

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2016**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled work session at 3:00 pm, Monday, January 4, 2016 in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building located at 601 12th Street, Phenix City, Alabama. Upon roll call the following members were present: Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr., Councilmember Gail N. Head, Councilmember Jim Cannon, Councilmember Chris Blackshear, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Also present were City Manager Wallace B. Hunter, City Attorney James P. Graham, Jr. and City Clerk Charlotte L. Sierra. Department Heads in attendance were: Chief Building Official Gil Griffith, City Engineer Angel Moore, Finance Director Stephen Smith, Fire Rescue Services Assistant Chief William Czukor, Lakewood Golf Course Manager Lenard Patrick, Library Director Michele Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Pam Jarrell, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Assistant Chief of Police Gail Green, Utilities Director Roger Conner and Utilities Engineer John Spraggins.

Upon a quorum being established, Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order.

The invocation was led by Mayor Lowe.

Mayor Lowe called upon Mr. Billy Turner, Director of the Center for Water Resource Economics at Troy University, Phenix City. Mr. Turner came forward and presented a resolution requesting that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers establish flow targets for the Middle and Lower Chattahoochee River. Mr. Turner explained that the Corp of Engineers has publicized their Draft Environmental Impact Statement and proposed Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee Flint River Basin. Mr. Turner stated that under the current draft manual, our area remains vulnerable to dangerously low flows even if water levels upstream rise. Mr. Turner advised that the Corps of Engineers is receiving public comments on their proposal until January 15, 2016. Mr. Turner urged council to adopt a resolution requesting the Corps of Engineers to set flow targets for the Middle and Lower Chattahoochee River and to send a certified copy of the resolution to them before January 15, 2016. Council agreed with Mr. Turner's request.

Mayor Lowe called upon Alford Harden, Probate Judge of Russell County. Judge Harden came forward and advised council that his office has not been notified of Sales Tax changes and he requested his office be notified in the future. He also advised of a misconception on the public's part as to whether sales tax can be collected on boats. Judge Harden advised the state considers boats as "motor vehicles", and as such, sales tax should be collected on the sale of boats; however, the public generally does not recognize boats as classified under "motor vehicles", and this causes problems for his office when attempting to collect the sales tax. Judge Harden requested the Sales Tax Ordinance be amended to include the verbiage "watercraft". Council agreed with Judge Harden's request.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Engineer Angel Moore to review the actions taken by the Planning Commission during the December 22, 2015 meeting. Ms. Moore explained there was no regular meeting on December 22nd due to no agenda items. She did advise there will be a

meeting on Thursday, January 7, 2016 with contractors regarding the new subdivision regulations.

City Clerk Charlotte Sierra reviewed the Downton Redevelopment Authority Board appointment and the Zoning Adjustment and Appeals Board appointments with council. Council requested the City Clerk to contact the members about their willingness to serve another term.

City Clerk Charlotte Sierra reviewed the January and February, 2016 calendars with council.

City Clerk Charlotte Sierra advised council of a request for an Appeal of Abatement on 1031, 1035, and 1037 4th Street South. Chief Building Official Gil Griffith also advised of an Appeal of Abatement on 1605 22nd Street. City Clerk Sierra asked council when to set the hearing dates. Council advised her to set one date for both requests immediately following the February 2, 2016 Council Meeting at 10:30 am.

Mayor Lowe next presented the Monthly Department Reports. The following issues were discussed by Council with the City Manager and Department Heads:

- 1) Reason for different amounts of Building Permits – based on dollar value and construction size of house.
- 2) Construction of new phase in Misty Forest Subdivision - have not begun construction yet.
- 3) Update on Meadowlane Splash Pad – waiting on weather and budget.
- 4) Update on fence at Southside Park – under construction.

City Manager Hunter called on City Engineer Angel Moore to go over the following emergency work needing to be done as soon as possible:

- 1) 37th Street and Stadium Drive Storm Pipe failure.
- 2) Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway Slope failure.
- 3) Closing of a section of College Drive from Retail Drive to the entrance of The Grand Reserve Apartments due to repairs to the right-of-way of College Drive.

City Engineer Angel Moore advised these issues will need immediate attention; therefore, resolutions will need to be passed as soon as possible, with ratification at the next council meeting.

City Manager Hunter called on Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes to present the Parks and Recreation Department Review. Mr. Hughes reviewed the following divisions with council:

- 1) Administration
- 2) Athletics
- 3) Recreation

- 4) Maintenance
- 5) Security

Mr. Hughes also advised that Parks and Recreation will continue to improve the current facilities with physical upgrades. This includes: renovations at Central Activity Center; renovations at Southside Pool; renovations at the Amphitheater; further development of Moon Lake as a focal point for community interest in recreation; and continuing to promote "One Phenix City" through the creation and strategic development of events and programs.

City Manager Hunter asked City Engineer Angel Moore to discuss the following with council:

- 1) 10th Avenue Bridge Replacement - will begin construction today.
- 2) 12th Avenue Bridge Replacement - will need additional engineering design work. There will be a resolution that will need to be passed as soon as possible, with ratification at the next council meeting.
- 3) The City needs to withdraw from the Grant for the Riverwalk Whitewater Trailhead Link due to bids for the construction of the trailhead link coming in over budget.

Mayor Lowe called for a 10 minute break.

Upon reconvening after the 10 minute break, Mayor Lowe discussed agenda items with council.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham advised council that the Shortz case against the library has been dismissed.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 19, 2016.