

**MEETING MINUTES  
STATE OF THE CITY, JANUARY 21, 2016**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time in the auditorium of the Central Activities Center, located at 1500 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Phenix City, Alabama for the purpose of conducting the 2016 State of the City Address. All councilmembers were present. Department Heads in attendance were: Chief Building Official Gil Griffith, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Planning Specialist Jennifer Lowman, City Engineer Angel Moore, Mapping and Surveying Supervisor Mike Pattillo, Graduate Civil Engineer Tyler Hayes, Finance Director Stephen C. Smith, Finance Comptroller Labrita King-Copeland, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Assistant Fire Chief William Czukor, Lakewood Golf Course Manager Lenard Patrick, Phenix City Russell County Library Director Michelle Kilday, Municipal Court Director Pam Jarrell, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Skip Hansberger, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Police Chief Raymond Smith, Utilities Director Roger Conner, and Utilities Engineer John Spraggins. Also present were City Attorneys James P. Graham, Jr., Senior Municipal Court Judge Pat Loftin, and Associate Municipal Court Judge Greg Waldrep. Mayor Lowe recognized the following individuals: David Quinney, Wade Burford, James Sellers, Bradley Luke, Dr. David White, Joe Blevins, Mary Mayrose, Debra Taylor, Peggy Martin, Max Smith, Johnny Barfield, and Walter Gray.

Mayor Lowe welcomed everyone to the presentation of the State of the City.

Mayor Lowe asked Mr. Mikal Fryer to lead with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Lowe asked Reverend Victor Felicianez to deliver the invocation.

Mayor Lowe delivered the State of the City Address. The Mayor reviewed the financial status of the City and compared it with the past four years; he discussed the status of city

projects and where the city is headed; and he advised of a new magazine coming out soon that will highlight activities in and around the City of Phenix City.

Upon conclusion of the presentation, the floor was opened to questions and comments from the audience.

1. Mr. Anthony Godwin addressed council asking why the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridges are being removed at the same time. Mayor Lowe advised these projects are in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Transportation and have taken over 25 years to get to this point.

2. Mr. Chauncey Lofton of District Three inquired why 911 refers his calls to Russell County instead of Phenix City. Mayor Lowe called on Police Chief Ray Smith to address this issue. Police Chief Smith advised Mr. Lofton is in the Police Jurisdiction, and when 911 is phoned, the calls are routed to the county due to Fire and EMS; however, once the call is deemed to be for police, it is re-routed to the city dispatch. He further explained the calls are controlled by the 911 System.

3. Ms. Janet Godwin of Districts Two and Three (due to rental homes) voiced her praise for the Phenix City Police Department and the kind and courteous police officers the city has employed.

4. Ms. Betty LeBlanc of District Two challenged other citizens to start attending the Work Sessions and Council Meetings.

5. Ms. Marthenia Henry of District Three discussed the Crowell Park Subdivision in which she lives. She advised her 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue home has had flooding issues for the last ten years. Council sympathized with Ms. Henry and advised the flooding issue is coming from private property and not city owned property.

6. Mr. Charles Hollowell, a Russell County Commission Candidate for District Five asked council if they would consider government consolidation with Russell County. Mayor Lowe explained that some of Phenix City lies in Lee County; therefore it would be next to impossible to consolidate governments with Russell County.

7. Mr. Lee Roy Davis of the American Legion Post 135 wanted to know how many on Council supported Veterans. Mayor Lowe advised Mr. Davis this was not the proper forum for this discussion, and invited Mr. Davis to meet with him one on one. Councilmember Cannon announced he supports veterans.

Mayor Lowe thanked everyone for coming.

There being nothing further to discuss nor anyone else wishing to come forward to address council, the meeting concluded at 7:13 p.m.