

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 6, 2021**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 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 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 James A. Platt of Allen Temple AME Church was not present to deliver the invocation. Mayor Lowe delivered the invocation.

Mayor Lowe 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 Rickey Thorne - 5 years, Eric Culberson - 5 years, William Lowman – 25 years, Jimmy Lloyd – 10 years, Dennis Williams – 20 years, and Brenda Sanders – 25 years.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the March 15, 2021 Work Session and the March 16, 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, 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 Resolution No. 2021-62 to be ratified in reference to authorizing the Mayor, City Manager and Police Chief to enter into an agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. to replace ten year old X26P Tasers with the new Taser 7 for the Police Department in an amount not to exceed \$180,919.80.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-62**

Councilmember Bailey moved to ratify 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 Resolution No. 2021-63 to be ratified in reference to accepting a permanent water easement and permanent sanitary easement on Lot-4, Ladonia Commercial Subdivision (119 Compromise Court, Phenix City, Alabama).

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-63**

Councilmember Johnson moved to ratify 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 purchase of insurance from the Flowers Insurance Agency through American Zurich Insurance Company.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-64**

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 enter into a letter of agreement with Chattahoochee River Conservancy to install, maintain and operate trash collection devices to the river tributaries.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-65**

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 declaring various items as surplus to be sold as scrap or disposed of at the City Landfill.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-66**

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 authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a Lease Amendment and Extension agreement with Crown Castle Towers 06-2 LLC for lease of land for a cell tower located at 1400 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (Knowles Road Water Tank Site).

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-67**

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 and City Manager to sign Change Order No. 1 agreement with CityBase, Inc. for kiosk hardware change, new hardware, payment types in the amount of \$1,000.00 and an agreement with Payment Tech, LLC on behalf of JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. for payment processing services.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-68**

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 Letter of Recommendation from the Planning Commission, Public Notice and Ordinance to rezone 0.48 acre of land located at 814 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue from an R-3 Zone (High Density Residential District) to a C-4 Zone (Highway Commercial District), Marcus Mitchell, 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 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 declared that now was the time and place for a public hearing regarding the rezoning of 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. Mayor Lowe stated that anyone wishing to address Council concerning this ordinance should come forward and do so at this time. Mayor Lowe also stated that the phone lines were open for anyone wishing to address Council. Mayor Lowe further stated that interested parties could dial (334) 448-2704 and speak with Council. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone come forward, either by phone or by platform ZOOM, Mayor Lowe declared the hearing closed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an 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.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2021-04**

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the ordinance, 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 carried.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an ordinance to amend Chapter 34 Floods of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Phenix City, Alabama.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2021-05**

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 carried.

Mayor Lowe presented an application for Statutory Review request submitted by The Hometown Initiative (Chloe Benyoun) for Applicant (Euron Wright, Authorized Agent) to use property for a Community Center at 513 Fontaine Road. Councilmember Day moved to approve the statutory review, 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 carried.

Mayor Lowe presented two (2) openings on the East Alabama Mental Health – Mental Retardation Board. Mayor Lowe called for nominations. Councilmember Day nominated to reappoint Vivian Thomas. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Day moved to reappoint Vivian Thomas, 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 called for nominations. Councilmember Johnson nominated to reappoint Ritu Chandra. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Johnson moved to reappoint Ritu Chandra, 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 thanked Council for working together as a team. Mayor Lowe stated that they may not all agree on everything but one thing that they all agree on is the love of the community and Phenix City.

Mayor Lowe thanked the Department Heads and City employees for their hard work and dedication to the City. Mayor Lowe congratulated City employees that were recognized for their years of service to the City. Mayor Lowe stated that Phenix City is a great place to work for and has great benefits.

Councilmember Day informed Mayor and Council that there was a community event held at Mother Mary Mission on Saturday, March 27, 2021. Councilmember Day stated that the event was sponsored by Toby Dixon and several local organizations. Councilmember Day also stated that there were Easter Baskets, goodies for the kids and food give-a-ways.

Councilmember Johnson congratulated the employees that were recognized for over five years of service. Councilmember Johnson thanked the employees for their hard work and commitment to the Community. Councilmember Johnson stated that Phenix City continues to show signs of hope even during a pandemic.

Councilmember Johnson thanked the community for allowing her to serve as Councilmember and represent District Two.

Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone to be safe as things slowly return to normal. Councilmember Bailey stated that the COVID-19 Pandemic is not over. Councilmember Bailey asked everyone to maintain their distance when out in public and still practice safety precautions. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone that are able to get vaccinated to please get the

vaccination to slow the spread of the disease. Councilmember Bailey stated that the City has lost some great people because of the disease.

Councilmember Bailey thanked City Manager Wallace Hunter, Department Heads and all City employees for remaining loyal to the City. Councilmember Bailey stated that outstanding people work for an outstanding City.

City Manager Wallace Hunter announced that the City has several job openings in several different departments. Mr. Hunter stated that the City is a great place to work. Mr. Hunter also stated that applications and open positions can be found on the City's website or at the Human Resources Department.

City Manager Wallace Hunter informed everyone that COVID-19 Vaccination sites can be found on marques throughout the City. Mr. Hunter stated that some sites require appointments while others do not. Mr. Hunter encouraged every to get vaccinated if possible and be mindful of others.

Mayor Lowe reminded everyone of the golden rule to treat others the way they want to be treated. Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to do the right thing to move the City forward.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until April 20, 2021.