

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 17, 2016

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled work session at 2:00 pm, Wednesday, February 17, 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 Gail N. Head, Councilmember Jim Cannon, Councilmember Johnny Barfield, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember District Three Arthur L. Day, Jr. 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: Deputy Building Official Ray Rogers, Economic Development Planning Specialist Jennifer Lowman, 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, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Assistant Chief of Police Gail Greene, Utilities Director Roger Conner and Utilities Engineer John Spraggins. Chief of Police Ray Smith arrived at 3:36 pm.

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

The invocation was led by Councilmember Barfield.

Mayor Lowe called upon Wade Burford and Victor Cross of the Phenix City Russell County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Burford came forward to address council as listed on the agenda. He spoke with council in reference to continuing to build a positive relationship between the Chamber and the City. Mr. Burford and Mr. Cross expressed their willingness to help the city in any way possible. Mr. Burford also advised council a new Tourism Director will be hired soon. They thanked council for the city's support. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Burford and Mr. Cross for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe advised council that two attorneys with Beasley Allen Law Firm would like to address council regarding recouping funds for the city from the overpayment for certain chemicals. Council agreed to speak with them. Mayor Lowe called upon Archie Grub and Leslie Peschia of Beasley Allen Law Firm. Mr. Grub introduced himself and Ms. Peschia. He spoke with council about allowing his firm to represent the city in a class action lawsuit against several chemical companies, that have been overcharging for certain chemicals. He explained the reason why his firm believes that Phenix City may have been over charged. Council asked that a resolution be drafted to allow them to represent the city. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Grub and Ms. Peschia for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Engineer Angel Moore to review the actions taken by the Planning Commission during the February 9, 2016 meeting.

City Clerk Charlotte Sierra reviewed the Historic Preservation Commission appointments with council.

City Clerk Charlotte Sierra reviewed the February and March, 2016 calendars with council. Everyone was reminded of the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on March 10, 2016 at 7:00 am at Idle Hour Community Center.

Mayor Lowe brought up for discussion, a resolution in reference to dissolving the Museum Advisory Committee. There was discussion on the building offered to the Museum Board by the county. Council asked that the Museum Advisory Committee be advised that it will be dissolved. Council asked that the resolution to dissolve the Museum Advisory Committee be placed on the March 1, 2016 Agenda.

Mayor Lowe discussed agenda items with council.

City Manager Wallace Hunter called on Economic Development Planning Specialist Jennifer Lowman. Ms. Lowman advised that Vector Ply's expansion is moving forward.

City Manager Wallace Hunter requested an hour long Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character. Councilmember Cannon made a motion to go into Executive Session for an hour to discuss Good Name and Character from which the meeting would adjourn; said motion was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. All were in favor.

Mayor Lowe advised there would be a ten minute break before going into Executive Session.

Council went into Executive Session at 4:10 pm.

Council came out of Executive Session at 5:10 pm.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, February 29, 2016.