

MEETING MINUTES
April 20, 2021

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 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 Melony Lee.

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

Reverend Don Abrams of Trinity United Methodist Church was not present to deliver the invocation. Councilmember Gordy delivered the invocation.

Due to technical difficulties, Councilmember Gordy was logged out of Zoom Video Conferencing.

Mayor Lowe led the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the April 5, 2021 Work Session and the April 6, 2021 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Day moved to approve the minutes, 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, 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. 2021-69 to be ratified in reference to opposing HB220.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-69

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

Councilmember Gordy returned to the meeting by the way of Zoom Video Conferencing.

Mayor Lowe presented Resolution No. 2021-70 to be ratified in reference to opposing SB165.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-70

Councilmember Day 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 and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign an agreement with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. regarding the bridge replacement on Seale Road over Cochgalechee Creek.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-71

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 a resolution in reference to authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign the proposal submitted by Signs, Inc. for the construction and installation of a new 'Shared Monument Sign' at the Village at Crosswind Shopping Center in an amount not to exceed \$53,875.80. Mayor Lowe stated that he spoke with City Manager Wallace Hunter concerning the resolution. Mayor Lowe called for a motion to table the resolution. Councilmember Day moved to table the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Johnson. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager, stated that a different direction may be chosen for the signage and more time is needed which may lead to the negotiation of price. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that a totally different consultant may be chosen for the signage. City Clerk Melony Lee stated that the entire resolution may change which may not qualify for the resolution to be tabled but deleted. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that his recommendation would be to delete the resolution from the agenda. Mayor Lowe exercised his point of privilege and called for a motion to delete the resolution from the agenda. Councilmember Day moved to delete the resolution from the agenda, 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 awarding a bid to Malone Office Environments for white copy paper.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-72

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 declared that now was the time and place for a public hearing in reference to the fixing of costs incurred by the City of Phenix City for the removal of substandard structures and the establishment of special assessments upon properties located at: 1900 2nd Avenue, 2013 2nd Avenue, and 323 South Seale Road. Mayor Lowe stated anyone wishing to address Council on any of the properties should come forward and do so at this time. Mayor Lowe also stated that the phone lines were open and interested parties could dial (334) 448-2704 and speak with Council concerning any of the properties. City Clerk Melony Lee stated that a notice had been placed at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center with the number to call in to address Council concerning any of the properties. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone come forward, either by phone or by platform ZOOM, Mayor Lowe declared the hearing closed.

Mayor Lowe presented three (3) resolutions in reference to the fixing of costs incurred by the City of Phenix City for the removal of substandard structures and the establishment of special assessments upon properties located at:

1. 1900 2nd Avenue

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-73

2. 2013 2nd Avenue

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-74

3. 323 South Seale Road

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-75

Councilmember Day moved to approve the resolutions, 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 Change Order No. 1 with JHC Corporation for installation of interior baseboards at the Phenix City Riverwalk Timber Bridge in an amount not to exceed \$800.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-76

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 a one-time compensation of \$500.00 to the Glenwood Girls' Basketball team.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-77

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 a one-time compensation of \$500.00 to the Glenwood Varsity Cheerleaders team.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-78

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 a one-time compensation of \$500.00 to the Glenwood Volleyball team.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-79

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 the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) 2020 Annual Report.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-80

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 a resolution in reference to accepting a quote from Salem Petroleum Technicians, LLC to perform tank monitor installation work on the underground storage tank in an amount not to exceed \$15,427.50.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-81

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 quote from Brown and Sons, LLC to perform electrical work on the underground storage tank in an amount not to exceed \$5,700.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-82

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 for first reading an Ordinance to Require Wearing Masks in Buildings or Indoor Spaces Managed, Leased, or Owned by the City of Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Bailey moved to 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. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by

Barbara Cherry. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that the claim alleges that on April 1, 2021, while driving on Highway 80, a construction barrel from a City Utility vehicle fell from the front bucket causing damage to Ms. Cherry's vehicle. City Attorney Graham also stated that upon investigation, the construction barrel was not secured causing it to fall from the front bucket of a Utilities Department Backhoe causing damage to Ms. Cherry's vehicle. City Attorney Graham informed Council that Ms. Cherry stated in the Police Report, that her vehicle had damage from a previous incident and the barrel caused more damage. City Attorney Graham recommended tabling the claim to negotiate a settlement. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to table the claim, 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 congratulated the Central High School Baseball team for a 28-3 season. City Attorney Graham stated that the baseball team will play Auburn on Wednesday April 21, 2021 and a double header at Darnell-Nelson Field on Thursday for the area championship. City Attorney Graham invited everyone to support our local high school baseball team. Mayor Lowe stated that as a community, we should support all of our children.

Councilmember Johnson congratulated the South Girard High School Alumni on their book signing on April 17, 2021. Councilmember Johnson stated that the book has a lot of the school's history from 1945 – 1970. Councilmember Johnson also stated that the book was written by Jasponica Florence.

Councilmember Day stated that the Alabama Attorney General will hold a press conference on April 27, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center in honor of Assistant Chief of Police Gail Green Gilliam. Councilmember Day asked if the public was invited. Chief of Police Ray Smith stated that the visit is specifically in honor of Assistant Chief Gilliam and Council is invited. Chief Smith also stated that to his understanding, this is not a question – answer meeting for the Attorney General but a time to honor Assistant Chief Gilliam.

Councilmember Day encouraged everyone to keep the streets of Phenix City clean. Councilmember Day stated that he noticed an abundance of trash and paper on Sandfort Road and 7th Street.

City Manager Wallace Hunter encouraged the Citizens of Phenix City to report suspicious activity by calling 911. Mr. Hunter stated that the Police Department cannot be everywhere at the same time and it is going to take the community to come together to combat these issues.

Mr. Hunter stated that the trash on the streets may be coming from car cruising parades that have been going on around the City lately. Mr. Hunter also stated that about 30 plus vehicles would line the streets traveling in one direction blocking traffic and causing chaos in neighbor hoods. Mr. Hunter further stated that the majority of the participants are traveling from Columbus, Georgia. Mr. Hunter stated that the behavior will not be tolerated in Phenix City.

Mayor Lowe thanked City Council, City Manager, Department Heads and City Employees for their hard work and dedication to the City. Mayor Lowe stated in order to become a better City we have to be better citizens.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until May 4, 2021.