

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 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, April 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 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 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 Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, 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.

The invocation was led by Councilmember Barfield.

Before proceeding with the agenda, Mayor Lowe advised he wished to address a letter from a citizen that was left for him; however before he read the letter, Mayor Lowe read the following scripture, Psalms 18 Verse 25 and 26:

“With the merciful thy will show thyself merciful; with an upright man thy will show thyself upright. With the pure thy will show thyself pure; and with the forward thy will show thyself forward.” (King James Version)

Mayor Lowe read the citizen's letter:

“Mr. Lowe, a group from north of the 13th Street racial divide who say they were strong supporter in the last election are calling around seeking support for a challenger for your job. So keep a real wide angled lens, Mayor.”

Mayor Lowe advised he is running for re-election, and if he wins he wins, and if he loses, he loses; however, Mayor Lowe advised he will hold himself upright. He further advised he treats people the same, regardless of race.

Councilmember Cannon advised this city is in the best shape it has ever been in, and we have the best Mayor we have ever had.

Councilmember Day advised he speaks of the good things going on in the city anytime he visits other places. He also agreed that the Mayor treats everyone the same.

City Manager Hunter spoke on city racial issues.

Janie with Edwards Chiropractic came forward to address council as listed on the agenda. Janie requested the use of Lakewood Golf Course to present a Spring Swing Clinic on May 14, 2016 from 9am to 11am to teach people how to warm up. She further advised the clinic is free; however they would have to pay for a bucket of balls. Golf Course Manager Lenard (Bubba) Patrick advised the date is on a Saturday which would allow the clinic to reach more people. He further advised that the golf course was willing to accommodate this event. Council gave their permission. Mayor Lowe thanked Janie for coming to speak with council.

Ms. Barbara Fuller came forward to address council as listed on the agenda. Ms. Fuller advised she came before council on June 15, 2015 regarding continuously barking dogs in her neighborhood. Ms. Fuller stated she was previously advised to sign a warrant against the neighbors who own the dogs; however, when she tried she was told by an employee that outside dogs bark. Police Chief Smith advised her neighborhood was placed on watch and one dog was picked up; however, it was not one from her complaint. He further advised she was given a copy of the noise ordinance and she can swear out a warrant. He stated he was not aware that she had a problem obtaining the warrant, and he will check into why she was not able to obtain a warrant. Ms. Fuller advised she has recorded the dogs and council is welcome to listen to it. Police Chief Smith advised council may want to amend the noise ordinance. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Fuller for coming to speak with council.

Mr. Daniel Brett Wester came forward to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Wester advised council he lives on 16th Avenue, just above the library. He advised of neighborhood problems such as: speeding, running stop signs, and illegal activities at the old gymnasium. He further advised of littering, people being dropped off at late hours, and drug activities. He asked council for suggestions on correcting the problem. He advised his neighborhood includes about 60 residents. He also advised they have a neighborhood watch. Police Chief Smith advised Mr. Wester tag numbers are needed on the vehicles. He also advised there will be more police patrolling the area. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Wester for coming to speak with council.

Mr. Bill Barrett with Barrett-Simpson, Inc. came forward to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Barrett advised Gil Dyer has property located on Lee Road 248 he would like to annex into the city limits of Phenix City; about a year ago he started the process to annex. The annexation was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission and was placed on First Reading with City Council; however, when it came up for second reading, Mr. Dyer requested that it be deleted from the agenda until the project can be economically sound. Mr. Barrett advised he is asking that the annexation take up where it left off a year ago, and head to City Council for approval. City Engineer Angel Moore advised she has seen construction plans; the Engineering Department is waiting on them to buy mitigation credits for the wetlands. They do not want to purchase the mitigation credits unless the property is annexed. She further advised once the annexation process starts up again, Mr. Dyer could purchase the mitigation credits, show Engineering proof of it, and the construction plans can be stamped approved. City Clerk Charlotte Sierra advised the ordinance will need to be placed back on council's agenda for first reading. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Barrett 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 March 22, 2016 meeting. She also spoke with council regarding amending the subdivision regulations.

City Clerk Charlotte Sierra reviewed the Phenix City Housing Authority 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 April and May, 2016 calendars with council. Ms. Sierra advised council of the re-opening of the tennis courts after the council meeting.

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

- 1) Economic Development update.
- 2) Engineering / Public Works – Crawford Road resurfacing will begin on Wednesday, and will take four months to complete.
- 3) Engineering / Public Works – issues with storm water at Burger King Restaurant on Highway 280; sink hole at IHOP on private property.
- 4) Utilities – update on water pressure problem in Richard's Place Subdivision.

City Manager Hunter called on Utilities Director Roger Conner to present the Utilities Department Review. Mr. Conner reviewed the following divisions with council:

- 1) Utilities Department Makeup
- 2) Utilities Department Services
- 3) Water Filtration Plant / Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mr. Conner went over the direction of the Utilities Department in the future and presented the five year plan.

The meeting paused for a ten minute break.

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

City Manager Wallace Hunter advised he would be attending a funeral tomorrow; therefore, Steve Smith would be Acting City Manager.

City Attorney Graham requested a 15 minute Executive Session to discuss Economic Development. Councilmember Day moved to go into Executive Session from which the meeting would adjourn, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 5:30 pm.

Council came out of Executive Session at 6:00 pm.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, April 18, 2016.