

**MEETING MINUTES  
December 20, 2022**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 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 Chan Gamble, and City Clerk Melony Lee. City Attorney Jimmy Graham was not present.

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

Mayor Lowe delivered the invocation.

Mayor Lowe led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Mayor Lowe called upon Chief of Police Ray Smith to recognize Captain Joseph Weierick of the Police Department for completion of training at the FBI Academy. Chief Smith stated that Captain Weierick is the 5<sup>th</sup> Officer in Phenix City's history, including himself and Assistant Chief George Staudinger, to graduate from the prestigious FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Chief Smith also stated that completing the training does not mean that an officer is an automatic FBI Agent, it means that the officer has been trained by the best of the best law enforcement agents. Chief Smith further stated that the program began in 1935 and since that time, only 53,000 officers from throughout the world have graduated from the program. Chief Smith stated Captain Weierick has received the pinnacle of law enforcement credentials in the United States and has been trained in management, personnel, investigative techniques, budgeting and processing. Chief Smith also stated that Captain Weierick has not only gained knowledge but has built relationships with the other academy graduates. Captain Weierick thanked Chief Smith and City Manager Wallace Hunter for allowing him to attend the training. Captain Weierick stated that the 10 week long training was a unique experience in which he was able to meet law enforcement leaders from 25 different countries across the world. Captain Weierick also stated that he is looking forward to applying the new leadership skills received from the training. Mayor Lowe stated that it is a huge honor for the City. Mayor Lowe thanked Captain Weierick for enduring the 10 week training and being away from his work and family.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the December 5, 2022 Work Session and the December 6, 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, 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 rescinding Resolution No. 2022-159 in reference to declaring a structure located at 708 Williams Avenue as a public nuisance and authorizing the necessary action to bid, demolish, remove and clear all building materials, trash and debris from said premises with all costs being paid using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-270**

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 resolutions in reference to declaring properties a public nuisance and authorizing and directing the Housing Code Abatement Board to take necessary action to demolish, remove and clear all building materials, trash, and debris from the following properties:

1. 708 Williams Avenue

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-271**

2. 2114 Summerville Road

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-272**

3. 1205 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-273**

Councilmember Day moved to approve the resolutions, 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 a contract and accept an offer from Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church for the purchase of 112 South Seale Road in an amount not to exceed \$12,734.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-274**

Councilmember Johnson 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, and Gordy. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Mayor Lowe. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign a contract and accept an offer from Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church for the purchase of parcel number 57 05 05 22 4 022 029.000 in an amount not to exceed \$6,590.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-275**

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, and Gordy. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Mayor Lowe. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to granting easements to Alabama Power Company to provide electrical service for 50 Downing Drive.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-276**

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, City Manager and Chief of Police/Public Safety Director to enter into an agreement with Motorola Solutions to install and configure a Mach Alert Fire Station Alerting and Automation System in an amount not to exceed \$469,180.25.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-277**

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, City Manager and Chief of Police/Public Safety Director to enter into a Lease agreement with Motorola Solutions to finance a Mach Alert Fire Station Alerting and Automation System for the Fire Department in an amount not to exceed \$547,247.45.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-278**

Councilmember Johnson 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 sign an Indemnification Agreement with the Phenix City Board of Education regarding a Sanitary Sewer Main.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-279**

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 the Mayor and City Manager to accept a proposal from Thompson Insurance, Inc. for Property, Auto, and Liability Insurance for calendar year (2023) in the amount of \$266,869.00.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-280**

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 declared that now was the time and place for a public hearing in reference to an Ordinance to annex 3.95 acres of land lying in Section 5, Township 17 North, Range 30 East, Russell County, Alabama into a C-4 Zone (Highway Commercial) located at 3743 Highway 431 North, Two-Eighty Phenix, LLC, by Shree Singh, Owner. Mayor Lowe stated that anyone wishing to address Council concerning this ordinance should come forward and do so at this time. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone come forward to address Council, Mayor Lowe declared the public hearing closed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an Ordinance to annex 3.95 acres of land lying in Section 5, Township 17 North, Range 30 East, Russell County, Alabama into a C-4 Zone (Highway Commercial) located at 3743 Highway 431 North, Two-Eighty Phenix, LLC, by Shree Singh, Owner.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2022-15**

Councilmember Bailey 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. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for first reading an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 2016-15 of the City of Phenix City, Alabama Relating to Permit Fees. 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 a letter of Request from Planning Commission, Public Notice and Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Phenix City, Alabama, Article II-Definitions, Section 3 – Use Definitions; and Article IV – General District Regulations, Section 6 – Notes to Tables, Table 4-1 Dimensional Requirements for Residential Districts in R-2 and R-3 Patio Garden – Minimum Depth of Sideyard.

#### **LETTER**

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### **ORDINANCE**

Councilmember Day moved to accept the letter, approve the public notice, and place the ordinance on first reading, 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 letter of Request from Planning Commission, Public Notice and Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Phenix City, Alabama, Article II – Definitions, Section 3 – Use Definitions, Add Medical Cannabis Dispensary; and Article IV – General District Regulations, Section 6 – Notes to Tables, Table 4-5 Use Regulations, Add Medical Cannabis Dispensary in C-4 Zone; and Article VI – Regulations Applying To All Or Several Districts, Add Section 21 – Medical Cannabis Dispensary, Add Number 1.

**LETTER**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ORDINANCE**

Councilmember Day moved to accept the letter, approve the public notice, and 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. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented one opening on the Tree Commission. Mayor Lowe called for nominations. Councilmember Bailey nominated to appoint Rex Sanders. There were no other nominations. Councilmember Day moved to appoint Rex Sanders, 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 Chan Gamble presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Brea Word. City Attorney Gamble stated that on November 27, 2022, while driving on 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ms. Word ran over a pothole and caused damage to her vehicle. City Attorney Gamble recommended denying the claim because 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 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 and City Employees and the Citizens of Phenix City and all that they do for Phenix City.

Councilmember Bailey wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Councilmember Bailey stated that the real meaning of Christmas is the birth of Christ. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone to think of others first and help someone out if they are in need of help. Councilmember Bailey stated that we are blessed to be a blessing. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone to reach out to someone even if it is just to say thank you for something that they may have done for you. Councilmember Bailey stated that as temperatures drop, remember to bundle up and be safe. Councilmember Bailey wished everyone a blessed and safe New Year.

Councilmember Day stated that he agrees with Councilmember Bailey in the fact that Jesus is the reason for the season. Councilmember Day encouraged everyone to be safe, be aware of their surroundings, and enjoy time with friends and family.

Councilmember Day stated that he had the opportunity to attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Mother Mary Mission for the Female Veterans Transitional Shelter on Friday, December 16, 2022. Councilmember Day stated that he is thankful that we are able to have a Female Veterans Transitional Shelter in Phenix City. Councilmember Day also stated that is the only one dedicated to female veterans within a 100 mile radius.

Councilmember Day congratulated Captain Joseph Weierick of the Police Department for completion of training at the FBI Academy. Councilmember Day thanked Captain Weierick for his willingness to serve.

Councilmember Johnson stated that it is an exciting time in Positively Phenix City. Councilmember Johnson stated that the Holiday Season is among us and as 2022 comes to an end, Phenix City has faced many opportunities and challenges.

Councilmember Johnson stated she had the opportunity to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Female Veterans Transitional Shelter at Mother Mary Mission as well. Councilmember Johnson also stated that it is important to give back to our community.

Councilmember Johnson stated that earlier in December, Central High School Class of 1985 were able to come together for a Class Social. Councilmember Johnson also stated that greetings for the social were brought by Reverend Jacquelyn Bowie Hayter, a long time educator in the community. Councilmember Johnson thanked Rev. Hayter for bringing the greetings for the class of 1985 and her continued support. Councilmember Johnson read a statement from one of her classmates that attended the social: "Please tell your Mayor to keep doing a great work. You the leaders, are just what Phenix City needed." Councilmember Johnson stated that it is great to hear people come back and visit the City that they grew up in and to acknowledge how far the City has come. Councilmember Johnson thanked the citizens of Phenix City for living and growing with Phenix City.

Councilmember Johnson thanked City Manager Wallace Hunter and staff for everything that they did in helping the preparation of the opening of the new Poplar Springs Park on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Councilmember Johnson stated that the park will be enjoyed by citizens of all ages.

Councilmember Johnson wished everyone a Merry Christmas with the gift of gaith and the blessing of hope, peace and love.

Councilmember Gordy encouraged everyone to enjoy time with their family, friends and love ones. Councilmember Gordy wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

City Manager Wallace Hunter thanked God for allowing us to see the twelfth month of the year. Mr. Hunter thanked Mayor, Council, City Clerk, City Attorneys, Department heads and City Employees for all that they have done this year to make sure the City ran smoothly. Mr. Hunter stated that it has been two years since the passing of Assistant Chief Gail Green-Gilliam. Mr. Hunter reflected on the early retirement for Captain Campbell and the passing of Assistant City Manager Steven Smith. Mr. Hunter asked everyone to remember their families in their prayers. Mr. Hunter also stated that positions have changed in the Police Department because of the unexpected death of Assistant Chief Green-Gilliam. Mr. Hunter further stated that Assistant Chief Staudinger and Captain Weierick have done a great job. Mr. Hunter stated that the holiday season is always tough on families that have experienced loss. Mr. Hunter encouraged everyone to take time to love on the friends and family that are still with us and remember the ones who are not. Mr. Hunter wished everyone a Merry and Safe Christmas and a Happy New Year.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that Phenix City is doing great and is moving forward into the New Year.

Mayor Lowe wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mayor Lowe stated that it is the time of year to reflect on things of the past and prepare for the things to come. Mayor Lowe challenged everyone to be involved in continuing to make Phenix City a great place to live.

Councilmember Day stated that he has been a part of City Council for the last nine years. Councilmember Day also stated that it is great that the departments and department heads work together as a team. Councilmember Day further stated that Mr. Hunter has a great team and is doing a fantastic job for the City.

Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to be a lifter and not a leaner. Mayor Lowe asked God to bless us all individually and collectively.

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 January 4, 2023.