

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 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, December 5, 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 Johnnie C. Robinson, Councilmember Steve Bailey, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Also present were City Manager Wallace B. Hunter, City Attorney Jimmy Graham, and City Clerk Charlotte Goodrich. Department Heads in attendance were: Chief Building Official Gil Griffith, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Planning Specialist Jennifer Lowman, City Engineer Angel Moore, Finance Director Stephen Smith, IT Manager Mike Bauer, 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, and Utilities Engineer John Spraggins.

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

The invocation was led by Councilmember Bailey.

Mayor Lowe called upon Brian Rutledge of Robinson Grimes, CPA, to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Rutledge presented the annual audit fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. He briefly discussed the following pages: 1-3, 11-14, 16, 18-20, 36-37, 43, 56, 60, 63, and pages 71-72. He advised things are better than four years ago. He commented that the letter presented was a clean letter and he appreciated the help he received from Finance, especially from Finance Director Steve Smith and Comptroller Labrita Copeland. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Rutledge for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Stewart McWhorter to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. McWhorter spoke with council regarding the transparency of the Work Session Agendas and the ability of citizens to address council at a meeting. He offered the following suggestions: holding Council Meetings in the evening; allowing citizens to address council at Council Meetings; and publishing the Work Session Agenda on line the Wednesday prior to the Monday meeting. Mayor Lowe addressed each issue: the second meeting of each month has been held at 6:00pm for the last four years with no more citizens' attendance than the meetings held at 9:00am; citizens are allowed to speak with council at Work Sessions because it is a less formal meeting and there can be one on one interaction between the citizen and council and/or the city manager, department heads, or others present that should weigh in on the subject being discussed; the Work Session Agenda and the Council Meeting Agendas are published on the city's website the Friday prior to the meetings. They are also published in the Columbus Ledger Enquirer Paper prior to the meetings. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. McWhorter for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Donald C. Gore to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Gore presented a letter from State Farm Insurance Company to Council regarding his claim

that had been denied by council at the November 15, 2016 Council Meeting. Mr. Gore spoke on potholes on 8th Street and 9th Place, and he advised when repairs were made by the city, his driveway was damaged. He stated the insurance company does not cover his driveway damages, and he is asking the city to repair it. City Manager Wallace Hunter advised his driveway has been the same since before 2012. Mr. Gore advised all the heavy equipment damaged the part of the driveway that is on the city right of way. He advised the work caused water to run under his driveway and undermine it. Mayor Lowe advised the claim process was followed and his claim was denied. Finance Director Steve Smith advised the city is not responsible for the driveway apron, the homeowner is. Mr. Gore advised more than once that this problem could cause someone to fall.

Mayor Lowe advised there was no Planning Commission Meeting held on November 22, 2016.

City Clerk Charlotte Goodrich reviewed the calendar with council. She went over upcoming Christmas dates and the State of the City Address date.

Council discussed the following issues with City Manager Wallace Hunter :

1. Red Light Camera Contract.
2. Projected Economic Development Projects.
3. Industrial Development Board.
4. Enterprise Zones.

Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain gave her departmental report. She reviewed the Makeup, Direction, and Services of Human Resources.

Police Chief Ray Smith discussed the Animal Tethering Ordinance with council. He advised the state has not passed a similar law yet. He further advised you cannot ban certain breeds of animals; Public Safety answers over 900 calls a year related to animal control, and the passage of this ordinance would increase the calls; and the pet population would increase. He also asked council to consider the following: Property Values – this would affect the whole city; Most hunting and large breed animals are already tethered; Economics – some citizens would be unable to afford fencing for a pet – therefore they could not own a pet; Increase of animal seizures by the Police Department; and 4th Amendment violations.

City Engineer Angel Moore discussed the signal warrant analysis on US 431 and 5th Street. She stated that ALDOT advised a signal is not warranted at this time in accordance with the Manual of Uniformed Traffic Control Devices; however, they will continue to monitor the intersection and reanalyze it when necessary.

Police Chief Ray Smith addressed council regarding a letter in reference to Police Department Overtime not being paid to police officers. Chief Smith advised that Human Resources checks over payroll for accuracy with overtime, among other things. He reviewed the overtime procedure in his department. He also stated that he contacted FOP, who stated in an e-mail that they have disavowed any association with the letter. City Manager Wallace Hunter advised the whole city goes by the Fair Labor Standards and has not had any violation in several years.

Mayor Lowe called for a 10 minute break.

Upon reconvening, Mayor Lowe discussed Agenda items with Council.

Mayor Lowe called for an Executive Session for approximately 15 minutes to discuss Economic Development from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Day made a motion to go into Executive Session, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 5:25pm.

Council came out of Executive Session at 5:45pm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, December 19, 2016.