

MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2024

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers located within the Public Safety Building at 1111 Broad Street, 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 Platt of Allen Temple AME Church was not present to deliver the invocation as listed on the agenda. Councilmember Carter delivered the invocation.

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

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Building Safety Month.

PROCLAMATION

Building Official Ray Rogers, Fire Chief Kristen Kennedy, and Chief of Police George Staudinger, came forward to accept the proclamation.

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Month of the Military Child.

PROCLAMATION

Jasponica Florence, Military Child Education Coalition Community Coordinator, came forward to accept the proclamation.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the April 1, 2024 Work Session Meeting, and April 2, 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. 2024-76 to be ratified in reference to purchasing one (1) 2023 Ford F-150 Super Crew 4x4 pickup truck and one (1) 2024 Ford F-250 Super Crew 4x4 pickup truck purchased under State Contract T191L from Stivers Ford Lincoln, Montgomery, Alabama in the total amount of \$84,685.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-76

Councilmember Carter 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 to accepting the General Fund Insurance proposal and authorizing the purchase of insurance from the Flowers Insurance Agency through Munich RE.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-77

Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the resolutions, 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. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to purchasing (2) two 2024 Ford Explorer Utility Vehicles from Stivers Ford Lincoln, Montgomery, Alabama for the total amount of \$77,070.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-78

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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign a letter of support endorsing the United Way of Chattahoochee Valley's application to the Economic Development Administration for the Recomplete Pilot Program Grant.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-79

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 authorizing and directing the Mayor to sign a letter of agreement for the responsibility of a possible project cost overrun for the ATRIP-II project for Intersection Improvements at US-280/US-80.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-80

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 accepting the lowest quote from Northern Tools to purchase a Budget 1 – Ton Chain Hoist Lift in an amount not to exceed \$1,599.99.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-81

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 accepting the lowest quote from Grainger to purchase a Set (2) 20 Ton Truck Ramps in an amount not to exceed \$803.86.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-82

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 the purchase of one 2024 Ford Explorer Utility Vehicle from Stivers Ford Lincoln in an amount not to exceed \$38,336.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-83

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, Carter, 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 City Manager to sign engagement agreements with The Arbitrage Group for arbitrage rebate calculation services for the City's outstanding revenue warrants.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-84

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 several items as surplus as listed on "Exhibit A" to be sold as scrap or disposed of at the City Landfill.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-85

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 authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a contract with Completely Unchained to perform at the Phenix City Amphitheater on June 21, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$6,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-86

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 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 (2024) in an amount not to exceed \$295,414.40.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-87

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 for first reading an Ordinance to exempt certain items from the municipal sales and use tax during the third full weekend of July, 2024, referred to as the "Back-to-School" Sales Tax Holiday. Councilmember Day moved to place the ordinance on first reading, 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. ABSTAIN: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for first reading an Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinance of the City of Phenix City, Alabama, Chapter 54-Miscellaneous Provisions and Offenses: Article I in General: Adding Sections 54-11 Camping on Streets in Vehicles, or in Non Residential Zones: Section 54-12 Loitering, Obstruction of Free Passage and Section 54-13 Remaining on Business Property After Closing. 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 an opening on the Phenix City Housing Authority Board. Mayor Lowe stated that current member, Kenneth Roberts is willing to serve another term. Mayor Lowe called for a motion. Councilmember Gordy moved to reappoint Kenneth Roberts, 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 for first reading an Application for an Off Premise Beer License and Off Premise Wine License, submitted by Shams Nanji for Gas Express LLC dba Circle K#722 located at 3424 Crosswinds Drive, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Day moved to place the applications 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.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Lakina Lewis. City Attorney Graham stated that the claim alleges that on November 12, 2023, Ms. Lewis while driving on South Railroad Street, hit a pothole and caused damage to the right front passenger side rim and tire of her vehicle. City Attorney Graham also stated that this is not the

City's liability and Ms. Lewis should contact the contractor regarding the claim. City Attorney Graham recommendation was to deny the claim and he stated that he would contact Ms. Lewis and inform her that she should discuss the claim with Bowden Contractors. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to deny the claim, 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 thanked Council and Department Heads for keeping him accountable and for all of their hard work. Mayor Lowe asked the Department Heads to communicate to all of the City employees that he appreciates each of them and all of their hard work.

Councilmember Carter stated that last month the issue of dumping in the community was discussed and that they try every avenue to mitigate the issues of dumping. Councilmember Carter also stated that the Public Works Department was contacted regarding dumping on 16th Avenue in District Two in an area that is land only with no homes. Councilmember Carter further stated that the City began to take steps to rectify the issues right away and that she received responses from citizens that stated that they appreciated the Mayor and Council for hearing them and addressing the issues. Councilmember Carter stated that the citizens acknowledge that they were proud to live in a city where they care about their citizens. Councilmember Carter also stated that these were comments of gratefulness and thankfulness from the citizens and she thanked the City Manager Wallace Hunter and his team. Councilmember Carter further stated that Phenix City is a nice city and it continues to grow and that they want to keep it that way and will do all that they can within their guidelines. Councilmember Carter stated that they are blessed to live in a City where they can worship, play and attend good schools. Councilmember Carter also stated that the City has placed posts in the area on 16th Avenue where the dumping was taking place to help prevent the issue.

Councilmember Day stated that he has had citizens inquire about the status of the Seale Bridge Project. Councilmember Day urged the citizens to come to the Reopening Ceremony at 11:00 a.m. Councilmember Day thanked all that were involved in the project on the bridge.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that he appreciates all of the work that was done to have the bridge reopened on Seale Road.

Mayor Lowe thanked the Citizens of Phenix City for being part of the community. Mayor Lowe stated that there is a lot of growth going on in the City but that there is so much loving and caring in this community and that is what he wants to stress to everyone and that it takes everyone moving in the right direction for the right reasons to make it happen. Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to keep their hearts pure and always know that they are doing things for the right reasons and to continue to show love to one another.

Mayor Lowe thanked CTV-Beam for bringing the council meeting to the citizens of Phenix City, Alabama because they always want to be transparent for the citizens. Mayor Lowe stated that he hoped God continues to bless each of us individually as well as collectively.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until May 7, 2024.