

**MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 2021**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center on 3743 Moon Lake Drive, Phenix City, Alabama. 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 Robert Goodman with Summerville Baptist Church 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 January 4, 2021 Work Session and the January 5, 2021 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the minutes, 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 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 sign a grant agreement for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to expand the Phenix City Wastewater Treatment Plant.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-08

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 authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to accept a proposal from Thompson Insurance, Inc. for calendar year 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$235,822.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-09

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 contract agreement with the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-10

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 proposal from Branch Banking and Trust (BB&T) to finance a Fire Truck at an interest rate of 1.24%.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-11

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 three (3) Resolutions and Public Notices in reference to public hearings for the fixing of costs incurred by the City for the demolition and/or removal of substandard buildings or structures located at:

1. 311 South Seale Road - \$4,400.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-12
PUBLIC NOTICE

2. 1114 20th Street - \$3,750.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-13
PUBLIC NOTICE

3. 1015 4th Street South - \$3,500.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-14
PUBLIC NOTICE

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the resolutions and public notices, 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 for first reading an Ordinance in reference to authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Warrants, "Series 2021A".

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01

Councilmember Day moved to dispense with the reading of 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. Councilmember Johnson moved to suspend the rules, 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 Day moved to approve the ordinance, 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.

Councilmember Day thanked the team of Frazer Lanier Company, Inc., for working with the City throughout the years. Councilmember Day also thanked City Manager Wallace Hunter, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland and all that were involved in the execution of saving the City money.

Councilmember Johnson stated that the City has a great partnership with the Frazer Lanier Company, Inc. and the issuance of bonds has saved the City millions of dollars over time. Councilmember Johnson also stated to all involved, their hard work is greatly appreciated.

Councilmember Bailey asked everyone to pray for our nation as we prepare to welcome the new President of the United States and his administration. Councilmember Bailey stated that love unites and hate divides. Councilmember Bailey also stated that it shouldn't matter who you voted for, the outcome remains the same and it's time to put our differences aside for the betterment of the Country. Councilmember Bailey further stated that this Country was founded on God, family, truth and love. Councilmember Bailey stated that we should examine ourselves and ask ourselves the old popular statement of, What Would Jesus Do, in this situation. Councilmember Bailey also stated that if we lift each other up and put others needs before our own we could move this nation forward.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City's relationship with the Frazer Lanier Company, Inc. began in 2008 when the City put together a financial plan. Mr. Hunter also stated that the key to a financial plan is survival. Mr. Hunter further stated that he has been fortunate enough to see the plan into fruition. Mr. Hunter stated that former Utilities Director, the late Steve Smith, played an important role in growing the City's revenue and he is greatly missed. Mr. Hunter also stated that the value of our City has grown over the years. Mr. Hunter further stated that as City Manager, he believes in Phenix City, the citizens, Department Heads and City Employees. Mr. Hunter stated that during the pandemic, God will lead us through. Mr. Hunter also stated that everyone doesn't have the same beliefs and may not agree on everything but we all have a common goal and that's the safety of all.

City Manager Wallace Hunter thanked the new City Manager of Tuskegee, Alabama, Derrick Swanson for coming to today's Council Meeting. Mr. Hunter stated that he has known Mr. Swanson since his fire fighter years in the 1980s. Mr. Hunter also stated that Fire Chief Jerry Prater introduced the two of them because he thought they shared similar paths and beliefs. Mr. Hunter further stated that he has met some good people along his journey to become City Manager including Chief Prater. Mr. Hunter stated that he knows Tuskegee will do well with Mr. Swanson as City Manager.

City Manager Wallace Hunter thanked the Department Heads and City employees for their hard work and dedication. Mr. Hunter also thanked City Council for coming together and moving the City forward.

Mayor Lowe thanked Pastor Robert Goodman for praying for Council, the City and our Nation. Mayor Lowe also thanked all of the guest who were able to attend today's Council meeting. Mayor Lowe stated that the City has accomplished a lot over the past few years and that is something that everyone should be proud of. Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to stay humble and put others before ourselves. Mayor Lowe stated that humility is not a sign of weakness but of strength. Mayor Lowe challenged the entire City to love one another as God loves us.

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 February 2, 2021.