

**MEETING MINUTES
July 6, 2022**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Wednesday, July 6, 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.

Councilmember Day delivered the invocation.

Councilmember Day 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 John Jackson – 5 years, Brenda Miller – 10 years, Marc Cutt – 15 years, and Darrell Lassiter –15 years.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the June 21, 2022 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, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the June 22, 2022 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 Resolution No. 2022-118 to be ratified in reference to purchasing one (1) 2022 Ford F-150 Supercab 4x4 Pick-up truck under State Contract #T191 with optional equipment, from Stivers Ford Lincoln in an amount not to exceed \$28,585.00.(ENG/PubWorks Department).

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-118

Councilmember Day moved to ratify 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 Resolution No. 2022-119 to be ratified in reference to purchasing one (1) 2022 Ford F-150 Supercab 4x4 Pick-up truck under State Contract #T191 with optional equipment, from Stivers Ford Lincoln in an amount not to exceed \$28,585.00.(Utilities Department).

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-119

Councilmember Johnson moved to ratify 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 Resolution No. 2022-120 to be ratified in reference to accepting a bid from P.F. Moon and Company, Inc. for the WWTP Upgrade and Expansion project in an amount not to exceed \$11,283,564.57.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-120

Councilmember Day moved to ratify 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 Public Notice setting public hearing dates for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY 2022 Local Formula Solicitation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the public notice, 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 a Professional Services Agreement with American Traffic Solutions, Inc. dba Verra Mobility for the City's Red Light Safety Program.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-121

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 City of Phenix City to provide the Phenix City Housing Authority \$50,000.00 to help defray costs not covered by HUD.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-122

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 authorizing the purchase of one (1) 2024 Mack Truck GR64F purchased under Sourcewell Vendor #HT06-20 from Gulf Coast Truck & Equipment Company, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$177,961.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-123

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 presented a resolution in reference to authorizing the purchase of one (1) John Deere Z930M ZTrak Lawnmower purchased from SunSouth, LLC of Columbus, GA in an amount not to exceed \$10,800.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-124

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 a resolution in reference to authorizing the purchase of one (1) B230 Straw Blower purchased under Sourcewell Contract ID #119593 from Thompson CAT in an amount not to exceed \$82,673.50.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-125

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 purchase the compact track loader with drum mulcher and other options from Bobcat of Opelika in an amount not to exceed \$126,929.98.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-126

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 presented a resolution in reference to authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to sign and purchase software from Vacuum Truck Sales and Service, LLC to be installed in the IBAK CCTV system in an amount not to exceed \$16,237.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-127

4 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 and directing the Mayor and City Manager to purchase a new pump from Jim House & Associates, Inc. to replace one Gorman-Rupp pump at the 19th Street Lift Station in an amount not to exceed \$5,778.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-128

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 for first reading an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Phenix City, Alabama, Chapter 46 – Licenses, Taxation and Miscellaneous Business Regulations, Article II – Sales Tax, Section 46-23 Levy of Tax, Section 46-24 Sales and Use Tax Rate in City Limits, Section 46-25 Sales and Use Tax Rate in Police Jurisdiction, Section 46-26 Privacy, and Add Sections: 46-27 Effective Date, Section 46-28 Severability, and Section 46-29 Repealer. Councilmember Day moved to place the 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, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an application for a Bonding Company License submitted by Alexis Wooden Elliott and Cortez Elliott for A.C. Bail Bonding, LLC located at 1030 5th Avenue SE Suite A. Decatur, AL 35601. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the application, 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 Notice of Claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Carpenter, Ingram & Mosholder, LLP, on behalf of Brianna Walker. City Attorney Graham stated that Ms. Walker was involved in an automobile accident involving a Phenix City Police vehicle. City Attorney Graham also stated that at a previous Council Meeting, authority was granted by Mayor and Council to negotiate a settlement on the Notice of Claim. City Attorney Graham further stated that a negotiation was not reached between him and the law firm Carpenter, Ingram & Mosholder, LLP on behalf of Ms. Walker. City Attorney Graham recommended denying the claim. Councilmember Day 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.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a Notice of Claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Kenneth S. Nugent, P.C., Archie Grubb on behalf of Savannah Alexander. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that Ms. Alexander was involved in an automobile accident involving a school bus belonging to the Phenix City School System. City Attorney Graham recommended denying the claim. City Attorney Graham stated that the City of Phenix City is a complete and

separate entity from the Phenix City School Board. City Attorney Graham stated that he would reach out to Kenneth S. Nugent, P.C. Attorneys at Law to direct them to file with the Board of Education. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to deny the claim, 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.

Councilmember Day congratulated and thanked the employees that were recognized earlier in the meeting for their years of service. Councilmember Day stated that combined, there was a total of 45 years of service to the community.

Councilmember Johnson stated that there are a lot of positive things happening in Phenix City. Councilmember Johnson also stated that she received a phone call from a Citizen who was thankful that the City was able to host the Fourth of July celebration. Councilmember Johnson encouraged everyone to focus on the positive things in life and not the negative things that are happening in our nation.

Councilmember Johnson stated that she received another positive phone call from a Citizen, concerning recent events at the Phenix City Russell County Library. Councilmember Johnson also stated that there are a lot of activities happening in Phenix City. Councilmember Johnson thanked Library Director Tammy Henry and staff for hosting the event with the animals for children of all ages to enjoy.

Councilmember Johnson encouraged everyone to be safe and be aware of what is going on around them. Councilmember Johnson stated that unfortunately there is hatred among us. Councilmember Johnson encouraged everyone to love others the way that God loves us.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the Nation is still experiencing a workforce shortage. Mr. Hunter also stated that City employees are doing the very best that they can with the number of people that they have. Mr. Hunter encouraged Citizens to be patient if things are taking a little longer to be completed. Mr. Hunter also encouraged everyone to pray for our nation.

Mayor Lowe stated that City Employee John Jackson who works in the Utilities Department mentioned earlier that the last two years of his career with the City has been very challenging. Mayor Lowe also stated that Mr. Jackson was correct and these last few years have been challenging for us all. Mayor Lowe further stated that in these trying times, we all need each other.

Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to learn how not to be and set the example on how to live and do what is right. Mayor Lowe stated that it only takes a few righteous and good people to encourage others, lift them up and not tear them down.

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 July 19, 2022.