

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
MAY 18, 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, May 18, 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 Jim Cannon, Councilmember Johnny Barfield, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember Gail Head arrived at 3:45 pm. Also present were City Manager Wallace B. Hunter, City Attorney James P. Graham, Jr., and Acting City Clerk Melony Lee. City Clerk Charlotte Sierra was not present. Department Heads in attendance were: Chief Building Official Gil Griffith, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, City Engineer Angel Moore, Fire 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 Mayor Lowe.

Mayor Lowe called upon Angelia Walton to address council as listed on the agenda. Ms. Walton was unable to come to the meeting, so Ms. Latarsha A. Covington spoke in her place. Ms. Covington spoke with council regarding the need for their agency to purchase an adjacent lot for \$21,000.00; she asked that the city increase their appropriation by \$19,000.00, or give any help the city can. She further explained that parking for their 1011 South Railroad Street location is across the street from the offices, between the street and railroad tracks. Speeding vehicles make crossing the street dangerous. Mayor Lowe advised the city cannot purchase property for another agency; however, the city can increase the police presence. Mayor Lowe also advised the council will keep their need in mind as they prepare the upcoming budget. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Covington for coming and speaking with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Jeff Torbert to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Torbert spoke with council regarding discharging firearms inside the city limits. He advised he lives at 2208 Saint Andrews Way, and he and others in his subdivision have been dealing with a neighbor that has property bordering the subdivision, who has a shooting range not far from their homes. He gave a brief history of their problems, and introduced Mr. John Hoff and Ms. Becky Richards, who live in the neighborhood, and came to the work session with him. Mayor Lowe agreed that this is a safety issue. Mr. Torbert asked council to pass an ordinance to restrict discharging firearms inside the city limits. Mayor Lowe called on Police Chief Smith who advised City Attorney Jim McKoon is working on an ordinance that should be ready by the next meeting. It was pointed out that this property is in Lee County, and the county cannot restrict gun control. Mr. Torbert advised he has spoken with Lee County who advised they are working on a noise ordinance. Police Chief Smith advised he would speak with Lee County to be sure they are aware of new changes in Alabama Code. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Torbert, Mr. Hoff and Ms. Richards for coming and speaking with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Rusty Ninas to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Ninas asked council's permission to cross city right-of-way to install a ramp to Ivy Creek Amenity Park. Mayor Lowe called upon City Engineer Angel Moore, who advised she has looked over the request, and engineering has no problem with it. She further advised with council's permission, they would have a resolution on the next agenda for an encroachment. Mayor and Council did not have a problem with it. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Ninas for coming and speaking with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Shaun Culligan and Dan Gilbert to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Culligan discussed Whitewater Express offering Disc Golf on the Riverwalk with Council. He asked that council enter into a contract with Whitewater Express for the installation and maintenance of the course. There was discussion on how the game is played. Mr. Gilbert advised it would be free to play; however, it is necessary for everyone playing to sign a waiver. Mr. Gilbert also advised it could be installed in less than a week. They further advised the course is designed not to cross the Riverwalk. Mr. Gilbert also advised of plans to reintroduce Spider Lily plants along the river bank. Mayor and Council had no objection. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Culligan and Mr. Gilbert for coming and speaking with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Engineer Angel Moore to review the actions taken by the Planning Commission during the May 10, 2016 meeting.

Mayor Lowe called upon Acting City Clerk Melony Lee, who reviewed The Industrial Development Board appointment with council. She advised there has been a problem getting in contact with Mr. Dewayne Richardson. Council requested that the Clerk's Office try again to contact Mr. Richardson.

Acting City Clerk Melony Lee reviewed the May and June, 2016 calendars with council. She reminded everyone of the Budget Work Session coming up on June 20th, 21st, and 22nd.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Manager Wallace Hunter who advised the city is working on putting restrooms in at 13th Street, on the Riverwalk. He called upon Gil Griffith to comment further. Mr. Griffith advised Alabama Power is in the process of obtaining an easement to extend the power line to the restrooms, and as soon as it is obtained, they will contact the city with a price for extending the power line.

City Manager Wallace Hunter advised two resolutions will be coming on the next agenda: Correcting the name of Idle Hour Park to Martin-Idle Hour Park, because when the land was purchased from the Martin family for \$225,000.00 in 1947 Mayor Homer Cobb expressed his intent to name the park after the Martin family for their willingness and patience to work with the city on closing the deal; and naming the hall at Idle Hour Community Center as "The Max E. Wilkes Fellowship Hall at Idle Hour Park Community Center".

City Manager Wallace Hunter advised council that the city can now purchase certain pieces of property from the state so that the property can be put back on the tax roll. The city will buy it and resale it.

City Manager Wallace Hunter advised council of the following streets that will be paved in the next couple of weeks: between 3rd Street South and Highway 431 down to the Recreation Center; a small street that connects 15th and 16th Avenue; 12th Avenue to 9th Place; 12th Avenue and 13th Avenue to 11th Street; finishing up 40th Street to Summerville Road and Lakewood Drive.

City Manager Wallace Hunter called on Utilities Director Roger Conner for a utilities update. Mr. Conner advised council that Utilities replaces water and/or sewer lines before the paving process.

City Manager Wallace Hunter called on City Engineer Angel Moore. Ms. Moore advised there will be no median on 13th Street; the lanes will be wider. Ms. Moore also spoke with council regarding funding needs in the future for street paving. She stressed the importance of keeping the streets repaved in a timely manner; she also advised funds from the gas tax are getting smaller. Councilmember Day asked if the city could get funds directly from the Federal Government. Ms. Moore explained that it is based on population, as to obtaining Community Block Development Grant (CBDG) funds. She further advised Auburn and Columbus both get CBDG funds from the Federal Government; however, we are included in the group with Columbus, and the grants we can apply for are being sought by more communities than just ours. Ms. Moore further explained how applying for and getting the grants work.

Mayor Lowe called for a ten minute break.

Upon reconvening after the break, Mayor Lowe discussed Agenda items with Council.

Councilmember Gail Head arrived at 3:45 pm.

Mayor Lowe called for a five minute break.

Mayor Lowe and Council conducted Board Interviews for the Phenix City Board of Education, the Planning Commission, and the Zoning Adjustment and Appeals Board, after which the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, June 6, 2016.