

**MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF THE CITY, JANUARY 19, 2017**

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 14th Street, Phenix City, Alabama for the purpose of conducting the 2017 State of the City Address. The following councilmembers were present: Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr., Councilmember Steve Bailey, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. Councilmember Johnnie C. Robinson was not present. City Manager Wallace Hunter and Acting City Clerk Melony Lee were also present. City Clerk Charlotte L. Goodrich was not 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 and Acting Utilities Director Stephen C. Smith, Finance Comptroller Labrita King-Copeland, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, 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, and Utilities Engineer John Spraggins. Also present were City Attorneys James P. Graham, Jr., and Jim McKoon.

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

Mayor Lowe asked Veterans to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Mayor Lowe asked Reverend Noble Williams to deliver the invocation.

Mayor Lowe introduced Council, Department Heads, and City Personnel.

Mayor Lowe delivered the State of the City Address. The Mayor reviewed the financial status of the City and compared it with the past five years; he discussed the status of city projects and where the city is headed.

Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan advised that on page 58 under Classification, Kudzu should be listed as a Retention, not an Expansion.

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

1. Mr. Kevin Topping – District One - addressed council praising the good stuff going on in the city. He did advise that a sewer cover is sticking up over the lawn at his house located at 3003 Clover Court; and he advised there was a small river in his backyard from the flood event. Acting Utilities Director Steve Smith advised someone from Utilities will check on the sewer cover and someone from Engineering will check on the flooded backyard.

2. Ms. Mary Castill - District Three – addressed council with her traffic concerns of speeding. Councilmember Day advised he will get with the Police Chief and have patrols check on the speeders.

3. Mr. Anthony Goodwin – District Three – thanked council for the new bridge on 12th Avenue.

4. Mr. Mike Cannon – asked about a potential Ordinance that could impact a business that he leases. He advised it was discussed at the January 4, 2017 Council Meeting and it could impact local car washes and car dealerships because it deals with how run-off water must be handled. He asked for a contact person with ADEM to speak about this matter. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated the city wanted to ensure potentially impacted business owners were well-informed about what might be required. He asked that the city be allowed to

get information to them, noting that ADEM was set to be at the February 7, 2017 9:00 am Council Meeting for a Public Hearing regarding the possible ordinance. When passed, the ordinance will become effective immediately. Councilmember Bailey advised he is also impacted by this ordinance, due to his car lot.

5. Mr. M. L. Harris – District Three – asked council two questions: Is tire pick up available in Phenix City? He was advised that the Building Department is working on this issue. It is expensive to dispose of tires, and the city has to charge the citizen if a tire is picked up for the landfill. The city is littered all over with old tires being dumped out. Last year, the city had 14, 400 tires picked up and disposed of.

Mr. Harris also asked if a light could go in front of Rainbow Foods on Highway 431 at Knowles Road. Mayor Lowe advised that ALDOT stated a light was not warranted at this location.

6. Ms. A. Frances Kimber – District One – thanked council for the good work. She also wanted to know how to properly dispose of old medication and old grease. Police Chief Smith advised her to bring the old medication to the Police Department for disposal. Acting Utilities Director Steve Smith advised there is no grease collection in the city as of yet; the city is checking into it.

7. Reverend Alfonzo Seldon, who lives in Stewart County, but pastors a church on Seale Road, advised of a strong gas odor. Mayor Lowe advised him to contact ALAGASCO.

Reverend Seldon also asked for church signs on Seale Road to notify motorists of churches in the area. City Engineer Angel Moore advised the church can put up a sign but must get permission from City Council first.

There were no other questions.

Mayor Lowe thanked everyone for coming.

Councilmember Gordy thanked everyone for attending.

Councilmember Bailey advised everything is new and there is a lot to learn; however, he is concerned with all citizens, not just his district.

Councilmember Day advised he takes care of District Three.

Mayor Lowe asked citizens to help council help them. Continue praying for the city and city leadership. He advised of the Revival on January 29, 2017 at 6:30 pm at Central Baptist Church.

There being nothing further to discuss nor anyone else wishing to come forward to address council, the meeting concluded at 7:45 p.m.