

**CALLED MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 23, 2020 BUDGET WORK SESSION**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a called work session at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time, Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at the Martin-Idle Hour Park Community Center located at 3743 Moon Lake Drive, Phenix City, Alabama for reviewing the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. Upon roll call the following councilmembers were present: Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr., Councilmember Vickey Carter Johnson, Councilmember Steve Bailey, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Also present were City Manager Wallace B. Hunter, Assistant City Manager and Utilities Director Stephen C. Smith, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, Chief of Police Ray Smith, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, City Engineer Angel Moore, and City Clerk Melony Lee.

Mayor Lowe delivered the invocation.

Mayor Lowe turned the meeting over to City Manager Wallace Hunter.

City Manager Wallace Hunter commented on bigger increases in this fiscal budget. He also spoke on personnel issues and the impact of COVID-19. City Manager Hunter called upon Assistant City Manager/Utilities Director Steve Smith to present the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.

Mr. Smith began the review of the budget with Council. Mr. Smith advised Council of pay increases for the Public Safety workers. He also spoke on the bonus incentives that the city offers to Public Safety workers. City Manager Hunter spoke on bringing in an outside company to evaluate the Public Safety workers to ensure that the police officers are carrying out city policies.

Mr. Smith also advised council of pay increases for city employees. He further advised that funds for capital spending is released in the third quarter. He advised that the emergency funds will be increased up to four million. He reminded council that the city has the same credit rating as the state.

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2020/2021 has \$60,418,071.00 in Available Funds with \$43,083,778.00 listed for Expenditures. The city has \$152,823.00 more revenue than expenditures.

There was discussion of how COVID-19 has impacted the city's sales tax. Discussion of school taxes followed and Mr. Smith explained how the school taxes are collected and disbursed.

Gas Tax was discussed next. Mr. Smith briefly outlined the gas tax agreement with the county and he discussed the lawsuit.

Mr. Smith reviewed each department's budget with council. There was discussion on the following:

1. Economic Development – Added building improvements.
2. IT Department – New servers are budgeted in Capital Outlay.

3. Library – Upgrade computer system.
4. Personnel – Upgrade HR Generalist position from an EAP 8 classification to a EAP 9.
5. Finance – Job description changes.
6. Parks and Recreation – Expenditures are lower due to COVID-19.
7. Fire Department – Capital Lease of Ladder Truck.
8. Police Department – Increase police car fleet. Public Safety pay increase. Briefly spoke on the jail contract with the county.
9. Animal Control – Briefly spoke on the agreement with the county.
10. Engineer / Public Works – Additional Equipment.
11. Limbs and Debris – Expand the Landfill.
12. Refuse Disposal – Five year lease to purchase a Dozier.
13. Cemetery Maintenance – Purchase additional land.
14. Non-Departmental – Discussion on the garbage contract; the radio system contract; and the Lee-Russell Council of Governments Bus System.
15. Capital Expenditures – Land for an additional Fire Station; Land for a Cemetery; repairs for the Riverwalk Bridge; and re-roofing the CAC and C-Club Gym.
16. Utilities Fund – The proposed utilities budget for fiscal year 2020/2021 has \$24,847,272.00 in Total Funds Available with \$13,164,937.00 listed for Total Expenditures. No rate increases this year. Anticipate \$13,511,814.00 in revenue. Need to raise reserves.
17. Utilities Fund - Capital Expenditures – Replace camera system and backhoe.
18. Utilities Fund Administrative Cost – Increase in Workman’s Comp Insurance; Meter Technicians upgraded from EAP 4 to EAP 5; purchase Meter Reader Vehicle.
19. Utilities Fund – Water Distribution – Need new equipment to maintain lines. Purchase Ford F250 Crew Cab and Valve Actuator.
20. Utilities Fund – Water Filtration Plant – Refurbish Water Tanks.

21. Utilities Fund – Waste Water Collection – One additional employee.

22. Utilities Fund – Waste Water Treatment – Upgrade Plant.

The Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 am, resuming at 1:30 pm.

23. Special Funds – Landfill Project; Saddlebrook Drainage; Three road resurfacing projects: Dobbs Drive, Knowles Road, and 43rd Street.

24. Special Revenue Funds – Brief explanation of each fund.

The meeting adjourned until 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 24, 2020, when a review of the proposed appropriations will be discussed.