

**MEETING MINUTES
January 19, 2022**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 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 Steve Bailey, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember Vickey Carter Johnson was not present. Also present were City Manager Wallace Hunter, City Attorney Jimmy Graham, and Acting City Clerk Shannon Davis. City Clerk Melony Lee was not present.

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

Pastor Don Abrams of Trinity United Methodist Church delivered the invocation.

Councilmember Day led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the January 3, 2022 Work Session and the January 4, 2022 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Gordy 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 Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Councilmember Day. 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 renewing the tax structure of the City of Phenix City, Alabama for the tax year beginning October 1, 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-08

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to accepting an easement dedicated by the Phenix Industrial Park Redivision of Tracts 12, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, 107.72 +/- acres on Parcel ID No. 57 08 04 18 0 000 006.012 along Downing Drive, City of Phenix City, owner.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-09

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, 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 accept apparent bid and enter into a contract agreement with J. Douglas Martin & Associates, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$334,712.77 to remodel the Economic Development Building.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-10

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, 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 Ozark Striping Company, Inc. for bid E22-02 Traffic Striping & Marking.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-11

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, 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 service agreement with Dr. Jack D. Sherrer dba Occupational Medicine of Columbus for occupational medical services rendered to employees of the City.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12

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, 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 concession services agreement with Greenawalt Hospitality, LLC dba B&B Beverage Management for beverage and bartending staff management at the Phenix City Amphitheatre 2022 through 2024 at a cost of \$0.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-13

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, 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 Maintenance and Monitoring contract with A-Com Protection Services, Inc. in the amount of \$32.50 a month for 36 months.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing officers of the Phenix City Police Department to use necessary city owned equipment to perform lawful duties while working preapproved off-duty jobs at various business premises.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-15

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

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 2015-14 of the Code of Ordinances of the City Of Phenix City, Alabama, Chapter 70, Section 22 (FKA Chapter 12, Section 2) Garbage, Trash and Weeds, Relative to Fees for the Collection of Garbage.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-01

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for first reading an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Phenix City, Alabama, Chapter 82, Article II (FKA Chapter 17, Article II), Section 82-20 (FKA Section 17-17) Relating to Establishment of Water Rates Schedule, Section 82-21 (FKA Section 17-18) Relating to Establishment of Sewer Rates Schedule, and Section 82-22 (FKA Section 17-21) Relating to the Payment of Bills. Councilmember Gordy moved to dispense with the reading of the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed. Councilmember Day moved to place 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, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Councilmember Day thanked all the Citizens that volunteer to serve on our City boards. Councilmember Day stated that it takes time and commitment to serve on a board. Councilmember Day thanked the board members for taking time out of their daily schedule to serve the community.

Councilmember Bailey thanked City Employees for their hard work and dedication to the City. Councilmember Bailey stated that City Employees are working harder than they ever have before and with a smaller work force. Councilmember Bailey encouraged the Citizens of Phenix City to have patience as they do business throughout the City. Councilmember Bailey stated that a smaller work force is not just a City issue but a nationwide issue as a result of the pandemic. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone to be aware of what is happening in their own communities and help out when they can.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that City workers are doing the very best that they can with the number of people that they have. Mr. Hunter also stated that the City as well as the nation is experiencing a workforce shortage. Mr. Hunter asked everyone to have patience and understanding as we continue to go through this pandemic. Mr. Hunter stated that he heard on the news that hospitals are asking for volunteers and the armed forces are offering bonuses for recruits. Mr. Hunter also stated that it is going to take everyone working together not just to get us through the pandemic but for the sake of future generations. Councilmember Bailey stated we have to change our way of thinking and think of others before we do ourselves. Councilmember Bailey also stated that there is no "I" in team and we have to work together as a team if we want things to change. Mr. Hunter reflected on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as we celebrated his Holiday on January 17, 2022. Mr. Hunter stated that Dr. King preached from his heart for a better future for our generation. Mr. Hunter also stated that we should do the same and make this nation a better place for the next generation. Mr. Hunter further stated that it is always a setback but we have to push forward and not backwards. Mr. Hunter reflected on the voting rights that effected his grandfather's generation and how far we have come. Mr. Hunter stated that some legislatures are pushing to change those rights that so many have fought and died for to limit who will be able to vote. Councilmember Day stated that we have to pray and have compassion in our hearts to love one another. Councilmember Day also stated that we have to remember that God is love. Mr. Hunter stated that in this generation, we have people who believe in God and others that don't believe in God and that is why we have so many troubles in the world. Mr. Hunter also stated that no matter what you believe in, we should all have human kindness and the decency to treat people right.

Mayor Lowe stated that we are living in challenging times. Mayor Lowe also stated that trouble does not last always and this too shall pass. Mayor Lowe further stated that to get the right person, we must be the right person. Mayor Lowe stated we all have a responsibility to do the best that we can with honesty, fairness, empathy and compassion towards others. Mayor Lowe also stated that God is not interested in what others do to us but what we do to others.

Mayor Lowe thanked Council, City Manager Wallace Hunter, City Attorneys, Department Heads and all City Employees and Citizens for giving of themselves for the betterment of Phenix City. Mayor Lowe stated that we are all one team and that is team Phenix City.

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 February 1, 2022.