

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 21, 2017**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled work session at 3:00 pm, Tuesday, February 21, 2017 in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building located at 601 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Phenix City, Alabama. Upon roll call the following members were present: Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember Johnnie Robinson and Councilmember Steve Bailey were not present. 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, Assistant City Engineer Mike Patillo, Graduate Civil Engineer Tyler Hayes, Finance Director Stephen Smith, Golf Course Greens Superintendent Julie Taylor, Comptroller Labrita King Copeland, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Assistant Library Director Reanna Ramey, 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 Day.

Mayor Lowe called upon Kari Hennagin, Executive Director of East Alabama American Red Cross, to address council as listed on the agenda. Ms. Hennagin came forward to introduce herself and discuss the objectives for the Red Cross in our area. She advised they offer various services including but not limited to: Emergency Communications, Information and Referrals, Veterans Assistance cases, and Financial Assistance to those in need. She mentioned they have a total of 14 Disaster Action Team Members (DAT) from Russell County who work house fires or other disasters in the Phenix City area. She advised they are installing smoke alarms in high risk areas in Phenix City. She further advised that the Red Cross has educated 130 students in disaster safety through their Pillow Case Project. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Hennagin for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Veronica Marie Walker to address council as listed on the agenda. Ms. Walker came forward to speak with council regarding Polycystic Kidney Disease. She explained to council how the genetic disease affects people, especially children. She asked the city leaders if they would allow her to sponsor a walk to bring awareness to this disease. Council advised her to speak with the Police Chief and obtain a Parade Permit. The Police Chief will coordinate the event with the other departments. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Walker for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Trevor Wolf to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Wolf came forward and introduced himself and advised he is here to represent Chosen Ryderz Motorcycle Club along with the President. Mr. Wolf advised they have 23 active members and 2 prospective members; he advised the club would like to adopt Highway 431 to Family Dollar. He explained the club members would go out to this area twice a month and pick up trash.

Council advised him to speak with the Police Chief and obtain a permit. He was also advised to check with the Alabama State Department of Transportation. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Wolf for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Gary Jones to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Jones came forward and reviewed a presentation that updated council on the Department of Defense (DoD) Transformation of Fort Benning and the Columbus Regional Area. He introduced Mr. Brian Anderson, President and CEO of The Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Jones reviewed the following with council: Alabama Military Bases; Military in Georgia; Economic Impact of the Georgia Military Installations; Regional Defense Transformation Area; Fort Benning Economic Impact; Congressional Budget as it relates to Fort Benning; and BRAC readiness preparation. Mr. Jones and Mr. Anderson requested Phenix City's continued help in supporting Fort Benning and helping to keep it growing. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Jones and Mr. Anderson for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon C.E. "Eddie" Keeter to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Keeter came forward with his request for council to reconsider his previous rezone application for 1717 27<sup>th</sup> Court. He advised the rezoning ordinance states a rezone can come back up before a year, if there are changes. He advised that council has changed and his house had burned down and he would like the new council to review his rezone request. Mayor Lowe called on Chief Building Official Gil Griffith. Mr. Griffith explained that his house burning was not a change because there are three houses on the property and both lots were being rezoned. Mr. Griffith further advised that the "change" talked about in the zoning ordinance is with the property, not with council changing. Mr. Griffith advised Mr. Keeter to come back after a year and reapply for the rezoning. Mr. Keeter had a question about purchasing new rezoning signs at that time. He was advised to take down the rezone signs now and store them, so that he could re-use them later. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Keeter for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Steve Franklin to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Franklin came forward to speak with council on two issues: Historic Preservation Commission Maps and Horseshoe Pits. Mayor Lowe requested another time and date be set for Mr. Franklin and Council to review the Historic Preservation Commission Maps. The meeting was set before the next scheduled Work Session – at 2:00pm, Monday, March 6, 2017. Mr. Franklin introduced the President of the Alabama Horseshoe Pitchers Association, Ron Kindrick, and the Secretary-Treasurer, Don Hathcock. They requested that more horseshoe pits be added along with a shelter. They also requested a water faucet and Kentucky Blue Clay instead of sand. Mr. Franklin advised the clay holds up better than sand. They advised if there were at least six horseshoe courts available then sanctioned tournaments could be held; if there were twelve courts available then a state championship could be held. The economic impact for the city was discussed. Mayor Lowe thanked them for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Assistant City Engineer Mike Patillo to review the actions taken by the Planning Commission during the February 14, 2017 meeting.

City Clerk Charlotte Goodrich reviewed the calendar with council. She reminded everyone of the United Way event tonight. She asked council to RSVP if they were going to

participate in the Read Across America (Dr. Sues) event coming up in March. She advised everyone is invited to the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on March 9 at 7:00 am.

Councilmember Gordy advised he will be out of town March 20-24, 2017.

City Clerk Charlotte Goodrich reviewed upcoming board expirations with council.

City Clerk Charlotte Goodrich asked council to name members to the Alabama Bicentennial – Community Celebration Committee. Councilmember Day advised he had people to check with and he will let the Clerk's Office know. Council is fine with Councilmember Day selecting the members.

Mayor Lowe called upon the Building Department and Economic Development Department to give their departmental review.

Chief Building inspector Gil Griffith reviewed the Building Department's Makeup, Direction, and Services. He also advised that George Walker will be retiring on February 28, 2017.

Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan reviewed the Economic Development's Makeup, Direction, and Services.

Mayor Lowe discussed Agenda items with Council.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed claims on the agenda with council.

City Attorney reviewed the Red Flex Lawsuit with Council.

Mayor Lowe advised he hopes to meet with the Veterans' Association on Friday regarding the Veteran's Park. He further advised the Governor has agreed to help.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, March 6, 2017.