

MEETING MINUTES
April 5, 2022

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 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 City Clerk Melony Lee.

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

Reverend Dr. Clementine Warren of Greater Peace and Goodwill AME Church delivered the invocation.

Mayor Lowe 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 Cayla Heegar – 10 years, John Sprague – 15 years, Glenn Gipe – 10 years, Chris Garner – 25 years, Gil Griffith – 25 years, Lisa Wright – 10 years, Ruby White – 30 years, and Jim Gipson – 30 years.

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Fair Housing Month.

PROCLAMATION

City Clerk Melony Lee read the proclamation. Mayor Lowe stated that the official proclamation would be delivered to the designated representative.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the March 14, 2022 Work Session and the March 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, 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 resolution in reference to the satisfaction of a special assessment on property located at 2407 and 2409 16th Court, Dave Hightower (DEC), Attn: Charles Hightower, owner.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-56

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 accepting the audited financial statement as presented by Robinson, Grimes and Company, P.C. for Fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-57

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 the dedication of an easement for Public Utilities on a "Plat of Property Division Sections 22, Township 17 North, Range 30 East, Phenix City, Russell County, Alabama" First United Methodist Church, owner.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-58

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 rescinding Resolution 2020-234 awarding a bid for demolition of structure located at 1701 12th Place South to J&J Land Development, Inc. in the amount of \$7,500.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-59

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 declaring 10 High Back Office Chairs as surplus to be disposed of at the City Landfill.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-60

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 rescinding Resolution No. 2022-53 in reference to installing street lights on Highway 431.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-61

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 Alabama Power Company to install (176) 239w LED Hawklite Off-Road fixtures along Highway 431 in Phenix City, Alabama.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-62

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 and directing the Mayor and City Manager to approve Change Order Number 1 with Landmark Grading Company in the amount of \$533.50 to undercut unsuitable subgrade at the parking entrances on 14th Avenue.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-63

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 declaring personal property as surplus to be sold as scrap or disposed of at the City Landfill.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-64

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, City Manager and Chief of Police to sign an agreement with Alabama Power Company for a License Plate Reader (LPR) system for the Police Department at Meadowlane Park and Southside Park.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-65

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 declaring property and evidence as surplus to be disposed of at the landfill or destruction at the Auburn University incinerator facility.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-66

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 accepting bid from Denali Water Solutions for the cleaning of Digester 1 at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed \$173,181.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-67

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 declaring various items as surplus to be sold as scrap or disposed of at the City Landfill.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-68

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 declared that now was the time and place for a public hearing in reference to an Ordinance to rezone a 3.71-acre tract of land located at 2515 College Drive and 2514 South Seale Road from an R-1 Zone (Low Density Residential District) to an A-O Zone (Apartment and Office District), ALLWood, LLC, owner. Mayor Lowe stated anyone wishing to address Council concerning this rezone should come forward and do so at this time. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone come forward, Mayor Lowe declared the hearing closed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Ordinance to rezone a 3.71-acre tract of land located at 2515 College Drive and 2514 South Seale Road from an R-1 Zone (Low Density Residential District) to an A-O Zone (Apartment and Office District), ALLWood, LLC, owner.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-06

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 second reading an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 22 – Elections; Sec. 22-1 Districts of the City; Voting Places; (a) – Districts, Boundaries Established ; (1) – District 1; (2) – District 2; (3) – District 3, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Phenix City, Alabama.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-07

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 one opening for the Alabama League of Municipalities Voting Delegate. Mayor Lowe called for a motion to appoint Councilmember Johnson as Voting Delegate. Councilmember Gordy moved to appoint Councilmember Johnson as Voting Delegate, which motion was second 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 hire Warr Grading Contractor, Inc. to perform emergency work to reroute a portion of sanitary main which crosses under the Village Green Shopping Center in an amount not to exceed \$99,176.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-69

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, 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 hire Warr Grading Contractor, Inc. to perform emergency work to a portion of water main at the intersection of Sandfort Road and 14th Avenue in an amount not to exceed \$111,933.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-70

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 the Mayor and City Manager to hire Warr Grading Contractor, Inc. to perform emergency work to a portion of sanitary sewer main on Brickyard Road at the intersection with 7th Street in an amount not to exceed \$329,708.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-71

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 thanked the City Clerk's Office for everything that they do to prepare Council for the Council meetings. Mayor Lowe also thanked City Manager and his team for giving of themselves for the betterment of the City. Mayor Lowe stated that he is grateful for being a part

of this team.

Councilmember Day congratulated the employees that were recognized for their years of service earlier in the meeting. Councilmember Day stated that over a hundred years of service has been dedicated to the City.

Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, invited everyone to the City's first annual Easter Egg-stravaganza, to be held on April 9, 2022 at Lakewood Park from 10:00a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Mr. Hughes stated that there will be games, candy and different age groups for the Easter egg hunt. Mr. Hughes advised that the egg hunt for 3 year olds and under will be held at 11:00 a.m., ages 4-7 will be held at 11:30 a.m. and 8 and up will be held at 12:00 p.m.

Charles Woody, Utilities Director, informed everyone that the lobby of the Utilities Department is now open to the public as of Monday April 4, 2022. Mr. Woody stated that the lobby was closed on March 23, 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Mr. Woody also stated that the Kiosk located outside of the Utilities Department is now operational and available to accept payments. Councilmember Day asked if customers will still be able to use the walk up window as a payment option as well. Mr. Woody stated that the walk up window will remain open. Mayor Lowe stated that it has been two years since the closing of the Utilities Department Lobby. Mayor Lowe thanked the citizens for their patience.

City Manager Wallace Hunter thanked Mr. Brian Rutledge and Robinson, Grimes and their Consulting group of superior accountants for the excellent job in completing the City's audit. Mr. Hunter stated that the City came out with a clean audit as expected. Mr. Hunter also stated that there have been rumors spreading that the City is broke, but that is not the case. Mr. Hunter further stated that the City is doing well, but some people criticized the fact that the City is not broke. Mr. Hunter stated that there are a lot of naysayers who will not be satisfied either way and constantly criticize the leaders of the City. Mr. Hunter thanked the Department Heads and all City Employees for their dedication to the City. Mr. Hunter stated that results equal the dedication to work. Mr. Hunter also stated that local government requires a lot of responsibility and a tremendous amount of work. Mr. Hunter thanked Finance Director, Labrita King Copeland and her team for their assistance with the audit. Mr. Hunter stated that we are very fortunate to live in a thriving City. Mr. Hunter stated that a good leader cares about the present and the future and he along with Mayor and Council care about Phenix City.

Mayor Lowe congratulated and thanked employees for their years of service.

Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to be a lifter and not a leaner and to help someone else. Mayor Lowe stated that the only thing that a person truly has is their name, their character, and their integrity which equates to our morals. Mayor Lowe stated that this Council, City Manager, and the entire team strive to be honest and fair. Mayor Lowe also stated the world needs more lifters and people that genuinely care for other people.

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 April 19, 2022.