

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 19, 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, Monday, June 19, 2017 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 Steve Bailey, Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr. and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember Griff Gordy and Councilmember Johnnie C. Robinson, Jr. were not present. Also present were City Manager Wallace B. Hunter, City Attorney Jimmy Graham and City Clerk Charlotte L. Goodrich. Department Heads in attendance were: Chief Building Official Gil Griffith, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, City Engineer Angel Moore, Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Patillo, Utilities Director Stephen Smith, Interim Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Library Assistant Reanna Ramsey, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resource 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 advised that Mr. Steve Franklin will not be 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 June 13, 2017 meeting.

City Clerk Charlotte L. Goodrich reviewed the June and July, 2017 calendars with council.

City Clerk Charlotte L. Goodrich advised council that there will be a Personnel Review Board interview following the regular business of the work session.

City Clerk Charlotte L. Goodrich reminded council of the June 20, 2017 council meeting being held at the Central Activities Center at 6:00 p.m.

Utilities Director Steve Smith discussed the 2nd Street Development project. Mr. Smith also advised council the 431 Development is close to reaching a final agreement.

Utilities Director Steve Smith discussed with council a video posted to Youtube that appeared to show the city illegally dumping untreated wastewater into the river. He added the video had commentary by the Columbus River Warden claiming the Alabama Department of Environmental Management confirmed the City was illegally dumping. Mr. Smith stated he next spoke with officials at ADEM that spoke with the River Warden. The ADEM officials denied making any such statement to the River Warden. Mr. Smith explained the video shows treated water being released back into the river and disturbing the water in the river causing bubbles and foaming. Mr. Smith stated that is a natural occurrence that happens when a large volume

of water is being released into another body of water at a high rate. Mr. Smith stated a complaint should be lodged with the River Warden Board. ADEM stated they did not tell the River Warden the city was illegally dumping into the river.

City Manager Wallace Hunter, Council and City Attorney Jimmy Graham discussed the false report on Riverchase Drive given to ADEM by certain citizens who go out and post negative comments on Facebook regarding the City of Phenix City Utilities Department. Mr. Smith stated that the City of Phenix City has to spend a lot of time trying to respond to the allegations.

City Manager Wallace Hunter discussed inflammatory emails and vulgar comments directed at City Attorney's James P. Graham and James P. McKoon.

Utilities Director Steve Smith asked for permission from the City Council to authorize Mr. Graham to take legal action against Centerline Contracting, Incorporation who has withdrawn and refuses to finish work at Riverchase Drive US 80 Boring. Mr. Smith further stated that if necessary the city will need to hire another contractor. He further stated that he is in the process of obtaining three prices to hire another contractor to finish the work.

Mayor Lowe discussed Agenda Items with Council.

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

Councilmember Steve Bailey discussed the communication between the local builders, developers, and the city. He further stated that he believes that the city receives negative dictums from the builders and developers and he would like to know if it is possible if each time an email is sent out from the city to the engineering companies or contractors if the developer owners could be copied on the email as well.

City Manager Wallace Hunter, City Engineer Angel Moore and Council discussed the construction plans that were sent over by Barrett Simpson Engineering firm regarding St. Andrews and the several discrepancies with the column that has transpired with that project.

City Manager Wallace Hunter, Finance and Utilities Director Steve Smith and Council discussed the bonds and development fees from 2010 to the present.

Mayor Lowe discussed the Economic Development meeting that he will be having on June 29, 2017 with Economic Development.

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