forward to a prosperous new year.

Councilmember Johnson encouraged everyone to slow down while traveling the streets of Phenix City. Councilmember Johnson stated that more children may be out in neighborhoods during the winter break and please be cautious. Councilmember Johnson also stated that speed monitors are being rotated throughout the City for the safety of everyone. Councilmember Johnson wished everyone the gift of faith and the blessings of hope and love during the holiday season.

Councilmember Day reminded everyone that the reason for the season is the gift and love of Jesus Christ. Councilmember Day congratulated the Parks and Recreation Department on the wonderful display of Christmas lights on Broad Street and Whitewater Avenue. Councilmember Day thanked Alabama Power Company for allowing the City to use their poles for adding decorations. Councilmember Day wished everyone a safe holiday season and encouraged everyone to keep the streets of Phenix City safe and clean.

Councilmember Bailey wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Councilmember Bailey stated that 2020 has been a difficult year. Councilmember Bailey asked everyone to remember those who were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and family members of those who lost their lives in their prayers. Councilmember Bailey stated the battle is not over and please follow the guidelines set by CDC concerning holiday celebrations and gatherings.

Councilmember Gordy encouraged everyone to count their blessings. Councilmember Gordy stated that with so much negativity with the pandemic and social injustice going on in our country that we must stay positive. Councilmember Gordy also stated that God gives us new mercies and grace daily. Councilmember Gordy further stated that even though we may have lost people near and dear to our hearts, God has us all here for a purpose and we should be thankful. Councilmember Gordy encouraged everyone to be safe during the holidays and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that this has been a difficult year with the loss of Assistant Chief Green and Assistant City Manager and Utilities Director Steve Smith. Mr. Hunter stated that the City is a family and when one is affected, we are all affected. Mr. Hunter thanked the Department Heads and City employees for all that they have done during 2020 and looks forward to a prosperous 2021 for the City. Mr. Hunter wished that everyone would have a safe and happy holiday.

Mayor Lowe stated that it is in the midst of hard times that we must remember to keep our faith in God, focus on the positive and give more of ourselves for the sake of others. Mayor Lowe challenged everyone to show love and compassion, not just during the holidays but all year through.

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 January 5, 2021.