

**MEETING MINUTES
February 2, 2021**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 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 Acting City Clerk Shannon Davis.

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

Reverend Don Abrams with Trinity United Methodist Church delivered the invocation.

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

Mayor Lowe stated that City Clerk Melony Lee is not present for the City Council meeting. Mayor Lowe asked for a motion to appoint Shannon Davis as Acting City Clerk. Councilmember Day moved to appoint Shannon Davis as Acting City Clerk, 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 the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the January 19, 2021 Work Session and the January 20, 2021 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the minutes, 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 stated there was no unfinished business to address at this time.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to Correcting and Amending Resolution No. 96-194.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-15

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 Municipal Consultants, Inc. for minor modification of permit for C&D Landfill in an amount not to exceed \$28,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-16

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 an easement for Public Utilities on a "Plat of Property Division for Lots 14, 15, 17 & 18, Block 243, Totten's Map of Phenix City, located in Section 14, Township 17 North, Range 30 East, Phenix City, Russell County, Alabama" Donald Hamrick & Patricia Hamrick, owners.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-17

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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign a 3-year service contract with McCoy Fire and Safety, Inc. for monitoring services for the Library's fire alarm system.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-18

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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign an agreement with Jerry Pate Turf & Irrigation for the lease of Golf Course maintenance equipment for the Lakewood Golf Course in an amount not to exceed \$366,853.80.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-19

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 an End of Term Purchase agreement with Jerry Pate Turf & Irrigation to purchase equipment for the Lakewood Golf Course in an amount not to exceed \$29,195.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-20

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 and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign Change Order No. 1 with Deere and Company in the amount of \$1,268.19 for an additional charge for the purchase of a John Deere 5100E Utility Tractor.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-21

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 for first reading an Ordinance in reference to Amendment to Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Warrants, "Series 2021A".

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-02

Councilmember Day moved to suspend the rules, 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 Gordy 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.

Mayor Lowe presented two (2) openings on the Zoning Adjustment and Appeals Board. Mayor Lowe called for nominations. Councilmember Day nominated to appoint Rudolph Martin as first alternate. There were no other nominations. Councilmember Johnson nominated to appoint Aftab Khalsa as second alternate. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Gordy moved to appoint Rudolph Martin as first alternate and Aftab Khalsa as second alternate, 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 an application for an Off Premise Beer License and Off Premise Wine License submitted by Rameshchandra Patel and Dashrathbhai Patel for Shree Kana, LLC dba Snack Attack located at 3764 Opelika Road, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Day moved to place the application on first reading, 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 an application for an Off Premise Beer License and Off Premise Whiskey/Wine License (Retail Package Store) submitted by Rameshchandra Patel and Dashrathbhai Patel for Sahjanand, LLC dba Alabama Spirits and Wine located at 3764 C Opelika Road, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Day moved to place the application on first reading, 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 claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Tasheila Williams-Townsend. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that the claim alleges that on December 29, 2020, while driving on Sandfort Road, a City Utility vehicle was too close to the center line and their driver side mirrors hit each other causing damage to Mrs. Townsend's

vehicle. City Attorney Graham recommended denying the claim due to the area being outside of City limits and no City vehicle was in that area on that day. 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.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Tellas Weaver. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that the claim alleges that on December 29, 2020, while driving onto 22nd Avenue, Mr. Weaver ran over a pothole and damaged his front passenger tire. City Attorney Graham recommended paying the claim in the lowest estimate of \$177.54. City Attorney Graham stated that the Public Works Department placed a cold patch in the hole but it had worn down. City Attorney Graham also stated that the hole has been repaired. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to pay the claim in the lowest estimate of \$177.54, 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.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, Alabama filed by Curtis Cook. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that on January 2, 2021, Mr. Cook hired and paid a plumber to fix a sanitary drainage problem at his home. City Attorney Graham stated that upon investigation, the blockage was located at the sewer main and Mr. Cook's service line was clear. City Attorney Graham recommended paying the claim in the amount of \$200.00 which was the plumbing fee with the plumbing company. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to approve the claim in the amount of \$200.00, 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 the Mayor and City Manager to sign a contract with Chattahoochee Timber Company to harvest timber on approximately 57 acres of land in the Industrial Park.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-22

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 thanked Reverend Abrams for the invocation and welcomed him to Positively Phenix City.

Councilmember Gordy asked everyone to pray for the Trawick family and the entire community. Councilmember Gordy stated that Coach Wayne Trawick and his wife Joan Trawick both recently passed away. Councilmember Gordy also stated that Coach Trawick started his career at Central High School in 1973 and he had the pleasure of being coached by him while playing football at Central High School. Councilmember Gordy further stated that Coach Trawick had a tremendous impact on not only players and students but the entire community and he will greatly be missed. Councilmember Gordy stated that there will be a memorial service for the

Trawicks on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at the Garrett-Harrison Stadium on the Wayne Trawick Football field at 12:00 noon with social distancing.

Councilmember Bailey stated that Phenix City also lost another pillar to the community in the passing of Steve Abbott. Councilmember Bailey also stated that Mr. Abbott loved Phenix City and owned several businesses here. Councilmember Bailey further stated that Mr. Abbott was very influential, believed in people and an overall good Christian man. Councilmember Bailey stated that people like Mr. Abbott and Coach Wayne Trawick have both left behind great memories that will be forever cherished. Councilmember Bailey expressed condolences to both families.

Councilmember Johnson thanked Reverend Abrams for delivering the invocation and looks forward to worshipping with Trinity United Methodist Church after the pandemic has ended.

Councilmember Johnson stated that her prayers go out to the Trawick family. Councilmember Johnson also stated that Coach Trawick meant a lot to the school system and the community. Councilmember Johnson further stated that Coach Trawick will be greatly missed.

Councilmember Johnson congratulated the Phenix City School System and Superintendent Randy Wilkes for three elementary schools being recognized by the state of Alabama for their outstanding achievements and excelling academically. Councilmember Johnson stated that the three schools were Meadowlane, Ridgecrest and Westview Elementary. Councilmember Johnson also stated that she commends all the students in Phenix City for the effort they are showing to learn during the pandemic. Councilmember Johnson thanked all the parents and teachers as well for the roles they play in our student's education. Councilmember Johnson thanked Coach Bobby Wright for his forty plus years of service to our community. Councilmember Johnson stated that Phenix City has had some great teachers and outstanding coaches and they are all appreciated.

Councilmember Johnson stated that February has been set aside as Black History Month. Councilmember Johnson thanked the African Americans who struggled tirelessly and gave of themselves for the betterment of not just African Americans but all Americans. Councilmember Johnson stated that President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History month in 1976.

Reverend Don Abrams with Trinity United Methodist Church stated that he moved to Phenix City, Alabama in July. Reverend Abrams also stated that Central High School has been a blessing to his family. Reverend Abrams further stated that he and his family feel welcomed in Phenix City and are glad to be here. Council thanked Reverend Abrams for coming.

Councilmember Day thanked the Public Works Department and all City Employees for their hard work and dedication to the City. Councilmember Day stated that he is proud to be a member of Phenix City, Alabama and the City Council and great things are happening in the City.

Councilmember Day stated that the pandemic is far from being over. Councilmember Day also stated that it is a blessing to still be alive and we should all be thankful to God. Councilmember Day encouraged everyone to be safe and remember to love one another.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that he wanted to address the recent issue concerning law enforcement in Hamilton, Georgia. Mr. Hunter also stated that he has one

hundred percent confidence in Phenix City's Chief of Police Ray Smith and his leadership. Mr. Hunter further stated that Chief Smith has worked with the City over thirty years. Mr. Hunter stated that as we reflect on Black History Month and what it stands for, no person should be judged simply by the color of their skin. Mr. Hunter also stated that himself and Chief Smith will not tolerate these behaviors and will continue to educate officers. Mr. Hunter encouraged everyone to put forth an effort to get along with others.

Mayor Lowe thanked Revered Abrams for delivering the invocation and his words of encouragement.

Mayor Lowe stated that we must build and lift each other up. Mayor Lowe also stated that as a community, we have lost a lot of great people in 2020 and it has had an impact on all of us. Mayor Lowe challenged everyone to treat each other with love and respect. Mayor Lowe stated that we do not have to answer to how others treat us but how we treat them.

Mayor Lowe thanked the Department Heads and City employees for their hard work and dedication to the City. Mayor Lowe stated the City's greatest assets are the people who work for and live in Phenix City.

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 17, 2021.