

**MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2024**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled council meeting on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. 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 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.

Pastor Don Abrams from Trinity United Methodist Church delivered the invocation as listed on the agenda.

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

Mayor Lowe presented a proclamation recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

PROCLAMATION

Cheryl A. Johnson, from West Central Georgia Cancer Coalition, came forward to accept the proclamation.

Mayor Lowe presented the meeting minutes of the July 8, 2024 Budget Work Session 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: The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented the meeting minutes of the August 1, 2024 Budget Public Hearing Meeting for approval. Councilmember Gordy 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, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Councilmember Carter. The motion thus passed.

Mayor Lowe presented the regularly scheduled meeting minutes of the September 30, 2024 Work Session Meeting and October 1, 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, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: Councilmember Carter. 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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a contract agreement with the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-208

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, 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 fixing costs incurred by the City of Phenix City for the removal of substandard structure and the establishment of special assessments upon property located at 1907 10th Court. Mayor Lowe stated anyone wishing to address council on the property should come forward and do so at this time. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone come forward, Mayor Lowe declared the hearing closed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-209

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, 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 enter into an annual service agreement with Motorola Solutions for maintenance and support on the Mach Alerting System for the Fire Department in an amount not to exceed \$44,433.34.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-210

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 Mayor and City Manager to enter into and sign lease agreements with DLL Finance, LLC for fifty five (55) 2025 Golf Carts and Club Car, LLC (GPSI) for fifty five (55) GPS Connect options for said golf carts for Lakewood Golf Course.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-211

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, 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 George Staudinger to enter into an agreement for the administration of grant funds through SEARHSO-ESCC-Community Traffic Safety Program from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-212

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 declaring various vehicles listed on "Exhibit A" as surplus to be sold to the highest bidder at a public auction or sold as scrap if no one purchases them.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-213

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 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to hire Blackwell's Inc., to clean out the Waste Water Treatment Plant Primary Clarifier 1 at a rate of \$4,150.00 per day in an amount not to exceed \$12,450.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-214

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 and directing the Mayor and City Manager to hire Brown and Son, LLC for the repairs and modifications to the electrical junction box at the Waste Water Treatment Plant for an estimated amount of \$7,169.63.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-215

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 the Mayor and City Manager to hire Davis Concrete Products, Inc., for the pumping and transport of liquid sludge for \$31,500.00 and pay an \$18,000.00 disposal fee to East Alabama Water, Sewer, & Fire Protection District for a combined total amount not to exceed \$49,500.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-216

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 and directing the Mayor, City Manager and Utilities Director to sign an agreement with ZETA SOLUTIONS to extend the current contract for Zinc-Orthophosphate thru September 30, 2025.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-217

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

Mayor Lowe presented for first reading an application for an On Premise Beer, Off Premise Beer, On Premise Wine and Off Premise Wine license, submitted by Heike Horning for German Foods Gifts and More, LLC dba The Schnitzel Lot located at 505 13th Street Suite A and B, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Gordy moved to place the applications on first reading, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey, which 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 On Premise Beer, On Premise Wine and On Premise Whiskey/Wine license, submitted by Yavondria Johnson for TKJ & Companies, LLC dba Intuition Lounge located at 2061 US Highway 431, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Carter moved to place the applications on first reading, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day, which 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 second reading an application for an On Premise Beer License, On Premise Wine License and On Premise Whiskey/Wine License submitted by Emelida D. Solares del cid for El Mariachi Loco Mexican Restaurant, LLC dba El Mariachi Loco Mexican Restaurant located at 1839 Stadium Drive, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the applications, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey, which 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 passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an application for an Off Premise Beer License and Off Premise Wine License, submitted by Milan Jayantkumar Patel for NVSM Management LLC dba Marathon 102 located at 410 Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the applications, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day, which 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 passed.

Mayor Lowe presented for second reading an application for an Off Premise Beer License and Off Premise Wine License, submitted by Milan Jayantkumar Patel for NVSM Management LLC dba Marathon 104 located at 911 Broad Street, Phenix City, Alabama. Councilmember Day moved to approve the applications, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Carter, which 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 passed.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham presented a claim against the City of Phenix City, filed by Janice Beebe and Joshua Welch for vehicle damage. Mr. Graham stated that a City owned vehicle struck the vehicle that was driven by Janice Beebe and he recommended that the Claim be paid in the lowest amount of \$1,415.12. Councilmember Gordy moved to approve the City Attorney's recommendation to approve the claim in the lowest amount of \$1,415.12, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day, which 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 passed.

City Manager Wallace Hunter called on Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble to come forward to address the City's list of water leaks and the Bid Proposal for a contractor. Mr. Gamble came forward to address Council. Mr. Gamble provided an overview of the City's water leak issues and stated that out of the 305 issues, there are a remaining 110 in progress. Mr. Gamble stated that the bid opening to hire a contractor to assist the City with fixing the leaks will be today and that they should have a recommendation for a contractor by the end of the week. Councilmember Day inquired as to the timeframe for the leaks to be repaired once a contractor is identified. Mr. Gamble stated that it will be difficult to add a specific timeline as it will depend on what is found during the work on the leaks. Councilmember Day also inquired in regards to a warranty with the contractor's work. Mr. Gamble stated that there will be a warranty on the work that they provide. Mr. Gamble also stated that the Utilities Department will use parts that are already apart of the department's inventory and that this should help to save funds on the work. Mr. Gamble further stated that the Utilities Department will be involved with the repairs and will be monitoring closely the work that the contractor will be performing.

Councilmember Carter thanked the Council and the City for all of their prayers, good wishes, support and the flowers while she was out due to an illness. Councilmember Carter also thanked Mayor Lowe for his calls of support.

Phenix City Chief of Police George Staudinger provided an overview for Mayor and Council on the Phenix City-Russell County Animal Shelter's day to day operations and the challenges of running the shelter. Chief Staudinger stated with the issues that are happening with the Columbus Georgia's Animal Control, is causing an overflow of intake of animals with Phenix City's Animal Shelter. Chief Staudinger also stated that the Animal Shelter is currently at full staff and has an annual operating budget of \$234,000.00 and has a joint contract from 2009 with Russell County to jointly fund the shelter but that all of the employees are hired and work for the City of Phenix City. Chief Staudinger further stated that the shelter has yearly inspections from the State and are coming up on one scheduled and that the euthanasian rate for the State of Alabama is 38.4% and the City's shelter is only at 20%. Councilmember Day inquired about the Shelter taking intakes from Columbus Georgia's shelter. Chief Staudinger stated that since the Columbus shelter has closed, there have been an abundance of strays throughout the City and animals that have been dropped off at the shelter.

Mayor Lowe stated that a Phenix City businessman and citizen Mr. Abraham William Jr. passed away on October 13, 2024 and that his service will be on Monday, October 21, 2024 and spoke of his dedication to his work and to all of the people he met throughout his life and career.

Mayor Lowe thanked Council, the Department Heads and the community for their continued support. Mayor Lowe also thanked CTV-Beam for bringing the council meeting to the citizens.

There being no further business to address, the meeting thus adjourned until November 5, 2024.