

MEETING MINUTES
March 1, 2022

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 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 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 James Platt of Allen Temple AME Church delivered the invocation.

Councilmember Gordy 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 Ricky Lowman – 5 years and James Belin – 25 years.

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Arbor Day.

PROCLAMATION

Jennifer Davidson with the Alabama Extension Office came forward to accept the proclamation.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the February 14, 2022 Work Session and the February 15, 2022 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 presented the called meeting minutes of the February 9, 2022 Redistricting Public Hearing – District One 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 presented the called meeting minutes of the February 16, 2022 Redistricting Public Hearing – District Two for approval. Councilmember Johnson 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 presented the called meeting minutes of the February 23, 2022 Redistricting Public Hearing – District Three for approval. Councilmember Bailey moved to approve the minutes, 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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Councilmember Gordy. 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 the satisfaction of a special assessment on property located at 401 15th Avenue South, Lockhart Dev. Co. LLC (2017 Taxes), owner.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-41

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 the satisfaction of a special assessment on property located at 311 South Seale Road, Lockhart Dev. Co. LLC (2017 Taxes), owner.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-42

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 the satisfaction of a special assessment on property located at 707 8th Street, Robert R. Francis, owner.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-43

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 authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign a contract with MDS Lighting, Inc. for stage roofing at the Phenix City Amphitheater April 1, 2022 through July 15, 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-44

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 and directing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a contract with International Creative Management Partners, LLC dba ICM Partners for Samantha Fish to perform at the Phenix City Amphitheater on April 2, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-45

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 enter into a contract with Red 11 Music for Muscadine Bloodline to perform at the Phenix City Amphitheater on June 3, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-46

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.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a Notice of Claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Cory Watson Attorneys on behalf of Meriam Dale Raines. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that the claim alleges that on July 28, 2021, while at the Phenix City Art Center, Ms. Raines fell and broke her femur and hipbone. City Attorney Graham recommended denying the claim. City Attorney Graham stated that at the time of the accident, the building was under construction and a Do Not Enter Zone. City Attorney Graham also stated the building is owned by the City but is leased by the Phenix City Arts Council. City Attorney Graham further stated that the Phenix City Arts Council has their own liability insurance and the claim should be filed with them. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to deny the claim, 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.

Councilmember Day informed everyone that he will host an Elected Official's Luncheon on Friday March 4, 2022 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center. Councilmember Day stated that all elected officials and community leaders are invited to attend. Councilmember Day also stated that the luncheon is a time for Community Leaders, State and County Officials to come together to get to know each other on a non-political basis.

Councilmember Bailey stated that his cousin, Former Mayor Frank Roberts who served Phenix City from 1974-1977, recently passed away. Councilmember Bailey asked everyone to keep the family in their prayers. Councilmember Bailey stated that Mayor Roberts was the last Mayor to serve under the old City government structure. Councilmember Bailey also stated the Mayors of Phenix City prior to 1977 carried a lot of responsibility with just a three-person commission. Councilmember Bailey further stated that the position was a full time job with a limited part time pay. Councilmember Bailey stated that the Citizens of Phenix City voted to change the structure from the three-person commission to a five-person commission to include a City Manager. Councilmember Bailey stated that Mayor Roberts was a hard working man who owned and ran Red Dot Motors full time from around the 1950s. Councilmember Bailey also stated that Mayor Roberts was a good Christian man who loved his family and Phenix City.

Councilmember Johnson thanked Councilmember Bailey for sharing Phenix City's history and thoughts of former Mayor Frank Roberts. Councilmember Johnson also stated that she had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with Mayor Roberts at the car lot.

Councilmember Johnson congratulated Mr. Lowman and Mr. Belin for their years of service and dedication to the City.

Councilmember Johnson thanked Reverend Platt of Allen Temple AME Church for taking the time out of his schedule to attend the Council meeting and lead the invocation. Councilmember Johnson stated that Allen Temple is in the district that she represents, District Two. Councilmember Johnson thanked the citizens of District Two for allowing her to serve.

Councilmember Johnson asked everyone to pray for the Citizens and government of Ukraine. Councilmember Johnson stated that we are blessed to live in the United States.

Mayor Lowe thanked City Employees for giving of themselves for the betterment of the City. Mayor Lowe stated that he is so grateful for being a part of team Phenix City. Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to be a lifter and not a leaner and help someone else.

Councilmember Day stated that he failed to mention earlier, Major General Pat Donahoe of Ft. Benning, Georgia, will be the guest speaker at the Elected Officials Luncheon on March 4, 2022.

Mayor Lowe stated that being Mayor is not easy and he appreciates all the Mayors that came before him. Mayor Lowe asked everyone to pray for Councilmember Bailey and the family of former Mayor Frank Roberts.

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 March 15, 2022.