

**MEETING MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
AUGUST 10, 2017  
PROPOSED FY 2017-2018 BUDGET**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met for a public hearing on the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 on August 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. EDT, in the Council Chambers located within the Public Safety Building at 1111 Broad Street, Phenix City, Alabama. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Councilmembers Arthur L. Day, Steve Bailey, R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. Also in attendance were City Manager Wallace B. Hunter and City Clerk Charlotte L. Goodrich. The following Department Heads were present: Chief Building Official Gil Griffith, Director of Engineering and Public Works Angel Moore, Utilities Director Stephen C. Smith, Interim Finance Director Labrita Copeland, Fire and Rescue Services Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Course Manager Julie Taylor, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Phenix City Russell County Library Director Michelle Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Pam Jarrell, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, and Police Chief Ray Smith. Members of the media were present.

Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order.

Mayor Lowe delivered the Invocation.

Mayor Lowe opened the floor to City Manager Wallace Hunter to begin the meeting. He thanked Mayor and Council for the work they did on the budget.

City Manager Hunter called upon Utilities Director Stephen Smith to present the Budget Message to Council and the audience.

**BUDGET MESSAGE**

In addition to the budget message, Mr. Smith also discussed the following with council:

1. Brandywine Subdivision as it relates to water usage.
2. Future improvement of the pipe system going out Highway 431.
3. Water pressure problems of subdivisions located on Summerville Road and the installation of a new service line from Glenwood tank in late 2018.
4. Planning additional funds to be set aside in Capital Improvements to cover the city's portion of grant funds when receiving grants from the State and from the Federal Government.
5. Angel Moore spoke on sharing MPO funds with other counties.
6. The cost to repair Dobbs Drive and the fact that the city is not able to get federal funds to help.

Mayor Lowe opened the Public Hearing and advised if anyone wanted to come forward and address council regarding the 2017/2018 Proposed Budget, now is the time. The following citizens came forward:

1. Stewart McWhorter – He advised he supported the 5 percent utility increase in April and that he understands that the city is catching up on making maintenance upgrades that were not done in the past. He asked how the city was planning to save for future utility infrastructure maintenance. Utilities Director Stephen Smith advised there are several ways: future rate increases; system development fees; grant funds; borrowing money.
2. Don Ivey – He advised he is currently President of the Russell County Phenix City Retired Service Employees Association and he thanked council for the yearly one-time budget bonus to the retirees; however, he requested the amount be increased from \$120.00 to \$200.00. Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Ivey for coming and advised finance would look over the numbers and if appropriate, could bring suggested changes to council's attention.

Neither seeing nor hearing anyone else come forward, Mayor Lowe closed the Public Hearing.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting thus adjourned at 7:52 p.m.