

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 14, 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, March 14, 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, Councilmember Gail N. Head, Councilmember Jim Cannon, Councilmember Johnny Barfield, 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 of Police Ray Smith, Assistant Chief of Police Gail Greene, Finance Director Stephen Smith, Engineering /Public Works Director Angel Moore, Utilities Director Roger Conner, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Lakewood Golf Course Greens Superintendent Julie Taylor, Library Director Michele Kilday, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, and Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan.

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

The invocation was led by Mayor Lowe.

Mayor Lowe called upon William Clanton to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Clanton requested he be allowed to annex his property into the city so that his son could attend Central High School. Mayor Lowe advised Mr. Clanton that there is a moratorium on annexing at this time; however he was advised to check with the school system about demographics. Mr. Hunter stated that there needs to be a work session with Engineering to discuss block annexation. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. William Clanton for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Scott Boutwell to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Boutwell stated that he was representing the Homeowner's Association in Richard's Place Subdivision. Mr. Boutwell advised that the water pressure in the neighborhood was terrible. Mr. Boutwell also stated that the neighborhood across the street in Saddlebrook Subdivision has the same issues. Mayor Lowe called on Utilities Director Roger Conner. Mr. Conner stated roughly two years ago the Utilities Department spent \$300,000 to improve the pressure. Mr. Conner also noted that in February the water pressure maintained a level of 40 psi measured at Mr. Boutwell's property. The reading was for 24 hours and was a good reading for the pressure. Mr. Conner also stated that the Utilities Department can keep a data log on the home and let it run for several days, if Mr. Boutwell wished to. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Scott Boutwell for coming to speak to council.

Mr. Billy Sims, II, of the Phenix City Board of Realtors, was not present to address council as listed on the agenda.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Engineer Angel Moore to review the actions taken by the Planning Commission during the March 8, 2016 meeting.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Clerk Charlotte Sierra. City Clerk Charlotte Sierra reviewed the Board of Education appointments with council.

City Clerk Charlotte Sierra reviewed the March and April, 2016 calendars with council. City Clerk Sierra asked council for the Voting Delegate and the 1st Alternate Delegate for the Alabama League of Municipalities Conference. Council advised Councilmember Head is the Voting Delegate and Councilmember Day is the 1st Alternate Voting Delegate. City Clerk Sierra asked Council, City Manager Wallace Hunter, and Finance Director Steve Smith to look over the proposed budget schedule. Steve Smith stated the Finance Department wanted to get the budget process completed for Council prior to the election. City Clerk Sierra and Council decided to schedule the budget meetings the week of June 20th – 22nd of 2016.

City Manager Wallace Hunter called on Utilities Director Roger Conner. Roger Conner stated he received in the mail a flyer from the Columbus Water Works that he wanted to share with Council to show how the flooding in December impacted the Columbus Waterworks. He advised Council how fortunate the Phenix City area was compared to Columbus. Mr. Conner added that the flyer was just for information purposes.

City Manager Wallace Hunter called on Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes. Todd Hughes stated that the Tennis Courts are completed. He also advised that April 5, 2016 will be the day of the Grand Opening and Ribbon cutting, with council's permission. Council did not disagree.

Councilmember Day discussed the following issues:

- 1) Renovations to Southside Park. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes advised that the renovations to Southside Park and 5th Street complex will begin soon.
- 2) Grounds maintenance at Arthur Sumbry Park – Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes stated a crew will take care of grounds maintenance.

Councilmember Head asked Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes if there were anything that could be done about preventing teenagers from playing on the playground equipment at the parks. Todd Hughes stated there are signs posted with the age and weight limits; the signs are checked periodically for vandalism.

Mayor Lowe discussed Agenda items with Council.

Mr. J.W. Brannen advised council he met with Representative Blackshear and they discussed the county's request for 1/2 Percent Sales Tax increase.

Mr. Cannon stated that Representative Blackshear is doing a good job.

Mr. Cannon also stated Finance Director Steve Smith did a great job with the article in the Citizen paper.

City Manager Wallace Hunter discussed Wal-Mart charging 8% instead of 9% sales tax. Finance Director Steve Smith stated Wal-Mart will pay 9% whether or not they collect the correct amount. The City will not be short any revenue.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, April 4, 2016.