

**MEETING MINUTES  
May 4, 2021**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, May 4, 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 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 Amanda Dodge - 5 years, Jimmy Bryant - 5 years, Shane Eldridge –5 years, Brandon Randle – 5 years, and Todd Ledbetter – 10 years.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the April 19, 2021 Work Session and the April 20, 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, 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. 2021-83 to be ratified in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation to secure a position in the Municipal Debris Removal Fund.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-83**

Councilmember Gordy moved to ratify 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 an acceptance proposal quote from Signs, Inc. to construct and install the “Shared Monument Sign” at a cost not to exceed \$49,875.80.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-84**

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 purchasing one (1) 2021 International CV515 SFA Service Vehicle on the Alabama State Bid from Southland Transportation Group in an amount not to exceed \$73,562.26.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-85**

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 the purchase of one (1) Caterpillar 420 Cab Backhoe from Thompson CAT in an amount not to exceed \$105,215.66.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-86**

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 purchase of one (1) 926M Wheel Front End Loader from Thompson CAT in an amount not to exceed \$207,174.92.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-87**

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 a resolution in reference to authorizing the purchase of one (1) Caterpillar Next Gen D3 Cab Dozer in an amount not to exceed \$151,092.65.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-88**

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 Letter of Request from the Planning Commission, Public Notice and Ordinance to rezone 1.24 acre tract of land located at 3501 Summerville Road, Norman W. Davis, 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, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for first reading an Ordinance to exempt certain covered items from the municipal sales and use tax during the third full weekend of July 2021, referred to as the "Back-to-School" Sales Tax Holiday. Councilmember Johnson moved to place the ordinance 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. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Ordinance to Require Wearing Masks in Buildings or Indoor Spaces Managed, Leased, or Owned by the City of Phenix City, Alabama.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2021-06**

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.

Mayor Lowe presented one opening on the Phenix City Housing Authority Board. Mayor Lowe stated that current member Noble Williams is willing to serve another term. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Day moved to reappoint Noble Williams, 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 previously tabled 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 loader and cause damage to Ms. Cherry's vehicle. City Attorney Graham recommended paying the claim in the lowest estimate of \$1,213.73. Councilmember Johnson moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to pay the claim in the lowest estimate of \$1,213.73, 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 filed by State Farm as subrogee of John Tyner. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that on September 3, 2020, while driving on US Highway 280/431 a police vehicle struck a vehicle owned by Mr. Tyner 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. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to deny 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.

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 spoke on a Take Pride in your City Community Day. Councilmember Johnson stated that it would be nice to have an event where the entire community comes together to make sure the City of Phenix City is a safe and clean place to live. Councilmember Johnson also stated that having pride in where you live will make a big difference for everyone.

Councilmember Johnson asked that everyone pray for the Brundidge family. Councilmember Johnson stated that Catherine Brundidge, the owner of local restaurant Lily B. Rose, recently passed away.

Councilmember Bailey stated that the COVID-19 Pandemic is not over. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone to continue to practice social distancing, wearing a mask when in public, and be mindful of others. Councilmember Bailey asked that everyone keep our First Responders lifted in prayer. Councilmember Bailey stated that they are put in situations with unpredictable outcomes.

Councilmember Bailey asked everyone to pray for the safety of those who serve in the United States Armed Forces. Councilmember Bailey stated that we are blessed to have men and women who care enough about our Country to put their lives on the line for the safety of others.

Mayor Lowe thanked City Council, 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 the men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces for all that they do to keep our Country safe.

Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to remember the Golden Rule and treat people the way that you would want to be treated.

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 May 18, 2021.