

**MEETING MINUTES
October 18, 2022**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 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 Office Manager Shannon Davis. City Clerk Melony Lee was not present.

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

Pastor Alice Hubbard of True Believers Ministry delivered the invocation.

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

Mayor Lowe stated that City Clerk Melony Lee is not present for the City Council meeting. Mayor Lowe asked for a motion to appoint Shannon Davis as Acting City Clerk. Councilmember Day moved to appoint Shannon Davis as Acting City Clerk, 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 a proclamation recognizing Friends of the Library Week.

PROCLAMATION

Mrs. Ruth Ann Powers and Ron Mask with Friends of the Library came forward to accept proclamation.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the October 3, 2022 Work Session for approval. Councilmember Day 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, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Councilmember Gordy. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the October 4, 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, 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 Resolution No. 2022-225 to be ratified in reference to rescinding Resolution No. 2022-197 accepting a bid from Cavco Services, LLC, for the Demolition and Clearance Activities for (8) eight properties as part of the CDBG Grant Project # LR-CE-PF-20-009 Phase 2.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-225

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 Resolution No. 2022-226 to be ratified in reference to accepting a bid from AAA General Contractors, Inc. for the Demolition and Clearance Activities for (7) seven properties as part of the CDBG Grant Project # LR-CE-PF-20-009 Phase 2.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-226

Councilmember Johnson 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. 2022-227 to be ratified in reference to rejecting a bid received on property located at 320 12th Avenue South due to exhaustion of grant funds, for the Demolition and Clearance Activities as part of the CDBG Grant Project # LR-CE-PF-20-009 Phase 2.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-227

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 resolution in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign and enter into a contract with Orchestra Partners Development, LLC in the forming of a local Equity Seed Fund to support Downtown and Riverfront redevelopment.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-228

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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign and Amend a Reciprocal Easement Agreement with Altera Phenix Shops, LLC for the Village at Crosswinds Development.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-229

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 purchase a 25 foot tilt equipment trailer from Chattahoochee Trailer in an amount not to exceed \$20,899.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-230

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, City Manager and Chief of Police Raymond J. Smith to enter into an agreement for administration of grant funds through the SEARHSO-ESCC-Community Traffic Safety Program from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-231

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 sign and enter into an agreement with Ardurra Group, Inc. (formerly Constantine Engineering) to perform additional engineering services to the WWC Bridgewater Drive Sanitary Project in an amount not to exceed \$36,670.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-232

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 declared that now was the time and place for a public hearing in reference to an Ordinance to annex 2.2 acres of land lying in Section 5, Township 17 North, Range 30 East, Russell County, Alabama into a C-4 Zone located off Highway 280/431, D. Scott Lindstrom, Owner Representative. Mayor Lowe stated anyone wishing to address Council concerning this rezone should come forward and do so at this time. Mr. D. Scott Lindstrom came forward to address Mayor and Council. Mr. Lindstrom stated that he is the representative for the project. Mr. Lindstrom asked Mayor and Council if they had any questions concerning the project. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Lindstrom for coming and speaking before Council. City Manager Wallace Hunter asked why did they chose Phenix City. Mr. Lindstrom stated that Phenix City was a great prospect with a good traffic count and the demographics to be successful. Mr. Lindstrom stated that proposed businesses include a medical facility, a beverage establishment and restaurants. Mayor Lowe stated that the growth in Phenix City is exciting. Councilmember Day welcomed Mr. Lindstrom and future businesses to Phenix City. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone else come forward, Mayor Lowe declared the hearing closed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Ordinance to annex 2.2 acres of land lying in Section 5, Township 17 North, Range 30 East, Russell County, Alabama into a C-4 Zone located off Highway 280/431, D. Scott Lindstrom, Owner Representative.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-12

Councilmember Johnson 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 one opening on the Tree Commission. Mayor Lowe called for nominations. Councilmember Bailey nominated Debra Patterson. There were no other nominations. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Gordy moved to appoint Debra Patterson, 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 claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Antonio Harris and Sheritha Chinn-Harris. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that on August 17, 2022, while driving on 13th Avenue, Mrs. Harris ran over a pothole and caused damage to their vehicle. City Attorney Graham recommended denying the claim due to the City had no prior notice of the pothole. 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.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Annie Thomas. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that on September 26, 2022, while driving on 4th Avenue, Ms. Thomas ran over a pothole and caused damage to her vehicle. City Attorney Graham recommended denying the claim. City Attorney Graham stated that City workers were performing road work in the area with proper warning signage, therefore the City is not liable. 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.

Councilmember Johnson thanked Pastor Alice Hubbard of True Believers Ministry delivering the invocation.

Councilmember Johnson stated that the proclamation given to Friends of the Library was well deserved. Councilmember Johnson read the flyer passed out by Ms. Powers stating that the Friends of the Library will be hosting a bag of books sale October 20 -22, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Councilmember Johnson further stated that a brown paper grocery size bag can be purchased for \$5.00 and can be filled to capacity with books. Councilmember Johnson encouraged every to come out and support the Phenix City - Russell County Library. Councilmember Johnson stated that a lot of great things are happening in Phenix City.

Councilmember Johnson stated that October is breast cancer awareness month. Councilmember Johnson also stated that there is an annual event that will be held Friday October

21, 2022 at Woodruff Park in Columbus, Georgia called Paint the Town Pink. Councilmember Johnson further stated that she will be participating in the 5K run. Councilmember Johnson encouraged everyone to join her in the support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Councilmember Johnson also encouraged everyone that is able, to make sure that they are getting their mammograms annually or as scheduled by a healthcare professional.

Councilmember Johnson thanked the Citizens of Phenix City for helping the City strive. Councilmember Johnson encouraged everyone to be safe and aware of their surrounding especially during this time of year and with the children being out in the City's streets on Halloween. Councilmember Johnson stated that Phenix City is a great place to live, work and worship.

Councilmember Bailey thanked everyone that was involved in the Kayaking events that were held in Columbus, Georgia and Phenix City last weekend. Councilmember Bailey stated that it was a big international event. Councilmember Bailey congratulated local winners of the ICF (International Canoe Federation) Canoe Freestyle World Cup event. Councilmember Bailey stated that Phenix City and Columbus have something unique and special and that's the Chattahoochee River. Councilmember Bailey also stated that the river is enjoyed by locals and non-locals. Councilmember Bailey further stated that next year's event will be bigger than this year's event.

Councilmember Bailey stated that the City of Phenix City is growing in multiple directions. Councilmember Bailey also stated that the Covid-19 Pandemic slowed the world down for a couple of years but now it is time to move forward.

Councilmember Bailey stated that lately, there have been a few parents that have come before Council requesting to be annexed into the City for school purposes. Councilmember Bailey also stated that Council tries to stay consistent in decision making and if they allow one family to annex in, then they have to allow all that ask to be annexed in. Councilmember Bailey further stated that people may not always agree with the decisions made by Council which is to be expected. Councilmember Bailey encouraged citizens who may not understand or have questions about what is going on in the City to come to City Hall and speak to the source which is Mayor, Council and the City Manager. Councilmember Bailey stated that he is proud of where Phenix City was in the past, what the City is doing in the present and excited about the City's future. Councilmember Bailey also stated that the City is growing and in the right direction.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that Phenix City sits in two counties, Russell County and Lee County. Mr. Hunter also stated that some residents of Lee County are receiving Fire fee bills. Mr. Hunter further stated that Phenix City has nothing to do with the fees and they should contact the Lee County government in Opelika, Alabama.

City Manager Wallace Hunter called upon the Planning – Economic Development Department to discuss this past weekend events at the river and the local family that represented the City very well in the ICF Canoe Freestyle World Cup event. Mr. Hunter stated that next year's event will be far greater than this year's event which is great for the City. Mr. Hunter also stated that there were people from all over the world that came to our City and surrounding areas. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager came forward to address Mayor and Council. Mr. Culligan stated that the Hargrove family represented the City very well. Mr. Culligan also stated that this City has produced legends in football and baseball to include Mayor Lowe and it is exciting to watch the preparation of future kayak legends. Mr. Culligan further stated that the river is truly special and it attracts people from all over. Mr. Culligan stated that the Hargrove family

trains on the river and take the sport of kayaking very seriously. Mr. Culligan also stated Mason Hargrove, the oldest son, and Makinley Kate Hargrove, the oldest daughter, both competed in the ICF Canoe Freestyle World Cup event. Mr. Culligan further stated that Makinley Kate Hargrove placed first in the Junior Women's Competition and Mason Hargrove placed first in his division. Mr. Culligan stated that Mason was successful in the World Cup II competition and received the third place award. Mr. Culligan also stated he has received nothing but positive feedback concerning the weekend of events.

Councilmember Day thanked Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church, the Police Department the Russell County Sherriff Department for Hosting the Faith and Blue Event on October 9, 2022. Councilmember Day stated that the event was well supported by the Community. Councilmember Day also stated that the event was informative as well.

Mayor Lowe thanked Council, City Manager Wallace Hunter, Department Heads and City Employees for doing the right thing and for the right reasons. Mayor Lowe stated that he is grateful to be a part of such a great team. Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to be lifter and not a leaner for the betterment of the community.

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 November 1, 2022.