

**MEETING MINUTES
August 3, 2021**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle-Hour Park Community Center located at 3743 Moon Lake Drive, Phenix City, Alabama 36867. 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 Alan Griffith of 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 Johnny Moore – 5 years, Veronica Pitts - 10 years, Matthew Goodson - 10 years, and Greg Lahr – 25 years.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the July 19, 2021 Work Session and the July 20, 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 a Public Notice in reference to making application to the Bureau of Justice for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for purchasing equipment for the Russell County Sheriff's Office, Service Weapon Project.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the Public Notice, 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 enter into a Preliminary Engineering agreement with ALDOT for the resurfacing on Knowles Road from 16th Avenue to 4th Place, Project #100073506.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-153

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 and directing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a Preliminary Engineering agreement with ALDOT for the resurfacing on 4th Place from Knowles Road to Seale Road, Project #100073505.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-154

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 Preliminary Engineering agreement with ALDOT for the resurfacing on 43rd Street from Summerville Road to the end of 43rd Street, Project # 100073598.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-155

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 an easement for access to and maintenance of water meters and water meter valves dedicated by the Administrative Replat of 9.69 +/- acres along US Highway 280E at the Phenix Corners Shopping Center, Second Street of Phenix City, LLC owner.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-156

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 permanent water easement on Lot-6, Ladonia Commercial Subdivision (106 Compromise Court, Phenix City, Alabama).

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-157

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 the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a contract agreement with Graham Legal Firm in the amount of \$300.00 per parcel for title searches and opinions of CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) awarded for the Phenix City Blight Removal Project (LR-CE-PF-20-009).

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-158

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 enter into a contract with Focused Construction Services, LLC in the amount of \$27,500.00 for the demolition management of CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) awarded for the Phenix City Blight Removal Project (LR-CE-PF-20-009).

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-159

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 rejecting bids received for E21-02 Demolition and Construction Landfill Expansion.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-160

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 rejecting bids received for E21-03 City Wide Asphalt Pavement Crack Sealing.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-161

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. 2021-162

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 a resolution in reference to declaring fire hoses surplus to be disposed of at the City Landfill.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-163

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 declaring fire hose couplings to be sold as scrap.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-164

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 the purchase of (1) one 2021 Caterpillar 304 Mini Excavator from Thompson CAT in an amount not to exceed \$62,382.77.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-165

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 Non-Disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement with LGP Training Solutions, LLC. For training services rendered for the Public Safety Division in an amount not to exceed \$6,048.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-166

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 a one time compensation of \$500.00 to the Phenix City Youth Baseball Cal Ripken 12U All Stars for entering into the 2021 Cal Ripken Major/70 World Series in Branson, Missouri.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-167

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 the Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with Oracle Elevator Company for upgrade modernization of the Public Safety Elevator in an amount not to exceed \$120,960.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-168

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 declaring personal property as surplus and disposing of for the nominal sum of \$1.00 and other valuable considerations to Michael Campbell in recognition of his 17 years of public service.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-169

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 and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign Change Order Number 1 with Oracle Elevator in the amount \$3,800.00 to perform elevator jack replacement work over a weekend to avoid disruption during normal business hours.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-170

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 letter of request from the Planning Commission, Public Notice and Ordinance to rezone 9.40 tract of land located at 921 28th Avenue, from an R-2 Zone to a R-3 Zone, SFC Properties, LLC, (Scott Chambers), owner.

LETTER

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE

Councilmember Gordy moved to accept the letter, approve the public notice, and 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. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented one (1) opening on the Phenix City Public Building Authority.

Mayor Lowe stated that current member Joe L. Clark is willing to serve another term. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Day moved to reappoint Joe L. Clark, 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 Niyati Patel for Khamlai2014, LLC dba Heap Cheap Food Store located at 612 Fontaine Road, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Johnson 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.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with Greene Communications, Inc. dba CTV Beam for use of a portion of a building located at Garrett-Harrison Stadium.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-171

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.

Councilmember Day thanked Mr. Desi Morgan, Sr. for spear heading another community event at Austin Sumbry Park. Councilmember Day stated that there were over 100 people in attendance. Councilmember Day also stated that it is going to take the entire community coming together to make a difference in the community.

Councilmember Day thanked City employees for their hard work and dedication to the City. Councilmember Day wished Captain Campbell well on his retirement.

Councilmember Johnson stated that a new school year is fast approaching. Councilmember Johnson wished all students, parents and administrators in the surrounding area a safe and prosperous school year. Councilmember Johnson encouraged everyone to slow down while driving and be mindful of school age children and buses as they travel throughout the City.

Councilmember Bailey stated that the Covid-19 Pandemic numbers continue to rise. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone to be safe when out in public and wear a mask when possible. Councilmember Bailey stated that we don't want the nation to shut down again so everyone must do their part to slow the spread of the virus. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone that is able to be vaccinated to consider getting vaccinated. Councilmember Bailey stated that he understands that everyone cannot be vaccinated but there are others that can.

City Manager Wallace Hunter asked the Citizens of Phenix City to please be patient with City Departments and City Workers if task are completed at a slower rate. Mr. Hunter stated that some Departments are working on skeleton crews for various reasons. Mr. Hunter also stated that the City is hiring in several departments. Mr. Hunter further stated that the City is a great place to work for with great benefits.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the number of people contracting the Coronavirus is continuously rising because so many people are choosing not to be vaccinated. Mr. Hunter stated that the City is experiencing this issue even with employees. Mr. Hunter further stated that Alabama has one of the lowest vaccination rate compared to other states. Mr. Hunter encouraged everyone to be safe and cautious and get vaccinated if you can.

Mayor Lowe stated that we have to think of others more than you think of yourself.

Mayor Lowe thanked the Department Heads, City employees, City Manager and City Council for their hard work and dedication to the 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 August 17, 2021.