

**CALLED MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 17, 2022 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, Friday, June 17, 2022 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 2022-2023. 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, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, Assistant Fire Chief Kerry Bragg, HR Generalist Eliza Phillips, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Chief of Police Ray Smith, Assistant Police Chief George Staudinger, Police Captain Joseph Weierick, City Engineer Angel Moore, Utilities Director Charles Woody, and Utilities Engineer John Spraggins.

Mayor Lowe delivered the invocation.

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

City Manager Wallace Hunter commented on the following:

1. Current economic situation in the nation and the city.
2. A need to increase the Sales and Use Tax.
3. A need to place an Occupational Tax. – has to be approved by state legislature.
4. The adjustments made to the Budget may not be enough unless there is an increase in the Sales and Use Tax.
5. The Utilities Budget is a separate Budget. The Utility System is over 100 years old.
6. Federal money will be coming to a halt.
7. Inflation and how it will affect the city and employees. The City needs to be prepared to handle inflation and still take care of employees.

City Manager Wallace Hunter asked Finance Director Labrita King Copeland to go over the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. Ms. Copeland reviewed the column layout. She advised that Appropriations will change the bottom line. She also advised that employee raises will vary from 2% to 12%.

City Manager Wallace Hunter advised that reserves could not be touched.

Finance Director Labrita King Copeland reviewed the following:

1. Revenue Summary – includes 48 mill
2. Expense Summary – includes 46 mill
3. Revenue Stream
4. Parks and Recreation Revenue
5. Restricted Funds Revenue
6. Grants
7. Operating Transfers In
8. Total Revenue

9. City Manager Budget – Increase salaries. Will not hire Assistant City Manager right now.
10. Economic Development – Increase salaries. No Capital Outlay. Made changes from Non-Departmental to Economic Development: Training/Registration of Planning Commission. Professional Services will come from Restricted Funds instead of Economic Development.
11. IT Department – Increase salaries. No Capital Outlay because expenses will come out of Red Light Fund.
12. Library – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay will come out of Library Funds.
13. Municipal Court – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay will come out of Municipal Court Funds.
14. Personal – Increase salaries. Capital Items were cut to balance budget.
15. City Clerk – Increase salaries. No Capital Outlay.
16. Code Enforcement – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay will come from Red Light Funds. Combined Revenue and Housing into one job: Revenue/Housing & Property Standards Agent. Will add one additional Code Enforcement Officer and one additional Revenue/Housing & Property Standards Agent.
17. Finance – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay – Computers.
18. Finance - Revenue Collection – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay – Computers.
19. Parks and Recreation – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay will come out of Red Light Camera Funds. Moved security to Police.
20. Golf – Increase salaries. Capital Expenditures.
21. Public Safety – Increase salaries. No Capital Outlay.
22. Fire Department – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay will come out of Red Light Camera Funds.
23. Police Department – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay items are budgeted.
24. Police – Animal Control – Increase salaries. Capital Expenditures
25. Engineer / Public Works
  - a. Administration – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay items are budgeted.
  - b. Engineering – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay items are budgeted.
  - c. Limbs and Debris – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay items are budgeted.
  - d. Streets and Drainage – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay items are budgeted.
  - e. Building Maintenance – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay items are budgeted.
  - f. Refuse Disposal – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay items are budgeted.
  - g. Vehicle Maintenance – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay items are budgeted.
  - h. Cemetery Maintenance – Increase salaries. No Capital Outlay.
26. Non Departmental
  - a. Appropriations – Russell County Juvenile Probation Services moved to Police Department.
  - b. Paving – moved one million from street repairs.
  - c. Budgeted needs of older buildings.
  - d. Purchase property from cemeteries.
  - e. Red Light Camera Funds – 772 Payments and Transfers Out.

27. Utilities Fund – Transfer \$400,000.00 from Operations to Capital. Revenue Summary: Breakdown of: Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Each Department, Capital Outlay, and Capital Projects.

- a. Administration – Increase salaries. New Position funded: Meter Technician/Dispatcher. Capital Outlay – New Vehicle.
- b. Water Distribution – Increase salaries. There are personal vacancies. Approved two truck purchases through Capital Outlay
- c. Water Filtration – Increase salaries. Capital Outlay items approved.
- d. Waste Water Collection – Increased salaries. Capital Outlay items approved.
- e. Waste Water Treatment – Increased salaries. Capital Outlay items budgeted.
- f. Utilities Debt Service – Debt to be paid in the Fiscal Year.

28. Special Revenue Funds Budget

- a. Capital Improvements Fund – Landfill Project Expenses and Dam Repair on Lakewood.
- b. Gas Tax Funds – each tax has an account.
- c. 10 Cent Gas Tax – Resurfacing projects: Knowles Road, 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Opelika Road.
- d. Corrections Fund – Covers Court Costs.
- e. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mortgage Fund - \$4.00 tag fees go into this fund. ADA Transition Plan, Guardrails, resurface Amber Court and 6<sup>th</sup> Place South.
- f. Confiscated Property
- g. 3 & 4 Mill Tax Fund – Property Taxes to School System.
- h. 7 Mill Tax Fund – Pay off debt. Bond Issues.
- i. Municipal Court Funds – Can only spend what law dictates.
- j. Donated Money – Separate Fund for employee ceremonies.
- k. Public Building Authority – Public Safety renovations.
- l. Library Fund – Requested County to assist with expenses. Also gets government assistance from the state.
- m. Capital Projects – Various projects including, but not limited to: 431 Project, Fire Training Center, Seale Road Bridge and Knowles Road.

The Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:30 pm, resuming at 2:00 pm.

29. Appropriations

The following requests for Appropriations were approved for funding by council:

- a. Alabama Cooperative Extension - \$2,550.00 (Cut by 15%)
- b. Central Alabama Crime Stoppers - \$5,000.00
- c. Chattahoochee Valley Community College Foundation - \$4,250.00 (Cut by 15%)

- d. Children & Family Connection of Russell County, Inc. - \$2,550.00 (Cut by 15%)
- e. Communities of Transformation - \$850.00 (Cut by 15%)
- f. East Alabama Chamber of Commerce - \$35,000.00
- g. East Alabama Humane Society - \$500.00
- h. East Alabama Mental Health Center - \$5,000.00
- i. East Alabama Services for the Elderly, Inc. - \$1,500.00
- j. Phenix City Board of Education - \$200,000.00
- k. Phenix City Board of Education – In-Kind - \$353,273.00
- l. Russell County Child Advocacy Center - \$5,000.00
- m. Russell County Department of Human Resources - \$5,000.00
- n. Russell County Juvenile Drug & Family Dependency Court Program - \$16,500.00
- o. Russell County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) - \$10,000.00
- p. Russell County Soil & Water Conservation District - \$2,550.00 (Cut by 15%)
- q. Doris C. Weaver Girls Club of Phenix City, Inc. - \$10,000.00
- r. Phenix City Tree Commission - \$850.00
- s. Project Greene Light - \$5,000.00
- t. Russell County Health Department - \$5,000.00
- u. Habitat for Humanity - \$1,700.00 (Cut by 15%)
- v. Russell County Historical Commission - \$1,700.00 (Cut by 15%)
- w. Wiregrass RC&D Council - \$1,500.00

Lee Russell Council of Governments was transferred to Non-Departmental.

Russell County Juvenile Probation Services was moved to the Police Department.

Mayor and Council directed the City Clerk to send out letters to each entity notifying them if they were approved or not approved, and to advise that the city will not fund any agency that is related to education - they need to apply with the Board of Education.

Mayor/Council further advised the City Clerk to explain in the notification letters that their Appropriation may have been cut by 15% due to economic times.

The following requests for Appropriations were not approved for funding by council:

- a. Beyond Expectations Community Outreach
- b. Knowledge Works Learning Academy, Inc.
- c. Liberty Learning Foundation, Inc.
- d. Salvation Army
- e. TEARS, Inc.
- f. We Have A Purpose, Inc.
- g. Mother Mary Mission, Inc.
- h. Survivors4Survivors, Inc.
- i. Phenix City Art Center

- j. Chattahoochee Valley Sports Hall of Fame
- k. Planting Seeds
- l. Russell County Chapter – Red Cross
- m. Safe Landing for Veterans

Mr. Hunter called upon City Engineer Angel Moore to review funding revenue needed to repair roads in the city. Ms. Moore advised that Smiths Station has now joined the MPO Group and that will impact the funding received by the city. Mr. Hunter advised that funds will be pulled from other areas because spending has increased more than the figured amount.

Mr. Hunter advised council that a ¼ penny increase in the Sales Tax is needed to cover the budget expenditures.

Mr. Hunter advised council that salaries will need to be increased in order for the city to stay competitive in the job market. He also advised that an Occupational Tax should be considered in order to help the city make future salary adjustments.

Mayor and Council concluded its review of the proposed budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned.