

MEETING MINUTES
June 18, 2024

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Activity Center located at 1500 14th 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 R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember Steve Bailey was not present. 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 James Platt of Allen Temple AME Church delivered the invocation as listed on the agenda.

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

Police Chief George Staudinger and Officer Kendell Smith came forward to provide an overview of the Jr. Police Academy Program. Chief Staudinger acknowledged Officer Kendell Smith for all of the hard work and dedication to the community that he has shown over his tenure with the Police Department. Chief Staudinger stated that the program will be held in two sessions, on July 15, 2024 through July 19, 2024 for first and second grade youth and July 22, 2024 through July 26, 2024 for third through fifth grade youth and the location will be at the Central Activity Center. Chief Staudinger also stated that the goal of the program is to show the community's youth what Police Officer's do on a daily basis and how they help and serve the community to make the community a safer place to live. Chief Staudinger further stated that they will have several different divisions of the police department to present to the youth in the program, in order to provide an overview of all the services that the Police Department provides. Officer Kendell Smith recognized Captain Cayla Heeger for bringing the idea of the program to him and for her assistance to build the program. Officer Smith stated that Captain Heeger is very dedicated to the youth in the community and recognizes that the youth are the future leaders, Policer Officer's and Councilmembers in the community and believes that they should begin mentoring them now toward those positive goals. Officer Smith also stated that it has been a pleasure to work with her on this program. Captain Heeger thanked Chief Staudinger for the opportunity to be part of the program. Chief Staudinger provided directions on how the community can find information on the program.

Councilmember Day stated that Officer Kendell Smith was at the South Side Park at a recent event and he had between 10 and 12 young kids there and swore them in and gave each of them a paper badge. Councilmember Day also stated that the kids were so excited to receive a badge. Councilmember Day congratulated Officer Smith on a great job.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the June 3, 2024 Work Session Meeting and the June 4, 2024 Council Meeting for approval. Councilmember Day moved to approve the minutes, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Carter. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, 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. 2024-113 to be ratified in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to hire Warr Grading Contractor, Inc., to rebuild access road and repair sanitary sewer main between 18th Avenue and US Highway 280.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-113

Councilmember Gordy moved to ratify 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented two resolutions and Public Notices in reference to setting public hearing dates and fixing demolitions costs associated with the following properties located in Phenix City:

1. 1424 10th Avenue

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-114
PUBLIC NOTICE

2. 1215 20st Street

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-115
PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to releasing the standing bonds and accepting the public infrastructure, right of ways and easements dedicated by the subdivision known as "Ladonia Commercial".

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-116

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to accepting the dedication of public utilities and easements dedicated by the Final Plat of the subdivision known as "Phenix City Retail Development" Lindstrom & Company, LLC, owner.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-117

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, 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 from Martin Creek, LLC for the purchase of necessary stream credits to connect the existing landfill and the land fill expansion in an amount not to exceed \$3,312.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-118

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, 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 grant agreement with the U. S. Department of Transportation for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant funding program.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-119

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

Mayor Lowe presented a resolution in reference to rescinding Resolution 2023-100 in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a 36 month lease agreement with Best Copy Products, Inc., for a SHARP BP-70C55 Networked Digital Color Copier in the amount of \$195.45 per month.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-120

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, Carter, 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 a 36 month lease agreement with Best Copy Products, Inc., for a SHARP BP-70C55 Networked Digital Color Copier in the amount of \$199.18 per month.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-121

Councilmember Carter 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, 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 from Herrington Paint Company to paint the interior walls and trim work of the Phenix City – Russell County Library in an amount not to exceed \$21,700.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-122

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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: 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 a contract agreement with William Morris Endeavor Entertainment, LLC for Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder to perform at the Phenix City Amphitheatre on July 26, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-123

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, Carter, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: 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 a contract agreement with Pyrotecnico Fireworks, Inc., for a fireworks display at the Phenix City Amphitheatre on December 12, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$16,500.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-124

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

Mayor Lowe presented for first reading a Letter of Recommendation from the Planning Commission, Public Notice and Ordinance to rezone 30.36 +/- acres of land located at 300 Colin Powell Parkway from an R-2 Zone (Medium Density Residential District) to an M-1 Zone (General Manufacturing District), Sierra Pacific Industries, Inc., owner.

Letter Public Notice Ordinance

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

Mayor Lowe presented for first reading an application for an On Premise Beer License, On Premise Wine License and On Premise Whiskey/Wine License submitted by Annie M. Robinson dba Annie Mae's Lounge Bar and Grill located at 900 Knowles Road, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Day moved to place the application 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, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented three (3) notice of claims against the City of Phenix City, filed by Cynthia Patrick and on behalf of herself, minor Javon James and on behalf of deceased minor Devon James and supported by the Cochran Law Firm. Mr. Graham stated that the incident took place when Ms. Patrick was stopped on Highway 165 and the intersection of Sunderland Drive and Miller Road where there is no turning lane to turn into the gas station, when a pick-up truck going 55 miles per hour hit Ms. Patrick's vehicle from behind. Mr. Graham also stated that the claim against the City is based on the fact that there is no turning lane at that intersection. Mr. Graham mentioned an affidavit from Chief of Police George Staudinger stating that the roadway where the crash occurred belongs to the State of Alabama and maintained by the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) and based on that information, his recommendation is to deny all three of the claims. Councilmember Day moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to deny all three claims, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, 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 Geico on behalf of Endira D. Pittman. Mr. Graham stated that on March 26, 2024, a vehicle owned by Ms. Pittman was involved in an accident with a City owned vehicle. Mr. Graham also stated that Geico did not submit the three (3) estimates per the City's policy and based on that his recommendation is to deny the claim. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to deny the claim, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Carter. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Carter, 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 the Delta Regional Authority's States' Economic Development Assistance Program for funding aimed at repairing and improving community infrastructure.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-125

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

Councilmember Carter took the opportunity to thank three Phenix City citizens that were recognized at the 5:00 p.m. District Two Meeting. Councilmember Carter stated that Steve Jourdan received the Yard of the Month award for his outstanding yard and she thanked him for keeping his property well maintained. Councilmember Carter also stated that Taylor Funeral Home received the Business Yard of the Month award for keeping their property, clean, safe and nice. Councilmember Carter further stated the church that received the award was the New Central Missionary Baptist Church and thanked them all for the work that they continue to do to help keep the City beautiful as it is so important. Councilmember Carter stated that they also provided contacts if anyone is interested in reaching out for resources to help in keeping the community clean and she thanked everyone that came out for the meeting and to those that received yard of the month and stated that the City appreciates them.

Councilmember Day stated that 5th Street South Pool has been very active and that he was very glad to see all of the citizens utilizing the pool and have a good time.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that he wanted to inform the Council that he started the grant team years ago in order to put together cohesiveness between the department heads and that he asked for City Engineering Director Angel Moore to oversee the team. Mr. Hunter also stated that they have now reached the fifty three million dollar goal that was set and asked the team to stand to be recognized for a job well done. Mr. Hunter further stated a goal was set to foster a strong bond between the competitive departments. Mr. Hunter stated that he is hitting the reset button and the new goal is now set for one hundred million dollars and that he is currently waiting on a five million dollar grant to come through that the Utilities Director John Spraggins successfully negotiated. Mr. Hunter also stated that it is a great accomplishment that they are reaching the goals and that with all of their competitive natures they can work as a team with each other and really understand what each department's needs are and that he cannot say enough about what a good job they all have done. Mr. Hunter thanked the grant team and Council for allowing him to do his job.

Councilmember Day stated that based on what Mr. Hunter has stated about the success of the grant team, it proves other's wrong, this being based off of the anonymous letter to Council that was read by Mayor Lowe during the Work Session Meeting. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the citizens can see what is going on in Phenix City but that there will always be negativity and that just makes them work a lot harder.

Mayor Lowe stated that the common denominator is that it is about the betterment of the City. Mayor Lowe thanked the Council for working so well together because at the end of the day it is about the community and the citizens. Mayor Lowe stated that with this Council, transparency is always the goal.

Mayor Lowe thanked CTV-Beam for bringing the council meeting to the citizens of Phenix City, Alabama. Mayor Lowe thanked God and stated they will continue to move ahead.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until July 2, 2024.