

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 1, 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, February 1, 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, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember At Large Chris Blackshear was not present. 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, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, City Engineer Angel Moore, Finance Director Stephen Smith, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Fire Rescue Services Chief Kris Kennedy, Lakewood Golf Course Manager Lenard Patrick, Library Director Michele Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Pam Jarrell, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Skip Hansberger, Chief of Police Ray Smith, Utilities Director Roger Conner and Utilities Engineer John Spraggins.

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

Mayor Lowe advised that Councilmember At Large Chris Blackshear resigned¹ from the city council due to being elected to the statehouse as the new District 80 state representative. Mayor Lowe advised council would meet in executive session for about 30 minutes at the end of this work session to discuss “good name and character”, from which the meeting would adjourn.

The invocation was led by Councilmember Head.

Mayor Lowe called upon Marie Gill of the Museum Advisory Committee. Ms. Gill came forward to address council as listed on the agenda. She updated council on the activities of the board and advised that the Russell County Commission had donated the Coulter Building to the museum on December 23, 2015. The building should be in the museum’s hands within 90 days. She asked that the council dissolve the museum advisory board because it had served its purpose of establishing a non-profit board to run the museum. There was discussion on how many members would be on the Museum Board.

Mayor Lowe called upon Shaftel Benson, Quality of Life Health Services, Inc. Ms. Benson came forward to address council as listed on the agenda. She introduced herself and spoke to council on her agency. She advised they opened at 1500 11th Avenue in Phenix City in September of 2015; they are in 18 counties; and have 21 health centers. She further advised they are not a free clinic and she spoke of the services they offer.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Engineer Angel Moore to review the actions taken by the Planning Commission during the January 26, 2016 meeting.

¹ Letter of resignation attached.

City Clerk Charlotte Sierra reviewed the Historic Preservation Commission 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 February and March, 2016 calendars with council. Councilmember Head and Councilmember Day will not be able to attend the February 16, 2016 Work Session due to the CMO Session 52 they will be attending in Montgomery, Alabama. Council rescheduled the Work Session to Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 2:00 pm.

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

- 1) Sidewalk Replacement on 4th Avenue
- 2) 5th Street South update on the meeting with DOT.

City Manager Hunter called on Chief Building Official Gil Griffith to present the Building Department Review. Mr. Griffith reviewed the following divisions with council:

- 1) Building Department Makeup
- 2) Building Department Services
- 3) Building Department Codes and Permits

Mr. Griffith went over the direction of the Building Department in the future. He advised it was important for the department to expand on their training and certification programs to keep pace with changing industry standards.

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

- 1) Lakewood Park Dam and Silver Lake Dam – both are in need of repair; Peoples & Quigley, Inc. has submitted a work order in the amount of \$54,500.00. Council advised to proceed.
- 2) Site inspections for Lakewood Park Day, Silver Lake Dam, Lakewood Golf Course Dam, Idle Hour Park Dam, Moon Lake Dam, and Arthur Sumbry Park Dam – Peoples & Quigley, Inc. has submitted a work order in the amount of \$15,000.00. Council advised to proceed.

Mayor Lowe discussed agenda items with council.

City Clerk Charlotte Sierra advised council of the Economic Development Tax Abatement for MV Sports, The Game. The Date of Completion is incorrect. It will be corrected and will need the Mayor's and City Manager's signature.

Chief Building Official Gil Griffith advised the Appeal Hearing for 22nd Street has been requested to be cancelled by the property owner.

Mayor Lowe called for a 30 minute Executive Session to discuss the Good Name and Character. Councilmember Cannon moved to go into Executive Session from which the meeting would adjourn, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Head. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 4:20 pm.

Council came out of Executive Session at 4:50 pm.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 17, 2016.

Chris Blackshear
57 Stonedale Court
Smiths Station, AL. 36877
January 29, 2016

Dear Mayor Eddie Lowe and Phenix City Council:

It is with mixed emotions that I tender my resignation from the Phenix City Council, effective immediately.

I am grateful for having the opportunity to serve with you all over the last three years. I look forward to working with you in my new role as your State Representative and hope that together we can make Phenix City, Russell and Lee Counties better for all citizens.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Council Member At-Large & Mayor Pro-Tem