

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
JULY 3, 2017**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled work session at 9:00 am, Monday, July 3, 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., Councilmember Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember Johnnie C. Robinson, Jr. was 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: Deputy Building Official Ray Rogers, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Patillo, Utilities Director Stephen Smith, Interim Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, Assistant Fire Chief Bill Czukur, Library Director Michele Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Pam Jarrell, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resource Director Stephanie Chastain, Assistant 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 Mayor Lowe.

Mayor Lowe called upon Timothy W. Simpson to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Simpson came forward to introduce himself and discuss the parking at the Hidden Hills Trace Project. Mr. Simpson stated that the project is organized by Ms. Mary Mayrose for the Phenix City Housing Authority and he would like to discuss adding eleven parking spaces on the upper side of 19th Avenue to help the residents. Mr. Simpson further stated that they would also like to add ten spaces on the upper side of 18th Avenue. The parking area is on the city's right of way; therefore he needs permission from council. Mayor Lowe advised Mr. Simpson that the City Engineer is out of office at this time; someone from the Engineering Department will be contacting him. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Simpson for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Patillo to review the actions taken by the Planning Commission during the June 27, 2017 meeting.

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

City Clerk Charlotte L. Goodrich reviewed upcoming Phenix City Public Building Authority expirations with council. Council requested the Clerk's Office to contact the board member about serving another term. Mayor Lowe asked council to turn in names and advised that there will be an interview process for this board.

City Clerk Charlotte L. Goodrich went over the Budget Work Sessions beginning July 11th – 13th. Ms. Goodrich also reminded council to inform the City Clerk's Office if they will be attending the upcoming Alabama League of Municipality CMO Training.

Mayor Lowe asked council if they had any comments or concerns.

Councilmember Day discussed the More Than A Game Baseball project with council and stated that he is very proud of what is taking place at Meadow Lane park.

Councilmember Day also thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for their response to the cleanup at Spencer Recreation Pavilion. Councilmember Day also spoke on the new Splash Pad that Spencer Recreation will be receiving in the near future.

Utilities Director Steve Smith discussed with council the Columbus River Warden's accusations that the City of Phenix City Wastewater Plant illegally dumps untreated wastewater into the river. Mr. Smith explained that the city will at times add a small limited amount of antifoaming agents to the river during times when there are excessive amounts of foam, it makes the river look nice, but because it is an additional chemical, they do not want to add more than necessary. The main concern is that the river is maintained and environmentally safe for everyone. Mr. Smith explained again that 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 he sent a copy of the test results of the water, and a copy of the results from ADEM to the Columbus River Warden to show that everything is in compliance.

Mayor Lowe called upon Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan to go over the Items of Discussion regarding the Ordinance to establish an Entertainment District in the City of Phenix City, Alabama. Mr. Culligan went over the intent of the Entertainment District which is to help aid in having more events and restaurants along the Riverfront and to encourage more traffic and more businesses to come into the area.

Mayor Lowe discussed Agenda Items with Council.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham discussed a previous claim that was filed by Mr. Rodney Niles regarding flooding that was later denied by Council on February 7, 2017. Mr. Graham stated that the city received a letter from Catarang Properties, LLC with a demand of payment.

Utilities Director Steve Smith reviewed the following two resolutions with council:

1. Altera Development Company Lease Agreement
2. Renfroe, Inc. Lease Agreement

Council advised to place the Resolutions on the agenda.

City Manager Wallace Hunter commented on the death of former Fire Chief Don Ivey's mother passing away.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, July 17, 2017.