

MEETING MINUTES
May 17, 2022

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 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 Grant Parker of Epworth United Methodist Church delivered the invocation.

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

Mayor Lowe exercised his right to privilege and called upon City Manager Wallace Hunter and Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain for a special presentation. Mr. Hunter stated that the first week in May is recognized as Municipal Clerk's Week. Mr. Hunter also stated that he wanted to take the time to recognize and honor City Clerk Melony Lee, Office Manager Shannon Davis and Administrative Assistant Tonya Williams for all that they do for the City. Ms. Chastain read the history of Municipal Clerk's Week and the general duties of a City Clerk. Ms. Chastain stated that Phenix City's City Clerk's Office goes above and beyond the call of duty. Mr. Hunter stated that he works directly with the Clerk's Office and he appreciates all the things that they do to serve the City of Phenix City. Mayor Lowe stated that the ladies of the City Clerk's Office are very humble. Mayor Lowe also stated that true humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of others before yourself. Councilmember Day stated that he has served on City Council for nine years and he appreciates all that the City Clerk's Office has done to make his job a lot easier. Councilmember Day also stated that he appreciates the attitudes and their willingness to serve. Councilmember Gordy thanked the City Clerk's Office for all that they do to help Mayor and Council. Councilmember Gordy also thanked the City Clerk's office for taking time out of their job to stop by his office if he isn't able to stop by the City Clerk's Office. Councilmember Bailey stated that the Clerk's Office does a very difficult job and they perform it very well. Councilmember Bailey also stated that he is thankful for his work family at the Clerk's office and their willingness to help. Councilmember Johnson stated that she agrees with Mayor and Council that the City Clerk's Office goes above and beyond their call of duty and she is truly grateful. Councilmember Johnson also stated that she has not been on Council as long as the others, and she is also grateful for the support of the Clerk's Office. Councilmember Day stated that in his opinion, Phenix City has the best City Clerk in the State of Alabama. City Clerk Melony Lee and Office Manager Shannon Davis came forward to accept the tokens of appreciation. Administrative Assistant Tonya Williams was not present. Ms. Davis thanked City Manager Wallace Hunter, Mayor Lowe and Council. Ms. Davis stated that it is always good to be thought of and appreciated. Ms. Davis also stated that it has been a joy to work with a great group of people. Ms. Lee thanked Mr. Hunter, Mayor and Council for surprising her office with this recognition. Ms. Lee also thanked Mr. Hunter, Mayor, Council, Department Heads and City Employees for their support and making her job enjoyable. Ms. Lee stated that working for the City feels like working with her family and she is so grateful for the relationships. Ms. Lee thanked Ms. Davis, Ms. Williams and City Manager's Administrative Assistant Zina Morris for all that they do in the Clerk's Office. Mayor Lowe stated that he is thankful to be able to work with a great team.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the May 2, 2022 Work Session and the May 3, 2022 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Johnson 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, 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 accepting a quote from Great Southern for the demolition and removal of the structure located at 1209 7th Avenue.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-90

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 approve emergency reconstruction work on a portion of Downing Drive from Uchee Hill Highway to ILJIN due to road failure.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-91

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 various items as surplus to be transferred to the Phenix City location of Firehouse Subs Restaurant for decoration.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-92

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 the Mayor and City Manager to sign the contract with Pyrotecnico for a fireworks presentation at the Phenix City Amphitheater on July 4, 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-93

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 accepting a quote from Columbus Tape and Video to provide A/V installation services to the Garrett-Harrison Stadium Scoreboard in an amount not to exceed \$19,987.34.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-94

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 declaring one Lab Police K-9 Police dog named "Ralph" as surplus to be disposed of for the consideration of the nominal sum of \$1.00 and other valuable considerations to Lieutenant Robert Isabel.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-95

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 accept a quote from Warr Grading Contractor, Inc. to install a manhole for the Village Green Sanitary Sewer Main Reroute in an amount not to exceed \$13,389.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-96

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 rescinding Resolution No. 2022-79 in reference to accepting the lowest quote from C&G Heating and Air LLC for the replacement of the Finance Department HVAC unit with a new unit.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-97

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 accepting the lowest responsible quote from Energy Savers for the replacement of the Finance Department HVAC unit with a new unit in an amount not to exceed \$17,990.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-98

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 for second reading an Ordinance to exempt certain covered items from the municipal sales and use tax during the third full weekend of July, 2022, referred to as the "Back-to-School" Sales Tax Holiday.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-09

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

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 78 Traffic and Vehicles, Section 78-11 Parking of oversize and commercial vehicles of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Phenix City, Alabama.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-10

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into and sign an agreement with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. for professional Grant Application Services for the FY 2023 Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Application in an amount not to exceed \$5,500.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-99

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 stated that over 2000 years ago, the world was given the best example in how to love and treat people and that was Jesus Christ. Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to remain humble. Mayor Lowe stated that he cannot iterate enough, that true humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of others before you think of yourself.

Councilmember Day thanked the Economic Development Department for the awesome Daechang Seat Corp. USA Ground Breaking Ceremony that was held on May 12, 2022. Councilmember Day stated that he represents District Three and he is very excited about the jobs that will be coming to Phenix City. Councilmember Day thanked City Manager Wallace Hunter and his staff for all that they do for the betterment of Phenix City. Councilmember Day stated that it was a very proud moment to have Governor Kay Ivey visiting Phenix City for the ceremony.

Councilmember Johnson thanked City Clerk Melony Lee, Office Manager Shannon Davis and all of the Municipal Clerks across the state of Alabama for all that they do.

Councilmember Johnson stated that the Daechang Seat Corp. USA Ground Breaking Ceremony was one of the most memorable moments in Phenix City's history. Councilmember Johnson also stated that breaking ground in the automotive industry in the Industrial Park is phenomenal for Phenix City. Councilmember Johnson further stated that unfortunately she was unable to make the ceremony due to being at the Alabama League of Municipalities Annual Convention in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Councilmember Johnson stated that she was able to see and hear Governor Kay Ivey speak at the opening ceremony of the convention. Councilmember Johnson also stated that she was able to hear the University of Alabama's football coach Nick Saban in the closing session. Councilmember Johnson further stated that it was a good convention.

Councilmember Johnson congratulated her Alma Mater Central High School, Glenwood School, Russell County High School, Smith Station High School and all of the 2022 high school graduates. Councilmember Johnson stated that it is a great time of year to see the children who have worked so hard graduate. Councilmember Johnson thanked school administrators for all that they do for our children.

Councilmember Johnson asked that everyone be in prayer for the victims and their families that were involved in the deadly horrific mass shooting that happened recently in Buffalo, New York. Councilmember Johnson stated that she has family in New York who live near that area and she is thankful that they are safe. Councilmember Johnson encouraged everyone to love each other and to cancel out the hatred and violence that is going on in our nation. Councilmember Johnson stated that the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians, states that God is love and we have to condemn all types of evil.

Councilmember Bailey thanked the City Clerk's Office for all that they do for the City. Councilmember Bailey stated that he agrees with Councilmember Johnson that there is too much hate in the world and not enough love. Councilmember Bailey asked everyone to continue to pray for the citizens of Ukraine and for the people who live in Buffalo, New York. Councilmember Bailey also stated that the internet is a wonderful thing but not when it is used for evil. Councilmember Bailey further stated that when we recite the Pledge of Allegiance, it states one nation under God, and we have to get back to being a Godly Country. Councilmember Bailey stated that the United States is the greatest country to live in but we must look out for each other and genuinely care about each other. Councilmember Bailey also stated that Mayor Lowe said it best when he said that Jesus was the best example to follow when it comes to love. Councilmember Bailey further stated that even though Jesus set the example of love, everybody didn't love him and they crucified him on a cross. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone to pray for our Nation.

Councilmember Gordy stated that Wendy's on 280 By-Pass will have its Grand Opening on Wednesday May 18, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Councilmember Gordy encouraged everyone to stop by and show their support.

Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to be a lifter and not a leaner. Mayor Lowe stated that there are a lot of things going on in the world because of hatred. Mayor Lowe also stated that it's the issues of the heart that causes hate. Mayor Lowe further stated that we should learn how not to be. Mayor Lowe challenged everyone to love people no matter what ethnicity they are.

Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that CTV-Beam will be live streaming Central High Schools Girls' Softball Team and Boy's Baseball Team when they play in the State Championship game. Mr. Hughes encouraged everyone to check the station for dates and times.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that a Citizen encouraged people to apply to work at the City's pool on social media. Mr. Hunter also stated that because of the post, people applied and all of the City's pools will be opened this summer. Mr. Hunter thanked the Citizen for their support and encouraged others that are in need of employment to put in an application with the City. Mr. Hunter stated that the City is a great place to work and has great benefits. Mr. Hunter also stated that jobs are available in 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 June 7, 2022.