

**MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2021**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, October 19, 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.

Councilmember Bailey delivered the invocation.

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

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Constance M. Houston.

PROCLAMATION

City Clerk Melony Lee read the proclamation. Jimmy Davis and Melody Davidson came forward by Zoom Video Conference to accept the proclamation. Mayor Lowe stated that Ms. Houston set a great example for all of us to follow. City Manager Wallace Hunter recalled the many things that Constance Houston contributed to the community. Mr. Hunter stated that she is greatly missed.

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Head Start Awareness Month.

PROCLAMATION

City Clerk Melony Lee read the proclamation. Mayor Lowe thanked the Enrichment Services for seeding into our young people. Mayor Lowe stated that the proclamation would be picked up by the designated person from Enrichment Services.

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing White Cane Awareness Day.

PROCLAMATION

City Clerk Melony Lee read the proclamation. Mayor Lowe thanked the White Cane Society for everything that they do for the blind citizens in our community. Mayor Lowe stated that Mr. Jerry Bentley would pick up the official proclamation.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the October 4, 2021 Work Session 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: Councilmember Bailey. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the October 5, 2021 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the minutes, 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: Councilmember Bailey. 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 authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign and enter into a Contract Agreement with Barbara Mansfield for the purchase of 0.33 acres more or less located on 11th Avenue South in an amount not to exceed \$7,700.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-221

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 and enter into a Contract Agreement with George Mike Corcoran for the purchase of 1.98 acres more or less located on 5th Street South in an amount not to exceed \$23,481.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-222

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 the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a contract agreement with the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce in amount not to exceed \$35,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-223

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 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: 1908 10th Avenue, 1911 10th Avenue, 2107 12th Avenue, and 805 16th Street. 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 on Zoom Video Conference were open for anyone wishing to address council on any of the properties. Mayor Lowe further stated that interested parties could dial (312) 626-6799 and key in web ID number 858 7135 0325 to speak with Council. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone come forward, either by phone or by platform ZOOM, Mayor Lowe declared the public hearing closed.

Mayor Lowe presented four (4) 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. 1908 10th Avenue

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-224

2. 1911 10th Avenue

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-225

3. 2107 12th Avenue

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-226

4. 805 16th Street

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-227

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 purchasing (1) one Freightliner/PAC-MAC KBF-20-ML W/TKB1824 Graball from Ingram Equipment Company through SourceWell Contract No. 060920-NAF in an amount not to exceed \$163,413.76.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-228

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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign and accept the proposal from Willow Construction, Inc. to add (2) two additional siphons at the Lakewood Park Dam Repairs Project.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-229

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 for second reading an Ordinance to Amend Sections 4.16-C of the Merit System Rules and Regulations of the City of Phenix City, Alabama.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-12

Councilmember Day moved to approve the ordinance, 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. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Willie McCall for property damage. City Attorney Jimmy Graham recommended tabling the claim giving the appropriate department time to investigate and submit a memorandum of explanation. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to table the claim, 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.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Harveta J. Florence. City Attorney Graham stated that the claim alleges that on September 19, 2021, while driving on 10th Avenue, Ms. Florence ran over a pothole and caused damage to her vehicle. City Attorney Graham also stated that upon investigation, the Public Works Department had no prior knowledge of the pothole prior to the incident. City Attorney Graham recommended denying the claim. Councilmember Bailey 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.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a Notice of Claim filed by John Foy and Associates. City Attorney Graham stated that a minor child fell at West View Elementary School and sustained a broken arm. City Attorney Graham recommended denying the claim due to The Phenix City Board of Education is a separate entity. Mr. Graham stated that he would reach out to John Foy and Associates and send a letter to them. 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 stated that she had the opportunity to attend the grand opening of the Better Living Community Center located at 1415 9th Avenue in District Two. Councilmember Johnson also stated that the Center would be offering great services to our community such as, food give a ways, clothes preparation of ironing for the homeless, sewing classes and many more services. Councilmember Johnson further stated that anyone needing services can reach the Center by dialing 334-560-1882.

Councilmember Johnson extended condolences to the family of United States General Colin L. Powell. Councilmember Johnson stated that General Colin L. Powell served under four United States Presidents. Councilmember Johnson also stated that General Powell was a great man and his legacy will continue to live on. Councilmember Johnson asked that everyone pray for his family.

Councilmember Day recalled an old saying that stated: may the life that you live speak for you. Councilmember Day stated that General Colin Powell stayed in Phenix City while he was

stationed at the Army base in Ft. Benning Georgia. Councilmember Day also stated that General Colin Powell was a great person.

Councilmember Bailey thanked City Employees for their hard work in keeping the City moving forward during the Pandemic. Councilmember Bailey thanked the Citizens of Phenix City for their understanding even if it takes a little longer for services to be completed around the City. Councilmember Bailey encouraged all Citizens when they see a City worker, to thank the City worker for the job that they do for the City.

Councilmember Bailey stated that General Colin Powell was a great American who served our Country. Councilmember Bailey stated that General Colin Powell set the example of how we should help each other. Councilmember Bailey stated that Ms. Constance Houston set the example locally in serving the Community 39 years with Red Cross. Councilmember Bailey also stated that she was concerned about everybody's welfare. Councilmember Bailey further stated that General Colin Powell will be missed in our country and Ms. Houston is missed in our Community. Councilmember Bailey stated that there is a lot of negativity going on in our Country but there are more good people than bad. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone to step up and help someone else.

City Manager Wallace Hunter thanked City Council and City Employees for all that they do for the City.

Mayor Lowe stated that we have to think of others more than we 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 asked that God continues to bless us all individually and collectively.

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

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until November 2, 2021.