

**MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF THE CITY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018**

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 2018 State of the City Address. Mayor Eddie N. Lowe, Councilmember Steve Bailey, Councilmember Vickey Carter Johnson, and Councilmember Arthur L. Day were present. Councilmember R. Griff Gordy 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 Clay Massey, Civil Engineering Graduate Brittany M. Isreal, Utilities Director Stephen C. Smith, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Assistant Fire Chief William Czukur, Lakewood Golf Course Manager Julie Taylor, 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 Attorney James P. Graham, Jr., Senior Municipal Court Judge Pat Loftin, and Associate Municipal Court Judge Greg Waldrep. Mayor Lowe recognized the following individuals: Phenix City Superintendent of Schools Randy Wilkes, Troy University Vice Chancellor Dr. David White, and Russell County Commissioner Ronnie Read.

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

Mayor Lowe asked Reverend Derick Lane of Mount Mariah Seventh Day Adventist Church to deliver the invocation.

Mayor Lowe asked Phenix City Superintendent of Schools Randy Wilkes to lead with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Lowe introduced Council, Department Heads, and Staff.

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; and he advised the city has maintained its AA-/ Stable Credit Rating from Standard & Poors.

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

1. Seth Townsend of 1108 28th Place asked if there were any plans for downtown revitalization. He was advised that the city has been working hard in demolishing abandoned buildings and that The Housing Authority has plans for two upcoming projects.
2. Sheila Stafford of 201 Lee Road 437 spoke on the city starting up a volunteer program to help the elderly fix up their homes.
3. Berry LaBlanc of 1703 15th Street asked if the city could get a grant to help the elderly. It was suggested that perhaps a House for Heroes program could be started up, but it would need volunteers; it was also mentioned that Habitat for Humanity could use more volunteers.
4. Deloris Parham of 29th Avenue spoke on a problem a neighbor was having with the road washing away. She was advised that the Engineering Department was aware of the situation and would check on it.
5. Randy Wilkes thanked the city for their support of the students.
6. Leonard Gates spoke on his concern of the traffic flow in Knowles Road. He was advised that the county owns most of the road; however the city engineers will get with the county engineers to see what can be done.

7. Bernice Carter asked about future plans for veterans. She was advised of the plans for the Veteran's Park.
8. Mary Castell advised she was concerned about speeding vehicles in District Three. She was advised that the Police Department would patrol more often.
9. M. L. Harris explained that he was concerned about the three lanes of traffic being too close together on the 280 Bypass, especially with 18 wheelers. He was advised this is a state road.

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 7:32 p.m.