

**MEETING MINUTES
October 4, 2022**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 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.

Pastor Don Abram of Trinity United Methodist 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 Emanuel Howard - 5 years, Patrick Pickard Jr., - 10 years, Maverick Stockdale - 15 years, Stephen Frederick -15 years, and Henry Edmond - 15 years.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the September 19, 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 September 20, 2022 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Bailey 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: Councilmember Johnson. 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 special assessment on property located at 315 Seale Road, Robert James and Naomi Cook, owners.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-213

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 reappointing Senior Municipal Court Judge.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-214

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 reappointing Assistant Municipal Court Judge.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-215

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 make application for grant assistance from the Alabama Tourism Department to support Freestyle Kayak World Cup Competition and Festivities.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-216

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.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to accept a proposal from KPS Group, Inc. for the Comprehensive Plan update, Zoning Ordinance update, Subdivision Regulation update and Design Guideline services in an amount not to exceed \$177,260.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-217

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 Mayor and City Manager to enter into an agreement with Stone & Sons Electrical Contractors, Inc. to provide pedestrian crossing improvements at the intersection of Broad Street and Dillingham Street in an amount not to exceed \$72,312.85.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-218

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 Mayor and City Manager to sign and enter into an agreement with Whatley Construction to construct a Fire Training Facility behind Fire Station One in an amount not to exceed \$2,949,749.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-219

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 and sign a contract with Fire Training Structures, LLC for the design and construction of a Live Fire and Confined Space Training Tower in an amount not to exceed \$570,605.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-220

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-221

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 declaring six (6) vehicles surplus to be sold as scrap.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-222

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 pumps and equipment surplus to be sold as scrap or disposed of at the City Landfill.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-223

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 one opening on the Improvement District / Brickyard Project. Mayor Lowe stated that current member, Joel R. Carter Sr., is willing to serve another term. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Gordy moved to reappoint Joel R. Carter Sr., 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 one opening on the Tree Commission. Councilmember Day moved to table the appointment, 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.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a Subrogation Claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Auto-Owners Insurance for City Gates Church. City Attorney Graham stated that a sanitary sewage line overflowed and caused property damage to the church. City Attorney Graham recommended deferring action to the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation and authorize the payment of the \$1,000.00 deductible which is required by contract with AMIC. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation of deferring action to the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation and authorize the payment of the \$1,000.00 deductible which is required by contract with AMIC, 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 The Hays Law Firm on behalf of Emmitt Bennett. City Attorney Graham stated that the City has a drainage easement on his property. City Attorney Graham also stated that Mr. Bennett came before Council at a Work Session on March 14, 2022 requesting that the City maintain the upkeep of the easement. City Attorney Graham further stated that based on Alabama Law, the City is not responsible for the upkeep of the easement but to make sure it is functioning properly. City Attorney Graham recommended denying the claim. 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.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to make application for grant assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program for a planning study on the Crawford Road/13th Street Corridor.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-224

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.

Mayor Lowe thanked Council, City Manager Wallace Hunter, Department Heads, City Employees and the Citizens of Phenix City for all that they do for the community. Mayor Lowe stated that we all have so much to be thankful for.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that Phenix City is moving forward. Mr. Hunter also stated that he along with the Mayor, Council, and City Employees have a commitment to the Citizens of Phenix City to move the City forward. Mr. Hunter encouraged Citizens to come to the City if they have any questions about what is going on in the City and not talk amongst themselves so that accurate information is given out.

Mayor Lowe stated that Council, City Manager Wallace Hunter, Department Heads and City Employees are all a part of a team that services the community as a whole. Mayor Lowe also stated that it all starts with principal centered leadership. Mayor encouraged everyone to be a part of the solution and not the problem. Mayor Lowe also encouraged everyone to be a lifter and not a leaner. Mayor Lowe asked God to continue to bless 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 October 18, 2022.