

MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2024

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in 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 F. Carter, Councilmember Steve Bailey, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Also present were City Manager Wallace Hunter, Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble, City Attorney Jimmy Graham, and City Clerk Shannon Davis.

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

Reverend Molly Cross with First United Methodist Church delivered the invocation as it was listed on the agenda.

Councilmember Steve Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the March 4, 2024 Work Session Meeting, and March 5, 2024 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, Carter, 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. 2024-57 to be ratified in reference to purchasing one (1) 2023 Ford F-150 Supercrew pickup truck and one (1) 2024 Ford F-250 Supercrew 4x4 pickup truck purchased under State Contract T191L from Stivers Ford Lincoln, Montgomery, Alabama in the total amount of \$83,775.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-57

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign and enter into a contract with Debora Lee Bowers for the purchase of 0.13 acres more or less, identified as parcel number 57-05-06-23-02-004-005.000, Phenix City, Russell County, Alabama, in the amount of \$3,000.00 plus applicable closing costs.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-58

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Carter. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to declaring 5 inch fire hose as surplus to be disposed of at the City Landfill.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-59

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to declaring fire hose ranging in sizes from 1.75 inches to 5 inches as surplus and transferred to the Utilities Department.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-60

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to declaring Storz hose couplings on the 5 inch hose as surplus to be sold as scrap.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-61

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

Mayor Lowe presented an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 2022-01 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Phenix City, Alabama, Chapter 70 Section 22(FKA Chapter 12 Section 2) Garbage, Trash and Weeds, Relative to Fees for the Collection of Garbage.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03

Councilmember Carter moved to place the ordinance on first reading, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a Letter of Recommendation from the Planning Commission, Public Notice and Ordinance to rezone 28.1 +/- acres of land located on Riverchase Drive from a C-3 Zone (Neighborhood Commercial District) to an R-3 Zone (High Density Residential District), Warr-Jordan, LLC.(c/o William S. Warr, Jr.), owner.

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

Mayor Lowe presented an opening for the ALM Voting Delegate. Mayor Lowe called for a motion to appoint Councilmember Day as the active delegate and Councilmember Carter as the first alternate. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, 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 Michael Osman. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that the claim alleges that a tree located on city property had limbs that fell onto Mr. Osman's roof causing damage. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that they need additional time to investigate this claim and requested that it be tabled until the April 2, 2024 Council Meeting. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to table the claim again, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City is consistently seeking grants for improvements to the City of Phenix City. Mr. Hunter also stated that they are researching improvement opportunities from Highway 280 to Whitewater Drive. Mr. Hunter further stated that we receive a grant award and asked City Engineer Angel Moore to address Council. Ms. Moore stated that the City applied for the Neighborhood Access Equity Grant from the State of Alabama for the 13th Street Corridor and the City received \$352,000.00 and the City will add a match of \$440,000.00 for the Plan Study. Ms. Moore reviewed the Plan Study with Mayor and Council for the proposed project. Ms. Moore stated that they will propose three options for the project to ensure they are covering the needs of the citizens. Councilmember Bailey inquired as to who will complete the Plan Study. Ms. Moore stated that they will send out the request for proposals from engineers and they will provide their resumes and the next step would be for the City to choose the engineer for the project. Councilmember Bailey inquired as to how the engineer will know what the plan of work will be and Ms. Moore replied that when the City sends out the request for proposals, the details will be included at that time. Ms. Moore stated that she is proud of her team, because in the last two months they have brought in 2.5 million dollars in Federal and State funds for projects within the City. Ms. Moore also stated that they want to have the citizens attend meetings to have the opportunity for input and be part of the discussion. Councilmember Bailey stated that it would be a good opportunity to have citizens at the meetings and that this work would be good for the City and be a great improvement. Councilmember Bailey also stated that the businesses that are located in area of the proposed work need to understand that this is progress and that it may be messy at times while the work is going on but that it will benefit them in the end.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that following protocol, policy and procedures are essential to follow as the structure of the Government is very important and should not be changed. Mr. Hunter also stated that part of the problem is that there are a lot of failing governments in the United States due to their mishandling of the Policy and Procedures and handling of the funds. Mr. Hunter further stated that there are a lot of requests from citizens to do certain things for the City, however, the City is responsible for ensuring that all policies and

procedures are followed in everything the city does and it is not always easy but they should know they are doing the right thing by following the procedures that are in place. Mr. Hunter stated that within the next five years they will be able to take a look at the city and see the positive changes that have been made.

Mayor Lowe stated that it all falls on the leadership of the city and it is not an easy job and that the decisions that this Council makes are not based on their individual desires or self-interest but rather on the benefits to the citizens of Phenix City. Mayor Lowe also stated that even though some people have tried to use it against the Council, this Council's transparency is something that they are very proud of and that they will continue to always be transparent with the citizens. Mayor Lowe further stated that they will continue to be honest and follow the policies and procedures and it is wrong if people will not adhere to the policies and procedure for their own self-interest and that the Council's job is to have the best interest of the whole for the community. Mayor Lowe stated that he is grateful to be part of this team and that they are doing what is right and wholesome for everyone and that no leader should ever make decisions based on their own self-interest or desires as it is about the people. Mayor Lowe also stated that for the next election, everyone should vote for the person that has the best morals and character because if they do not they are not going to do the job for the right reasons. Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to show empathy towards each other.

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 April 2, 2024.