

**MEETING MINUTES  
March 2, 2021**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 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 R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember Steve Bailey was not present. Also present were City Manager Wallace Hunter, City Attorney Jimmy Graham, and City Melony Lee.

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

Reverend Alan Griffith with Emmanuel Baptist Church delivered the invocation.

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

City Manager Wallace Hunter and Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain presented employee service recognitions to Jimmy Brooks - 15 years, Jeffery Frazer - 15 years, Christopher Wright – 15 years, John Buchanan – 5 years, Roderick Johnson – 5 years, Issan Duke – 5 years, Patricia Gamble – 5 years, Steven Zdanowicz – 15 years, Elisa Lockhart – 5 years, Harold Brooks – 5 years, John Thomas – 15 years, and Denorris Williams - 15 years.

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Glenwood Girls Basketball Team 2020-2021 AISA AAA State Champions.

**PROCLAMATION**

City Clerk Melony Lee read the proclamation. Mayor Lowe congratulated the Glenwood Girls Basketball Team on their championship win. Mayor Lowe stated that the official proclamation would be mailed to Glenwood School.

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Glenwood Varsity Cheerleaders 2020 AISA State Champions Large Varsity Division.

**PROCLAMATION**

City Clerk Melony Lee read the proclamation. Mayor Lowe congratulated the Glenwood Varsity Cheerleaders on their championship win. Mayor Lowe stated that the official proclamation would be mailed to Glenwood School.

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Glenwood Volleyball Team 2020-2021 AISA AAA State Champions.

**PROCLAMATION**

City Clerk Melony Lee read the proclamation. Mayor Lowe congratulated the Glenwood Volleyball Team on their championship win. Mayor Lowe stated that the official proclamation would be mailed to Glenwood School.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the February 16, 2021 Work Session and the February 17, 2021 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, 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 granting easements to Alabama Power Company to provide electrical service for the Liberty Hill Development.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-39**

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, 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 36 month lease agreement with Best Copy Products, Inc. for one SHARP MX-3071 Networked Digital Color Copier in the amount of \$110.16 per month.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-40**

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, 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 36 month lease agreement with Best Copy Products, Inc. for one SHARP MX-5071 Networked Digital Color Copier in the amount of \$208.80 per month.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-41**

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, 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 Stone & Sons Electrical Contractors, Inc. to repair traffic signals located at the intersection of South Railroad Street and Lakewood Drive in an amount not to exceed \$31,000.00.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-42**

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, 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 36 month lease agreement with Best Copy Products, Inc. for one SHARP MX-5071 Networked Digital Color Copier in the amount of \$184.62 per month.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-43**

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, 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 36 month lease agreement with Best Copy Products, Inc. for one SHARP MX-3071 Networked Digital Color Copier in the amount of \$124.94 per month.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-44**

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, 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 Lease-Purchase Agreement (Lease Number 1181547-1) with PNC Equipment Finance, LLC for a 60 month one dollar buy out lease at \$6,114.23 per month for a total payout of \$366,853.80.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-45**

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, 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 36 month lease agreement with Best Copy Products, Inc. for one SHARP MX-5071 Networked Digital Color Copier in the amount of \$184.62 per month.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-46**

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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to declaring various items as surplus to be sold as scrap, or be disposed of at the City Landfill.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-47**

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, 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 enter into a Master Service Agreement with Paymentus Corporation for Interactive Voice Response (IVR) payment processing services.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-48**

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, 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 36 month lease agreement with Best Copy Products, Inc. for one SHARP MX-5071 Networked Digital Color Copier in the amount of \$184.03 per month.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-49**

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, 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 36 month lease agreement with Best Copy Products, Inc. for one SHARP MX-5071 Networked Digital Color Copier in the amount of \$196.31 per month.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-50**

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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a letter of Recommendation from the Planning Commission, Public Notice and Ordinance to rezone 0.34 acre of land located at 5202 Summerville Road from an A-1 Zone (Low Density Residential District and General Agricultural District) to a C-3 Zone (Neighborhood Commercial District), David Alexander Quinney, owner.

**LETTER**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ORDINANCE**

Councilmember Day moved to accept the letter, approve the public notice, and place the ordinance 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented two (2) openings on the Historic Preservation Commission Board. Councilmember Gordy moved to table the appointments, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim filed by State Farm as subrogee of Latonya Miller. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that on February 23, 2021, an unoccupied police vehicle struck a vehicle owned by Ms. Miller and caused damage to the vehicle. City Attorney Graham also stated that upon investigation the officer was at fault. City Attorney Graham recommended denying the claim due to three estimates not being submitted as required. City Attorney Graham stated that he would reach out to State Farm to see if the other two estimates could be obtained. 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim filed by Bence Law Firm on behalf of Barbara Port. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that Ms. Port received personal injuries by falling into a sinkhole located at 2728 Summerfield Place due to a City owned drainage pipe. City Attorney Graham recommended tabling the claim until the next Council meeting giving him an opportunity to contact the Bence Law Firm for clarification on Ms. Port's injuries. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to table 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a notice of claim filed by Greg Davis Law on behalf of Dennis Andrews. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that on October 9, 2020, while driving on 16<sup>th</sup> Street, a City Utility vehicle struck a vehicle driven by Mr. Andrews causing damage to the vehicle and physical injuries to Mr. Andrews. City Attorney Graham stated that the claim had previously been approved for negotiation of settlement on November 17, 2020. City Attorney Graham also stated that he has been unable to reach Mr. Greg Davis, the attorney for the claimant. City Attorney Graham recommended tabling the claim until the next Council meeting giving him an opportunity to contact the Greg Davis Law Firm one more time. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to table 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe thanked the City employees recognized for their years of service. Mayor Lowe also thanked the Department Heads and all City employees for their hard work and dedication.

Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that he received a text from Coach Dusty Perdue of the Glenwood Girls Basketball Team. Mr. Hughes also stated that Coach Perdue was having technical difficulties this morning with Zoom video conferencing. Mr. Hughes

further stated that Coach Perdue and the girls' basketball team expressed their gratitude for being presented the proclamation and they appreciate the support of Mayor Lowe and City Council.

Councilmember Johnson congratulated the employees that were recognized for over five years of service. Councilmember Johnson thanked the employees for their hard work and dedication to the City.

Councilmember Johnson congratulated the Lady Gators of Glenwood's Basketball team, Volleyball team and Cheerleaders on winning their State Championships. Councilmember Johnson wished all of the student athletes and their coaches the best in all that they do.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that there are several projects going on throughout the City. Mr. Hunter also stated that Brickyard Road and South Railroad Street are in the process of being re-paved and travelers should avoid these areas if possible. Mr. Hunter further stated that the Opelika Bridge Project is near completion and the bridge is open for through traffic.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the Utilities Department is changing to keep up with modern technology. Mr. Hunter also stated that the changes in revenue have allowed these changes to give more options for Utility payments.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the Public Safety building is under renovations. Mr. Hunter also stated that the building is going through its third renovation over the years. Chief of Police Ray Smith stated that the Public Safety building was built in 1964 when asbestos could be found in many buildings and houses. Chief Smith also stated that a small amount of asbestos has been uncovered in a portion of the building that was not included in the first two renovations. Chief Smith stated that the entire building will be renovated and documented for safety.

Mayor Lowe thanked the Citizens of Phenix City and asked everyone to be righteous in treating others right.

Mayor Lowe thanked CTV-Beam for bringing the council meetings to the citizens of Phenix City.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until March 16, 2021.